



PROSPECTIVE OBSERVATIONAL PHASE IV OPEN LABEL STUDY TO COMPARE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF STANDARD TREATMENT TO TURMOCIN, TURMOCIN PLUS TABLET AS ADDON TO STANDARD TREATMENT IN OSTEOARTHRITIS

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Article Received on
12 Oct. 2018,

Revised on 02 Nov. 2018,
Accepted on 23 Nov. 2018

DOI: 10.20959/wjpps201812-12809

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ABSTRACT

Osteoarthritis the most common form of arthritis, and one of the leading causes of pain and disability worldwide. In Asian countries it is prevalence ranging from 38.1% to 46.8% and specifically in India study reported it as 28.7% in age >40 years. Common manifestations of osteoarthritis are pain which prominently treated with NSAIDS (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) and analgesic as current standard of care. Adverse events with NSAIDS reported are gastric ulceration, hemorrhage and perforation. United states food and drug administration(USFDA) has approved curcuminoids as Generally Recognized As Safe. At 95% concentration dose of curcuminoids: curcumin, bisdemethoxycurcumin, and demethoxycurcumin reported as safe. Turmocin and turmocin plus tablet used in this study in which addition of black pepper may help in increasing bioavailability. The

primary objective of this study to compare the effect of turmocin, turmocin plus tablet as add on with current standard care of treatment in osteoarthritis patients. Secondary objective was to see effectiveness of Tablets with Haridra (Rhizome) *Curcuma longa* 500mg, Marich (Fruit) *Piper nigrum* 250mg and Haridra Ext, Curcumin 95% (Rhizome) *Curcuma longa* 500mg Marich (Fruit) *Piper nigrum* 250mg. WOMAC Osteoarthritis Index score were used for comparisons. Participants were also assessed for pain, stiffness, swelling, restricted movements in joints time duration, variation in pain also measured as per season and time of

the day. Group III participants showed best results in WOMAC score with p value <0.001 mean (SD) as 1.78(0.93) using paired t test.

KEYWORDS: STD= Standard Treatment, STD + T=Standard Treatment with add on Turmocin Tablet, STD + TP =Standard Treatment + Turmocin plus Tablet, PF= Physical function, RM= Restricted Movements.

INTRODUCTION

Osteoarthritis the most common form of arthritis, and one of the leading causes of pain and disability worldwide. According to World Health Organization (WHO) 9.6% of men and 18.0% of women aged over 60 years have symptomatic osteoarthritis worldwide. In individuals with osteoarthritis 80% persons have limited movement and nearly 25% showed inability for performing their routine activities. An estimated 10% to 15% of all adults aged over 60 have some degree of Osteo Arthritis (OA).^[1] In OA loss of functional capacity, walking difficulty, difficulty in self-care & movements, going up and down using stairs increases the risk of morbidity.^[2] It is also found as third leading cause of lost in life-years due to disability.^[3] In Asian countries its prevalence ranging from 38.1% to 46.8%^[4,5] and specifically in India study reported it as 28.7% in age >40 years.^[6] Common manifestations of osteoarthritis are pain which prominently treated with NSAIDS (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) and analgesic as current standard of care.^[7] Adverse events with NSAIDS reported are gastric ulceration, hemorrhage and perforation.^[8] These effects takes such individual towards other options like customized dietary supplements, including glucosamine^[9], chondroitin^[10], and S-adenosylmethionine (known as SAME)^[11], and complementary and alternative treatments including medicinal herbs or polyherbal formulations.^[12] In Ayurveda (1900 BC) wide therapeutic activities of turmeric in variety of diseases and conditions like anti-inflammatory, hepatic disorders, infectious and blood disorders has already been explained.^[13-14] Action of curcumin in various levels of inflammation effectively works as due to modulation of pro-inflammatory interleukin production and it decreases the action of phospholipase A2, cyclooxygenase- 2, and 5-lipoxygenase. It does not affect Cox-1 activity that helps for its tolerance. Modulation of NFkB (anticatabolic activity) and other transcription factors play an important role in its anti-inflammatory action.^[15] It also shows protective effect on the cartilage as invitro studies reported.^[16] Phase I studies reported safety of curcumin even at high doses (12g/day) in humans but very low bioavailability.^[17] Curcumin (CUR) and two other demethoxy curcumin

