

COMPARATIVE STUDY OF LOCATIONS OF NADI WITH ANATOMICAL  
LANDMARKS - A REVIEWVidya Dharshini K.\*<sup>1</sup> and Neelavathy R.<sup>2</sup><sup>1</sup>PG Scholar, Department of Noi Naadal, Government Siddha Medical College, Palayamkottai, Tamil Nadu, India.<sup>2</sup>Principal, Government Siddha Medical College, Palayamkottai, Tamil Nadu, India.

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## ABSTRACT

*Nadi* is a remarkable diagnostic parameter in Siddha system of medicine which is included in *envagaitervu* and well explained by *Siddhars*. User friendly modern diagnostic methods, less number of *Nadi* experts and little number of publish documents has led to non-familiar of *Nadi*. Current study was done to locate the different *Nadi* assessment places and compare the locations with anatomical landmarks. Literature review was done using text books and journals. Various number of *Nadi* locations were documented in the literature. Ten locations of *Nadi* assessment places were mentioned in *Thirumoolar nadi nool* (TNN) and *Yugimuni nadi* (YN) and five locations were noted in *Nadi vagadam* (NV). A discrepancy was noted with the locations of *Nadi* among the text books. Ten places was documented at TNN as *Kuthi santhi* (ankle-posterior tibial artery/dorsalis pedis artery), *Kamiyam* (inguinal region-femoral artery), *Unthi* (epigastric region-abdominal aorta), *Marbu* (chest-precordial impulse), *Kaathu* (ear-posterior auricular artery/superficial temporal artery), *Mooku* (nose-angular artery/facial artery), *Kandam* (neck-common carotid artery), *Karam* (upper limb-axillary artery/brachial artery/ulnar artery/radial artery/princeps pollicis artery), *Puruvam* (eye brow-superficial temporal artery) and *Uchchi* (fontanelle-cerebral artery). *Kaaladi* (sole-medial and lateral plantar artery), *Mulankal* (Knee-popliteal artery), *Mulankai* (elbow-brachial artery) and *Kaikuli* (armpit-axillary artery) were mentioned in YN, even though *Unthi*, *Kaathu*, *Mooku* and *Kamiyam* not documented. *Kai*, *Kanukkal*, *Kandam*, *Kalin peruviral* (big-toe-medial plantar artery) and *Kannichchuli* (fontanelle) were noted in NV. Generally upper limb was used, whereas different locations were documented to assess *Nadi*. Warranting further studies needed to ensure the suitable locations to assess the *Nadi* in clinical practice.

**KEYWORDS:** *Nadi*, Siddha system of medicine, anatomical landmarks.

## INTRODUCTION

Siddha system of medicine is one of the oldest system of medicine in the world, laid by Siddhars (Ivy and Malini, 2010). A number of diagnostic methods have been using in various systems of medicine globally. Siddha system has unique assessment methods as *envagaitervu* (*nadi*, *sparism*, *naa*, *niram*, *mozhi*, *vizhi*, *malam* and *siruneer*) to diagnosis the diseases (Natarajan, 2009; Shanmugavelu, 1967). *Nadi* is a diagnostic way to assess health status of an individual (Ivy and Malini, 2010) and a remarkable diagnostic parameter, included in *envagaitervu* and well explained by *Siddhars* (Kalaththur kanthasami, 2012).

Tri humours such as *Vatham*, *Pitham* and *Kapham* are the basic principal of Siddha system of medicine, which governs the psycho-biological aspect of the body (Natarajan, 2009). Increases or reduces of the tri humours causes disease (Natarajan, 2009). In a healthy person, the *maathirai* of the *Nadi* of *Vatham* will be one,

*Pitham* will be half and the *Kapham* will be quarter (Natarajan, 2009). Derangement of this ratio indicates the disease (Natarajan, 2009). Several locations were indicated to the assessment of the *Nadi* in the Siddha text books, to diagnosis the diseases as well as evaluate the prognosis. User friendly modern diagnostic methods, less number of *Nadi* experts and little number of publish research documents on *Nadi* has led to non-familiar of *Nadi*. Current study was done to locate the different *Nadi* assessment places and compare the locations with anatomical landmarks to create a strong belief regarding old concepts.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Literature review was done using ancient text books as *Yugimuni nadi* (YN), *Thirumoolar nadi nool* (TNN), *Nadi vagadam* (NV), *Nadi sakkiram* (NS) and journals.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Several locations for the assessment of the *Nadi* were documented in literature. Ten locations of *Nadi* assessment places were mentioned in TNN and YN. Eight and five locations were noted in NS and NV

respectively. Discrepancy was noted with the locations of assessment of *Nadi* among the text books. Different locations of assessment of *Nadi* described in the literature and anatomical land marks (arterial pulses) have shown in the Table 1.

