Predicting schizophrenia from astrological perspectives

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Abstract

Aims and Objectives: Examining the Planetary combinations for schizophrenia as described in standard astrological texts for assessing individual risk to develop schizophrenia.

 Materials and Methods: This is a Pilot study. Time, date and place of birth were collected from 60 patients who were diagnosed to be having schizophrenia. For control group the data of 60 healthy participants has been collected. After analysing their birth charts, afflictions on account of Moon-Mercury association and Nodal afflictions to Ascendant, Moon and 4th house/lord from either of them have been determined. Afflictions in the charts of patients and of healthy subjects have been compared by doing Chi-square/ Fisher Exact test.

 Results: After doing Chi-square/ Fisher Exact test, statistically significant association is found for afflictions due to Moon–Mercury association and Nodal afflictions with p<0.050 and p=0.001 respectively. The odds ratio is 2.74 and 4.09 for the afflictions due to Moon–Mercury association and Nodal afflictions respectively which indicates that people with these afflictions are 2.74 and 4.*09 times* more, respectively, prone to develop Schizophrenia than others.

 Conclusion: Afflictions on account of Moon-Mercury association and Nodal afflictions to Ascendant, Moon and 4th house/lord from either of them make an individual vulnerable to schizophrenia**.** In other words, ***afflictions*** from Nodes more commonly cause schizophrenia than Moon-Mercury association. This study is proves that astrological risk factors play important role in predicting schizophrenia.

Introduction:

As Modern molecular Medicine is advancing prediction, prevention and personalization are gaining importance. Psychiatry medicine is not an exception to it[1].

In schizophrenia, once psychosis and negative symptoms have manifested, most patients will suffer from persistent illness and declining social and vocational functioning. Therefore prevention is being thought of since several years[2]. Consequently, prediction of schizophrenia and its prevention through early intervention activities can have immense benefits.

Birth chart reveals inherent susceptibility of an individual to certain diseases during certain time periods. Therefore by taking precautions the disease can be avoided or its intensity can be minimized. The karmic causes behind lunacy as illustrated in Prasna marga are (1)ridiculing elderly persons (2) always engrossing in pleasures (4)casting eyes on others' wives and (5) breaking of promises[3].

Carl Jung stressed the importance of astrology in his letters to Sigmund Freud[4]. Jung explained signs of the zodiac as character pictures. In other words "libido symbols which depict the typical qualities of the libido at a given moment". In his letters to B.V.Raman he explained the significance of horoscope in analysing complications in characters and diagnostic difficulties in his Psycholology practice. He also expressed that statistical method through which certain fundamental facts could be scientifically established, is being missed in astrological literature[5].

In this study combinations for schizophrenia which were described in standard astrological texts have been examined.

Materials and Methods:

This was a double blind (researcher/ astrologer did not meet the participant; participant did not know why the data is being collected at the time of registration) two

groups cross sectional controlled study conducted at SVYASA (Swami vivekananda yoga anusandhana samsthana) in Bangalore.

Selection of Sample, Sample size and Questionnaire:

The experimental group consisted of patients with schizophrenia (satisfied DSM IV criteria) admitted for holistic yoga based rehabilitation since 2006.

Sixty healthy participants, admitted during the same period to the department of promotion of positive health, formed the control group. About 23% of people with schizophrenia experience their first episode after the age of 40[6]. Hence for control group people above 45 years were selected. Telephone calls were made to all the care takers of schizophrenia cases and the volunteers of control group to confirm the information regarding the date, time and place of birth. Birth charts of selected cases were prepared.

Exclusion criteria

The following cases were excluded from the study:

i) Incomplete files.

 ii) Those cases whose information in the registration form regarding the time, date and palce of birth could not be confirmed by telephonic checking.

iii) Those files which did not satisfy DSM IV criteria due to unclear history.

iv) Those with mixed diagnoses such as schizo affective disorder.

v)Those cases that had associated psychiatric conditions such as alcoholism, drug addictions.

vi) Those cases that had associated chronic diseases such as chronic renal disease, C.O.P.D(chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), diabetes with complications etc.

Birth charts of patients and of healthy subjects were analyzed by using astrology software and afflictions due to Moon - Mercury association and Nodal afflictions to the Ascendant, Moon and to the fourth house/lord from either of them were determined .

Affliction criteria:

1. Moon is *Manahkaraka* (significator of the mind) and Mercury is *Buddhikaraka* (significator of intellect). Association of these two planets forms *Paisacha* Yoga and one born under it will become insane. Out of three conditions described for *Paisacha* Yoga[7(36)] two conditions were examined in this study. They are conjunction of Moon and Mercury and opposition of Moon and Mercury.