(DMC) and bisdemethoxycurcumin (BDMC) are the responsible curcuminoids for its pharmacological actions.^[18] United states food and drug administration(USFDA) has approved curcuminoids as Generally Recognized As Safe”(GRAS)^[19] as even at doses between 4000 - 8000 mg/day good tolerability and safety profiles have been shown by clinical trials.^[20] At 95% concentration dose of curcuminoids: curcumin, bisdemethoxycurcumin, and demethoxycurcumin reported as safe.^[21] Reported pharmacological activities of turmeric are antioxidant,^[22] anti-protozoal,^[23] anti-venom activities,^[24] anti-microbial,^[25] anti-malarial,^[26] anti-inflammatory,^[27] anti-proliferative,^[28] anti-angiogenic,^[29] anti-tumor^[30] and anti-aging.^[31] The increase in bioavailability upto 2000% by adding black pepper was reported in an animal study.^[32] Turmocin and turmocin plus tablet used in this study in which addition of black pepper may help in increasing bioavailability. The primary objective of this study to compare the effect of turmocin, turmocin plus tablet as add on with current standard care of treatment in osteoarthritis patients. Secondary objective was to see effectiveness of tablets with whole rhizome and pure extract of curcumin.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Materials

1. Turmocin

Each Tablet Contains:

Haridra (Rhizome) *Curcuma longa* 500mg Marich (Fruit) *Piper nigrum* 250mg Permitted Preservatives and Excipients Q.S

2. Turmocin Plus

Each Tablet Contains:

Haridra Ext, Curcumin 95% (Rhizome) *Curcuma longa* 500mg Marich (Fruit) *Piper nigrum* 250mg Permitted Preservatives and Excipients Q.S

Methodology

After getting approval from ethics committee informed consent of the patient who was diagnosed as osteoarthritis by study physician were enrolled as per inclusion criteria. Once patient agreed on participation screening was done. The interviewer ensured that the participant has received enough time and information in both written and orally about the possible risks, benefits involved in the study. Participation was done on purely voluntarily. It was assured that due to withdrawal from the study participant will not get affected in any

manner in his/her routine treatment. All the enrolled participants were carefully examined. All the Participants with osteoarthritis were divided into three groups and as per approved protocol add-on treatment was delivered to the group I (Standard care), II (for Turmucin) and III (Turmucin plus). Participants in groups were advised to take medications along with their routine treatment for osteoarthritis.

Assessment

Study population: With Samples size of n=36 participants of either sex study was initiated. Total n=36 participants male n= 6(16.67%) and female n=30 (83.33%) in ratio found as 1:5, were enrolled with equal distribution to each group. Only 27 participants have completed the study with total 9 dropouts were noted **table 1.2.** , where male n=4(14.81%) and female n=23 (85.19%) with mean age found as 54.89(9.4). In all the participants 11(40.7%) participants were illiterate and 16(59.2%) were able to read and write. Reported OA aggravating factors were standing 15(55.5%), sitting 9(33.3%), Walking 2(7.41%), exertion 1(3.70) with having 27(100%) past history relation to OA. There was a very low percentage of 6(22.2%) vegetarians compared to non-vegetarians 21(77.7%). All the participants were enrolled and assessed for pain, stiffness, swelling, restricted movements in joints time duration and variation in pain also measured as per season and time of the day.

Table 1.1.

Pain	Name of joint involved				
	All Joint	1 (9.09%)	2 (25%)	6 (75%)	9 (33.3%)
	Knee joint	10 (90.91%)	5 (62.5%)	2 (25%)	17 (62.9%)
	Hip joint	0 (0%)	1 (12.5%)	0 (0%)	1 (3.70%)
	Duration				
	All time	9 (81.82%)	5 (62.5%)	4 (50%)	18 (66.6%)
	less than hour(< 1hr)	2 (18.18%)	3 (37.5%)	4 (50%)	9 (33.3%)
	Increased by exertion				
	Yes	11 (100%)	8 (100%)	6 (75%)	25 (92.5%)
	No	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 (25%)	2 (7.41%)
	Relieved by taking rest				
	Yes	10 (90.91%)	8 (100%)	8 (100%)	26 (96.3%)
	No	1 (9.09%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (3.70%)
	Pain at rest				
	Yes	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
	No	11 (100%)	8 (100%)	8 (100%)	27 (100%)
	Radiating Other part				
	Yes	10 (90.91%)	7 (87.5%)	5 (62.5%)	22 (81.4%)
	NO	1 (9.09%)	1(12.5%)	3(37.5%)	5(18.5%)
Stiffness	Name of joint involved				