**Table 1: Locations and anatomical landmarks of *Nadi*.**

TNN		YN		NV		NS	
Anatomical landmark	Artery	Anatomical landmark	Artery	Anatomical landmark	Artery	Anatomical landmark	Artery
<i>Kuthi santhi</i> (ankle)	Post <sup>r</sup> tibial/ dorsalis pedis	<i>Kanukkal</i> (ankle)	Post <sup>r</sup> tibial/ dorsalis pedis	<i>Kai</i> (upper limb)	Axillary/ brachial/ ulnar/ radial/ princeps pollicis	<i>Kai</i> (upper limb)	Axillary/ brachial/ ulnar/ radial/ princeps pollicis
<i>Unthi</i> (epigastric region)	Abdominal aorta	<i>Kaaladi</i> (sole)	Med.&Lat plantar	<i>Kandam</i> (neck)	Common carotid	<i>Kaal</i> (lower limb)	Popliteal/ Post <sup>r</sup> tibial/ dorsalis pedis/ Ant <sup>r</sup> tibial
<i>Kaathu</i> (ear)	Post <sup>r</sup> auricular/ superficial temporal	<i>Mulankal</i> (knee)	Popliteal	<i>Kal peru viral</i> (big toe)	Med. plantar	<i>Kaluththin mun pakkam</i> (front of the neck)	Common carotid
<i>Kandam</i> (neck)	Common carotid	<i>Kandam</i> (neck)	Common carotid	<i>Kanukkal</i> (ankle)	Post <sup>r</sup> tibial/ dorsalis pedis	<i>Mookkin adi</i> (base of the nose)	Angular/ Sup <sup>r</sup> labial/ columellar
<i>Mooku</i> (nose)	Angular/ facial	<i>Mulankai</i> (elbow)	Brachial	<i>Kannichchuli</i> (fontanelle)	Cerebral		
<i>Karam</i> (upper limb)	Axillary/ brachial/ ulnar/ radial/ princeps pollicis	<i>Kai</i> (upper limb)	Axillary/ brachial/ ulnar/ radial/ princeps pollicis				
<i>Kamiyam</i> (inguinal region)	Femoral	<i>Kaikuli</i> (arm pit)	Axillary				
<i>Uchchi</i> (fontanelle)	Cerebral	<i>Uchchi</i> (fontanelle)	Cerebral				
<i>Puruvam</i> (eye brow)	Superficial temporal	<i>Puruvam</i> (eye brow)	Superficial temporal				
<i>Marbu</i> (chest)	Precordial impulse	<i>Nenchu</i> (chest)	Precordial impulse				

Post<sup>r</sup>-posterior, Ant<sup>r</sup>-anterior, Sup<sup>r</sup>-superior, Med. medial and Lat. lateral

TNN- Thirumoolar nadi nool, NV- Nadi vagadam, YN- Yugimuni nadi and NS- Nadi sakkiram

The locations of *kanukkal*, *kandam*, *karam*, *uchchi*, *puruvam* and *marbu* were mentioned in both text books as TNN and YN. *kaaladi*, *mulankal*, *mulankai* and *kaikuli* were mentioned in YN, even though *unthi*, *kaathu*, *mooku* and *kamiyam* not documented. One of the text book as NS documented eight locations for *Nadi* assessment as right and left *kai*, *kaal*, *kaluththin mun pakkam* and *mookkin adi*. *kai*, *kanukkal* and *kandam* were stated in TNN, YN and NV, even though *kaluththin mun pakkam* (front of the neck) documented in NS. *kai* (upper limb) was noted as a common place for the assessment of *Nadi* at all literature studied. Left and right

hand (*Kai*) were used to assess the *Nadi* for female and male respectively (Shanmugavelu, 1967).

## CONCLUSION

Generally upper limb was used, whereas different locations were documented to assess *Nadi*. Warranting further studies needed to ensure the suitable locations to assess the *Nadi* in clinical practice.

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