

KSHAARASOOTRA TECHNIQUE FOR ANAL FISTULA

Clinical trials on a non-surgical technique known as KSHAARASOOTRA technique (in comparison with surgery) are currently in progress at the Department of Surgery, AIIMS, New Delhi, PGIMER, Chandigarh, Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Wardha and Seth G.S. Medical College, Bombay. The KSHAARASOOTRA technique uses a medicated thread, coated with the latex of the cactus plant EUPHORBIA NERIIFOLIA, the alkali (or Kshaara) of ACHYRANTHES ASPERA (Apamarga) and the power of Curcuma Longa (Haldi). This thread is inserted into the fistulous track and left in situ for a week. The thread is replaced by a fresh medicated thread at weekly intervals, till the fistulous track heals totally. The patient does not require hospital admission as the thread can be inserted in the outpatient department itself by the doctor or even a well trained nurse. The patient can also attend to his/her normal work (with the thread in position).

The total number (polled from all the 4 centres) of patients inducted into the trial so far is 402. Of these, 205 patients were randomised to the Kshaarasootra group and 197 to the surgery group. The number of patients who have completed one year follow up (pooled from all the centres) is 102 in the Kshaarasootra group, and 92 in the Surgery group. So far, no true recurrence has been reported in the Kshaarasootra group whereas in the surgery group, 8 instances of recurrence have been reported. The results reported from all the Centres have been uniformly encouraging. The success rate, as assessed by the healing of fistulous track, is 94 per cent in the Kshaarasootra group and 89 per cent in surgery group. The data from randomised groups in all the trials on anal fistula will be pooled and final statistical analysis will be undertaken as soon as the target number of 500 patients of

anal fistula have completed the full course of treatment (including one year follow-up after healing of the fistulous track).

[English]

Investment of Provident Fund by Industrial Units

10066. SHRI CHIRANJILAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the nature of restrictions imposed upon industries regarding investment of provident fund by industrial units; and

(b) the steps proposed to invest the same in the best manner with a view to yield maximum returns?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) The EPF money is required to be invested as per pattern of investment specified by the Central Government, from time to time. The existing pattern of investment effective from 1st April, 1986 is as given below:—

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| (i) Central/State Government
guaranteed securities | 15% |
| (ii) Special Deposits Scheme | 85% |

(b) The existing pattern of investment, on the whole, gives a return of about 12 percent per annum. There is, no proposal for the present to make any change in the existing pattern of investment.

Kerala Model on Population Control

10067. SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala has achieved cent