	All Joint	0 (0%)	2 (25%)	2 (25%)	4 (14.8%)
	Knee Joint	11 (100%)	6 (75%)	6 (75%)	23 (85.1%)
	Duration				
	NO	2 (18.18%)	1 (12.5%)	1 (12.5%)	4 (14.8%)
	0-10min	9 (81.82%)	4 (50%)	4 (50%)	17 (62.9%)
	10-60min	0 (0%)	3 (37.5%)	3 (37.5%)	6 (22.2%)
	Morning stiffness				
	Yes	10 (90.91%)	7 (87.5%)	7 (87.5%)	24 (88.8%)
	No	1 (9.09%)	1 (12.5%)	1 (12.5%)	3 (11.11%)
	lasting For an hour or so				
	Yes	0 (0%)	1 (12.5%)	1 (12.5%)	2 (7.41%)
	No	11 (100%)	7 (87.5%)	7 (87.5%)	25 (92.5%)
Swelling	Name of joint involved				
	All joint	10 (90.91%)	1 (12.5%)	1 (12.5%)	12 (44.4%)
	knee joint	1 (9.09%)	7 (87.5%)	7 (87.5%)	15 (55.5%)
	Duration				
	No	2 (18.18%)	1 (12.5%)	1 (12.5%)	4 (14.8%)
	0-2hr	0 (0%)	2 (25%)	1 (12.5%)	3 (11.11%)
	All Time	9 (81.82%)	5 (62.5%)	6 (75%)	20 (74.0%)
Restricted Moments	Name of joint involved				
	All Joint	0 (0%)	2 (25%)	1 (12.5%)	3 (11.11%)
	Knee Joint	10 (90.91%)	6 (75%)	7 (87.5%)	23 (85.1%)
	Hip joint	1 (9.09%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (3.70%)
	Duration				
	No	2 (18.18%)	0 (0%)	1 (12.5%)	3 (11.11%)
	0-20min	4 (36.36%)	5 (62.5%)	6 (75%)	15 (55.5%)
	All Time	5 (45.45%)	3 (37.5%)	1 (12.5%)	9 (33.3%)
	Crepitus				
	Yes	11 (100%)	8 (100%)	5 (62.5%)	24 (88.8%)
	No	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (37.5%)	3 (11.11%)
Duration					
	No	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	3 (37.5%)	3 (11.11%)
	0-15 min	2 (18.18%)	6 (75%)	4 (50%)	12 (44.4%)
	All Time	9 (81.82%)	2 (25%)	1 (12.5%)	12 (44.4%)
Variation in pain	Climate				
	Summer	1 (9.09%)	1 (12.5%)	2 (25%)	4 (14.8%)
	Winter	4 (36.36%)	7 (87.5%)	5 (62.5%)	16 (59.2%)
	Monsoon	1 (9.09%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	1 (3.70%)
	All season	5 (45.45%)	0 (0%)	1 (12.5%)	6 (22.2%)
	Day	5 (45.45%)	3 (37.5%)	6 (75%)	14 (51.8%)
	Night	1 (9.09%)	2 (25%)	0 (0%)	3 (11.11%)
	Day & Night	5 (45.45%)	3 (37.5%)	2 (25%)	10 (37.0%)
	Rest	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
	Moment	11 (100%)	8 (100%)	8 (100%)	27 (100%)
	Walking	1 (9.09%)	5 (62.5%)	4 (50%)	10 (37.0%)

27	Exertion	1 (9.09%)	1 (12.5%)	0 (0%)	2 (7.41%)
	Walking & Exertion	9 (81.82%)	2 (25%)	4 (50%)	15 (55.5%)

Western Ontario and McMaster Universities Osteoarthritis Index (WOMAC) was also used in questionnaire form for pain, stiffness, physical function before and after inclusion of treatment changes were analysed in a visual analogue scale (VAS) with scoring 1-10 after every 4 weeks till 12 weeks to compare the effectiveness of given treatment in all the three groups. Maximum possible score 10 shows severe problem and minimum possible score 1 denotes mildness. It was measured as if the treatment is effective the individual score will reduce after taking the treatment.

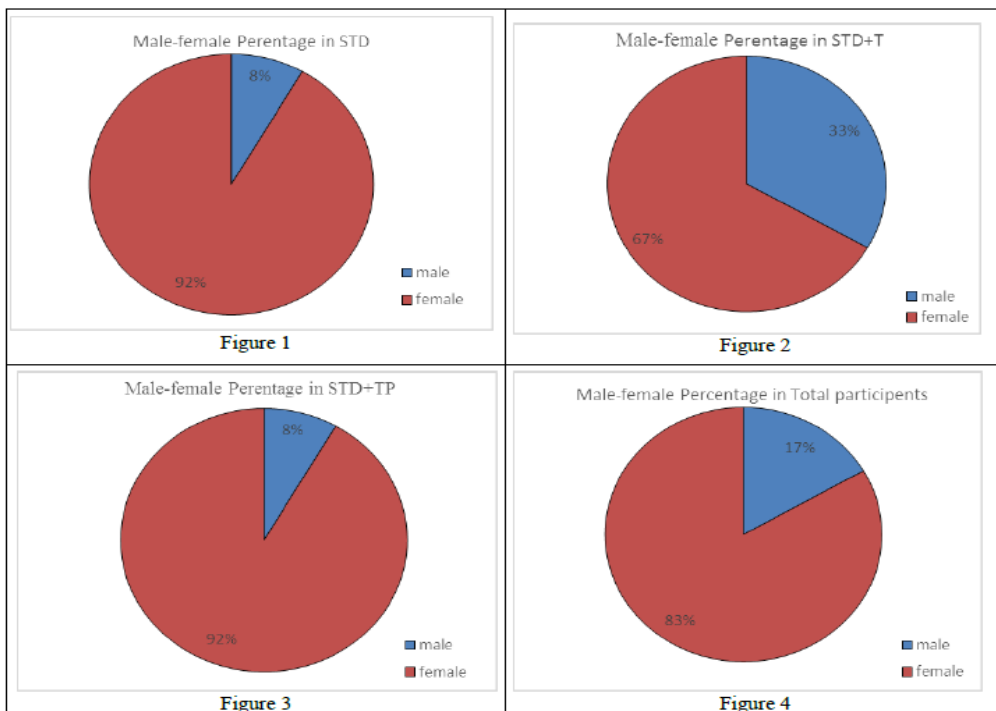
Assessment of all the Participants was done before and after giving the study medication for pain, tenderness, swelling, stiffness, fatigue, restricted movements, and deformity at every 4 week interval of time. It was measured in the scale of 0-3, where 0 = no symptoms, 1 = mild symptoms, 2 = Symptoms sufficient to cause distress/difficulty in performing routine work and 3 = symptoms very severe/patient unable to perform his routine work.

Statistical Analysis

All participants diagnosed with osteoarthritis were divided into three groups. Group I- Standard care, Group II-Standard + Tablet Turmocin, Group III Standard+ Tablet Turmocin plus. We compared effect of the treatment by Analyze WOMAC Osteoarthritis Index score Paired T test were used to see the effectiveness every individual participant in all the three groups. Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) were used to compare post treatment mean score across the groups and t test were used for post hoc comparison to find out significant difference between groups. Wilcoxon test were used to see change in the Symptoms in each group.

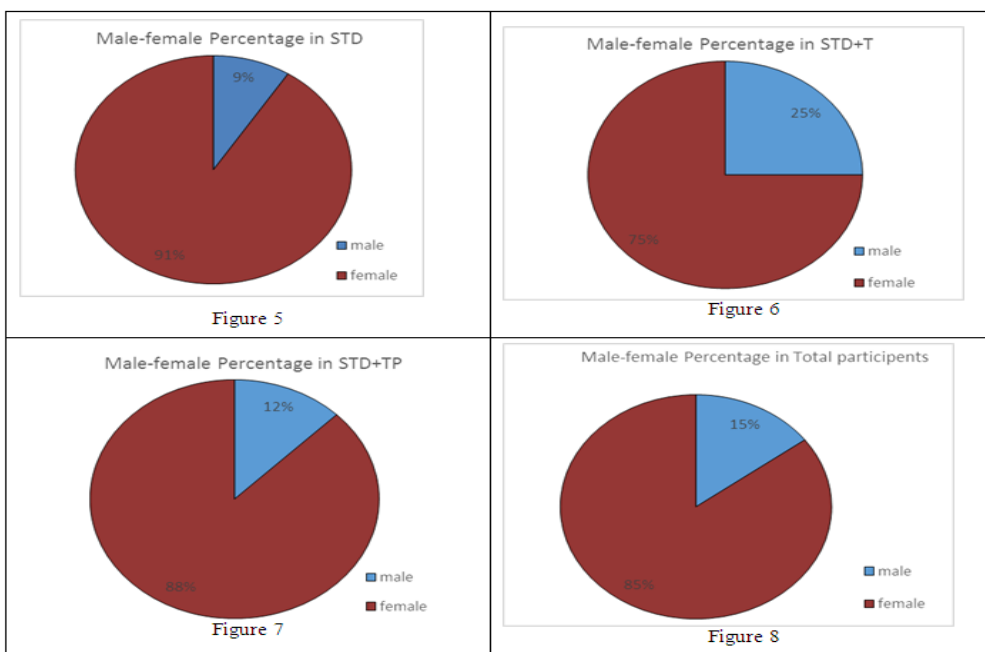
Distribution of participants at enrollment Table 1.2

Gender	STD (N=12)	STD+Turmocin (N=12)	STD+Turmocin Plus (N=12)	TOTAL (N=36)
Male (%)	1 (8.33%)	4 (33.33%)	1 (8.33%)	6 (16.67%)
Female (%)	11 (91.67%)	8 (66.67%)	11 (91.67%)	30 (83.33%)



Male Female participants percentage at end of study table 1.3

Gender	STD (N=11)	STD+Turmocin (N=8)	STD+Turmocin Plus (N=8)	TOTAL (N=27)
Male (%)	1(9.09%)	2(25%)	1(12.5%)	4(14.81%)
Female (%)	10(90.91%)	6(75%)	7(87.5%)	23(85.19%)



Measure of Treatment Effectiveness

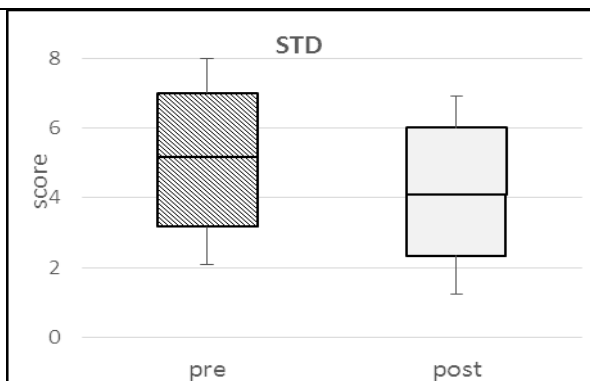


Figure. 9: comparing Pre and Post Score in group I.

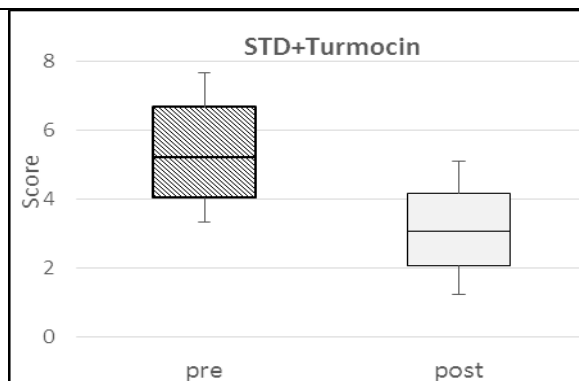


Figure. 10: comparing Pre and Post Score in group II.

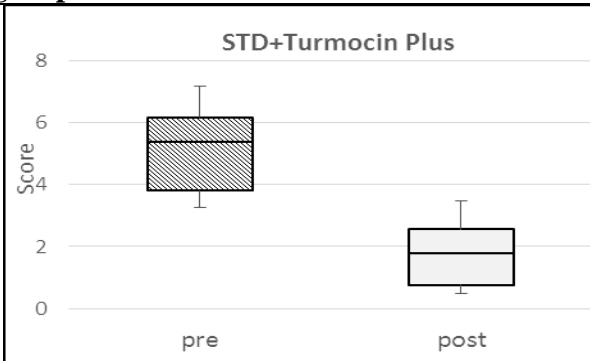


Figure. 11: Comparing Pre and Post Score in group III.

Box plots compared the treatment effectiveness pre and post mean of total score in all the groups. It is showing that after treatment total mean score is decreased as compare to before treatment. All the treatment is found to be effective in osteoarthritis.

Table 1.4: comparing effectiveness using paired t test.

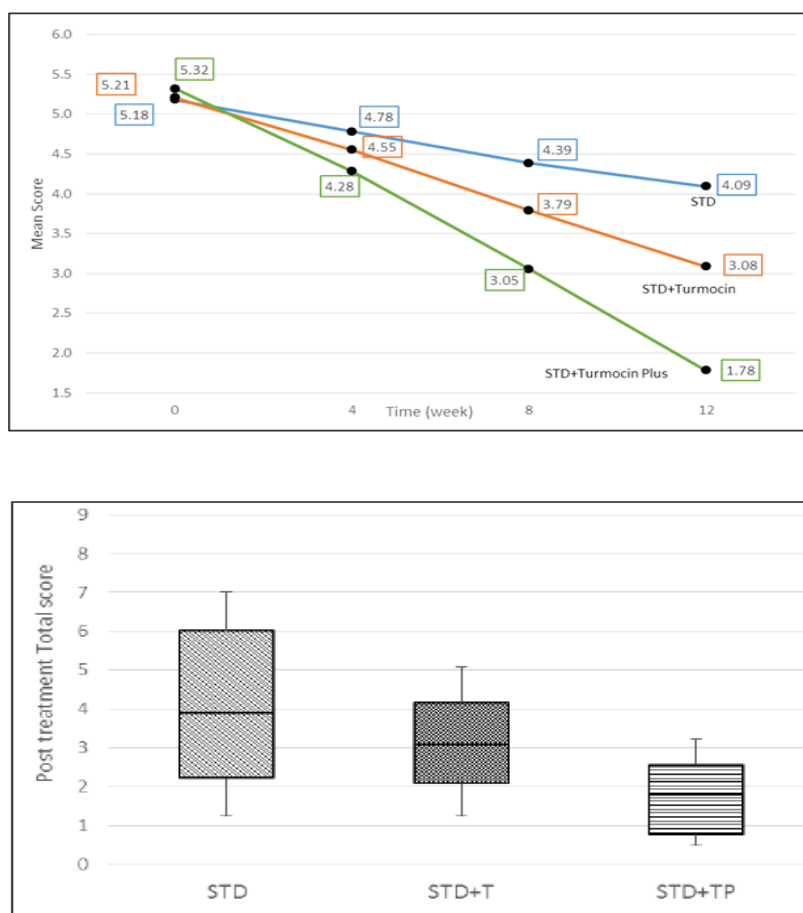
Treatment	Parameter	Pre Mean (SD)	Post Mean (SD)	P value
STD	Pain	5.44 (2.03)	4.33 (2.01)	0.003
	Stiffness	3 (1.77)	1.82 (1.52)	0.008
	PF	5.8 (2.21)	4.76 (2.09)	0.004
	Total	5.18 (2.02)	4.09 (1.92)	0.003
STD + Turmocin	Pain	5.3 (1.61)	3.25 (1.45)	0.003
	Stiffness	3.75 (1.81)	1.5 (0.65)	0.004
	PF	5.7 (1.37)	3.55 (1.58)	<0.001
	Total	5.21 (1.44)	3.08 (1.30)	0.001
STD +Turmocin Plus	Pain	5.5 (1.68)	1.75 (0.99)	<0.001
	Stiffness	4.44 (1.72)	1.25 (0.76)	<0.001
	PF	5.65 (1.55)	2.03 (1.01)	<0.001
	Total	5.39 (1.56)	1.78 (0.93)	<0.001

RESULT

1. Table 1.4 shows P values which were calculated by using paired t test at level of significance (α) 0.05 for Standard treatment, standard + Turmocin tablet and standard +

Turmocin plus tablet. All P values <0.05 shows that there is significant difference between pre and post treatment mean score. Post-treatment mean score is significantly lower as compare to pre-treatment mean score in all subscales like Pain, stiffness, physical Function in all the groups. These observations giving strong evidence of effectiveness in osteoarthritis.

Total mean score was compared for all the groups. It was measured before treatment and at 4 week, at 8 week and at 12 week. Observations show that after every 4 week there was a decrease in mean of total score (Figure 12). In all the three groups participant’s from Group III shows minimum mean Score of 1.78 after 12 week as compare to group II as 3.08, and group I as 4.09.



Graph. 13: comparing post mean score in all three groups.

Table 1.5: comparing Post treatment mean score of all three groups using ANOVA.

Parameter	STD	STD+T	STD+TP	P VALUE
Pain	4.08 (1.93)	3.25 (1.45)	1.75 (0.99)	0.008
Stiffness	1.85 (1.6)	1.5 (0.65)	1.25 (0.76)	0.552
PF	4.54 (2.06)	3.55 (1.58)	2.03 (1.01)	0.007
Total	4.09 (1.91)	3.08 (1.3)	1.78 (0.93)	0.011

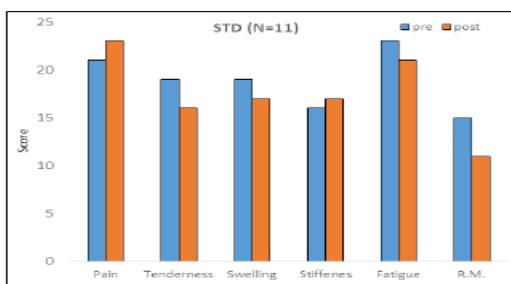


Figure 14: comparing all parameters pre and post total score in group I

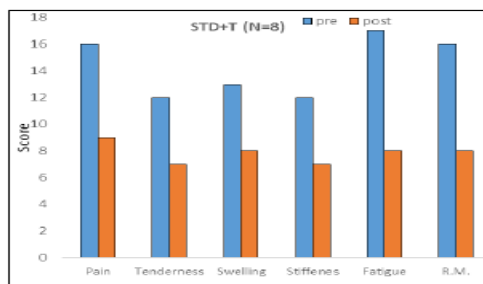


Figure 15: comparing all parameters pre and post total score in group II

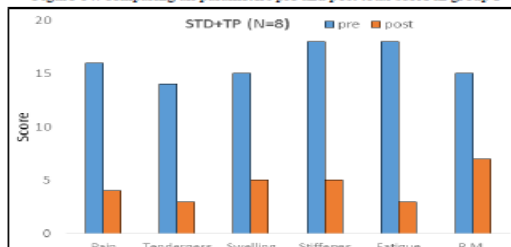


Figure 16: comparing all parameters pre and post total score in group III

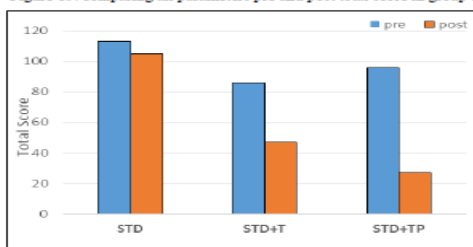


Figure 17: comparing pre and post total score in all the three groups

Using ANOVA at level of significance (α) 0.05 comparisons of post treatment mean score for pain, stiffness and physical function was evaluated. It was found that there is significant difference in mean score of pain, physical function and overall total score with p value <0.05 table 1.5. In case of stiffness p value > 0.05 shows there is no significant difference between mean score in all the groups. Post hoc comparison using t test revealed that group III [mean=1.78 SD=0.93] total mean score was lower as compare to group II [mean=3.08, SD=1.3, p value =0.036] as well as with group I [mean=4.09, SD=1.91 p value=0.006] Found that all parameter's mean score in group III is significantly lower as compared to other two groups table 1.5.

Analysis of symptoms

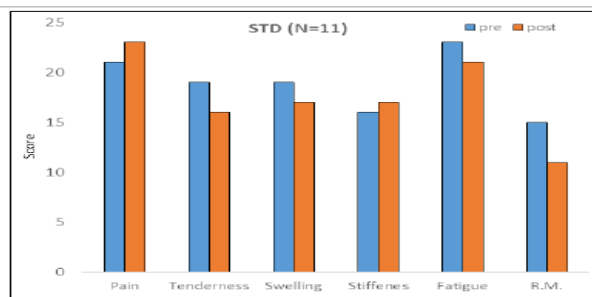


Figure 14: comparing all parameters pre and post total score in group I

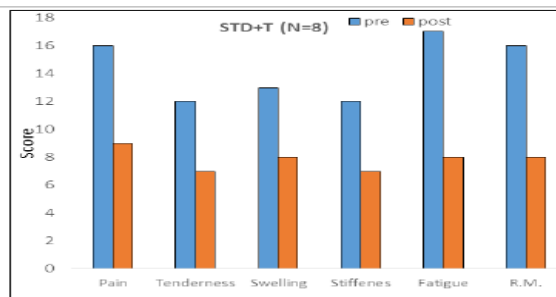


Figure 15: comparing all parameters pre and post total score in group II

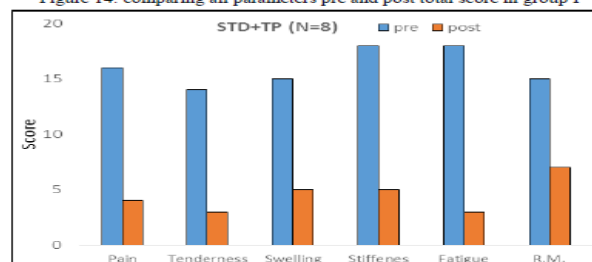


Figure 16: comparing all parameters pre and post total score in group III

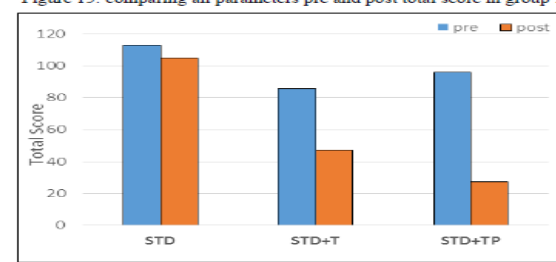


Figure 17: comparing pre and post total score in all the three groups

Table 1.5: comparing all parameter pre and post mean score in all groups using Wilcoxon test.

Parameter	STD			STD + Turmocin			STD +Turmocin Plus		
	pre	Post	P value	pre	post	P value	pre	post	P value
Pain	1.91(0.83)	2.1(0.88)		1.86(0.90)	1.14 (0.90)		1.86(0.69)	0.4 (0.55)	
Tenderness	1.73(0.65)	1.6(0.52)		1.43(0.53)	0.86 (0.90)		1.71(0.49)	0.2 (0.45)	
Swelling	1.73(0.79)	1.7(0.95)		1.43(0.79)	0.86 (0.90)		1.71(1.11)	0.2 (0.45)	
Stiffens	1.45(1.04)	1.6(1.07)		1.43(0.98)	0.86 (0.69)		2.14(0.90)	0.6 (0.55)	
Fatigue	2.09(0.94)	2(0.82)		2.00(0.82)	0.86 (0.69)		2.29(0.49)	0.4 (0.55)	
R.M.	1.36(1.21)	1(0.94)		1.86(0.90)	0.86 (0.38)		1.86(0.69)	0.8 (0.45)	
Total	10.18(4.38)	9.55(4.39)	0.079	10.75(3.77)	5.88 (3.23)	0.014	12 (3.38)	3.3 (2.20)	0.007

3. Changes in symptoms after taking the treatments for all the group has been analysed as parameters using Wilcoxon test as mentioned. P values<0.05 in group II (STD + turmocin) and group III (STD + turmocin plus) shows that there is significant change in symptoms mentioned in table 1.5.

DISCUSSION

Osteoarthritis is an inflammatory condition^[33] and use of turmeric is well documented in vedic period (6000 – 4000 BC.)^[34], Charaka Samhita (1000-1500 B.C.)^[35], Sushruta Samhita(100 -1500 B.C)^[36], Ashtanga Hridaya^[37], sharita Samhita^[38], Cakradata^[39], Sarangdhar^[40], gadanigraha^[41], Bhaisajya Ratnavali^[42], Yogaratnakar^[43], Bhavaprakash^[44], Vangasen Samhita^[45] and with modern view its importance in therapeutic use came reported first in year 1748.^[46] Comparative effectiveness of available standard care with turmeric whole rhizome and pure turmeric extract was a unique approach attempted in present study. Pain in OA usually treated with NSAIDS however majority of individuals experience unwanted serious effects^[10] like gastric ulceration, haemorrhage, and perforation^[9] hence such individuals investigate the safe treatments. In this study treatment effectiveness were compared and individuals taking turmocin plus tablet showed the most effective in comparison to the selected parameters. Osteoarthritis treatment mainly aims at relieving pain, swelling, improving joint mobility, stiffness, increasing the strength of the joints, minimizing the disabling effects of the disease^[47] and similar parameters were observed in this study. In this comparison effectiveness of the three groups evaluated. Using Analysis of variance (ANOVA), it was found that there is a significant difference in WOMAC Score across the group with p value=0.011. In the post hoc analysis T test shows that group III [mean=1.78

SD=0.93] total mean score was lower as compare to group II [mean=3.08, SD=1.3 p value =0.036] as well as with group I [mean=4.09, SD=1.91 p value=0.006].

Comparative effectiveness for all the total parameters were calculated and pre and post treatment mean (SD) for the symptoms were calculated as 10.18 (4.38) & 9.55 (4.39) for standard treatment with p value 0.079, 10.75 (3.77) & 5.88 (3.23) for Standard in addition with turmocin tablet with p value evaluated as 0.014 plus, and best results were observed as 12 (3.38) & 3.3 (2.20) with p value 0.007 in all the three. In this study effectiveness of pure extract of curcumin in combination of pepper reduced the symptoms very effectively as compared to the combination whole rhizome and pepper. There is a need of study with bigger sample size to find the adverse events with the study formulations of turmocin and turmocin plus as in present study with small samples size no adverse events were reported. Pilot study in OA with similar parameters is been suggested by the investigator as a treatment comparison to standard care to turmocin plus tablet only to see the alone effects. Such trial will give a new way for the management of OA in a better and safe way in near future.

CONCLUSION

In this study all the given treatments found to be effective but group III participants has more relief at end of the study as compare to other groups. It shows the standard + turmocin plus treatment is more effective. Since ancient times turmeric is been advised for various illness by using currently available advanced research techniques, controlled trials, new indications can be explored. Research on Ayurveda formulations may give new effective treatments as with current study drug has a roots back to 6000 years still found to be effective and no resistance reported till date.

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