2. Hallucinations and delusions come under Rahu. Rahu and Ketu have blurring effect on the planets involved and on their significations[7(p149)].

Nodal afflictions to Moon, the natural significator of mind and Ascendant which rules physical senses and fourth house/lord from either of them, which rules mind, have been determined[7(p162)].

Four groups: Based on afflictions, four groups were identified among patients and healthy subjects.

(i) No affliction

 (ii) Afflictions on account of Moon-Mercury conjunction or opposition.

(iii) Nodal afflictions to Moon, Ascendant and 4th house/lord from either of them.

(iv) Both Nodal afflictions and afflictions on account of Moon-Mercury association

 Nodal afflictions to Ascendant, Moon and fourth house, from either of them, are called direct afflictions and afflictions to their lords are called indirect afflictions. The following afflictions include both direct and indirect afflictions.

Five types of Nodal afflictions: Based on afflictions from Rahu and Ketu five types of nodal afflictions were identified, among patients and healthy subjects, as follows:

(i) If the Moon is with Rahu or Ketu and the 4th house from the Ascendant or the Moon sign also has Nodal afflictions.

(ii)If the Moon is in a Nodal constellation (*Nakshatra*) with Rahu or Ketu and the fourth house from the Ascendant or the Moon sign also has a Nodal affliction .

(iii)If the Moon is in a Nodal constellation (*Nakshtra*) and the fourth from the Ascendant or the Moon sign also has Nodal affliction.

(iv) If the Ascendant has Nodal affliction along with afflictions to the fourth house from the Moon sign or from the Ascendant by Nodes.

(V) If Moon is with Rahu and Ketu and Ascendant or its lord has Nodal affliction.

When Jupiter is aspecting Ascendant / Moon,   we didn't consider it as affliction and several healthy people are having such combinations.

But if either Jupiter itself or Ascendant / Moon aspected by Jupiter are afflicted by Rahu-Ketu , Jupiter is not able to protect people from schizophrenia and several patients are having such combinations.
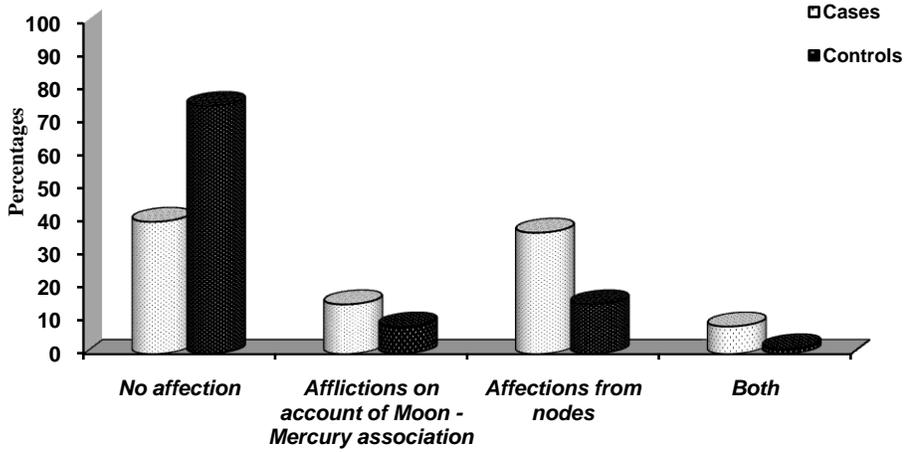
Statistical Analysis: Descriptive and inferential statistical analysis has been carried out in the present study. Results on continuous measurements are presented in Mean $\pm$ SD (Min-Max) and results on categorical measurements are presented in Number (%). Significance is assessed at 5 % level of significance. Chi-square/ Fisher Exact test has been used to find the significance of study parameters on categorical scale between two or more groups. Odds Ratio has been used to find the strength of association.

Results:

Characteristics of the Sample: Mean age of the patients participated in this study is 33.90 ± 9.23.   Mean age of control group is 54.12 ± 8.01. Out of 60 patients who participated in this study 43.3% are female patients and 56.7% are male patients. Out of 60 healthy subjects 48.3% are female participants and 51.7% are male participants.
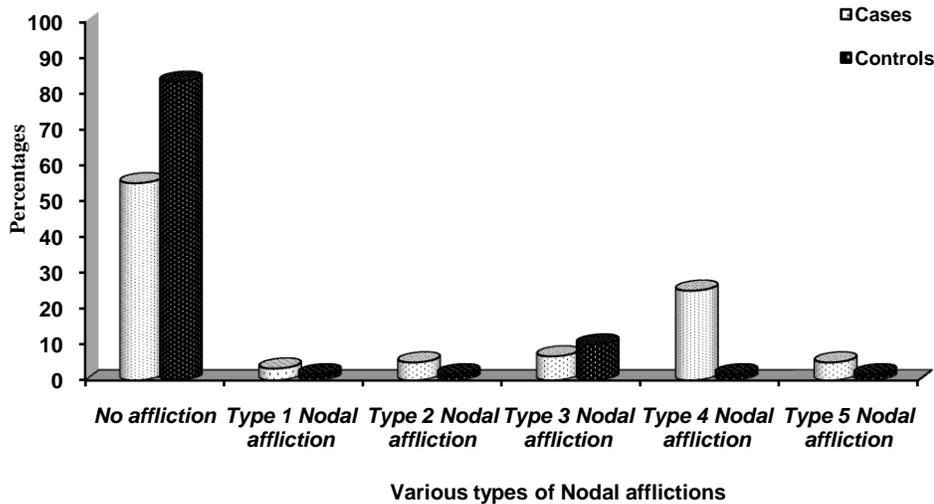
Bar Diagram1:

Frequency distribution of patients' and healthy subjects' percentage according to various types of afflictions.

Bar Diagram 2:

Frequency distribution of patients' and healthy subjects' percentage according to various types of Nodal afflictions.

Discussion :. Schizophrenia is a chronic disabling disorder. It is characterized by positive symptoms such as hallucinations, paranoid thoughts, disorganized thinking and negative symptoms such as decreased emotional expression, impaired concentration and diminished social engagement. Different forms of schizophrenia occur depending upon the main symptoms that develop. In many cases there is a mix of positive and negative symptoms.

After doing Chi-square/ Fisher Exact test, statistically significant association is found for afflictions of Moon-Mercury association and Nodal afflictions, with $p < 0.050$ and $p = 0.001$ respectively. These findings explain that people with Moon-Mercury association and Nodal afflictions are more prone to develop schizophrenia. The odds ratio is 2.74 and 4.09 for the afflictions of Moon –Mercury association and Nodes respectively which indicates that people with these afflictions are 2.74 and 4.09 times more, respectively, prone to develop schizophrenia than others.

Bar diagram 1 is illustrating that Nodal afflictions are significantly more common in patients than afflictions from Moon-Mercury association.

Bar diagram 2 is illustrating that Type 4 Nodal affliction is significantly more common among patients. It supports the statement that Ascendant, (*Thanurbhava*) plays a vital role in determining health[8]. Bar diagram 2 is also illustrating that Type 3 Nodal afflictions are more common in healthy people than patients. Thus, when Moon is in the *Nakshatra* of Rahu/Ketu, it may or may not cause schizophrenia. Therefore Moon's placement with Nodes is more dangerous than Moon's location in their *Nakshatra.*

If persons with the above planetary combinations develop prodromal symptoms like social withdrawal, hostility or suspiciousness, extreme reaction to criticism, strange thoughts etc. through intervention techniques like family support , social support and cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), psychotic episode can be prevented or delayed. We can also preserve psycho social skills and rapid recovery can be achieved.

Conclusion:

This study proves that the birth chart analysis plays an important role in detecting high risk individuals. Astrological risk factors should be considered along with other risk indicators like Psychosis –Proness scales and prospective studies are invited to prove the predictive value of astrology and to utilize its immense health benefits.

According to Breggin all psychological suffering is a form of spiritual crisis[9] . Psychotic is in touch with advanced consciousness and refusion to give up attachment leads to psychosis[10]. Therefore *Grahashanti poojas, Yagnas* and *Mantras* like "OM" are suitable for them? Scholars' views are invited on this aspect.

Acknowledgement:

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Chart 1:

M.SRIKANTH REDDY

Dateof Birth: 11-4-1980

Place of Birth: Hyderabad

Time of Birth: 6.50 PM

Birth Star: Satabhisha

Balance of Dasa at the time of Birth : 16 Years and 6m of Rahu Dasa

Su 28.13 Me 2.07		Ve 13.52	
Mo7.45 Ke4.21	**Rasi 1**		Ma 2.27 Ra 4.21 Ju R 7.00 Sa R 27.58
		As 3.26	

In chart 1 Moon is in the nodal constellation along with nodes and fourth house from the Lagna lord (Venus) is having Nodal afflictions, fulfilling criteria for Type II Nodal affliction.

Su	Ma	Ve Ra	JuR
			Me
	Navamsa 1		
Mo SaR	As Ke		

Chart2:

K.SHARAT

Date of Birth:30-10-1982

Place of Birth: Visakhapatnam

Time of Birth :7.50 AM

Birth star : Uttarabhadra

Balance of Dasa at the time of Birth : 7years and 7months of Saturn Dasa.

Mo 11.20			Ra 12.34
	Rasi 2		
Ke 12.34 Ma 5.00	As08.01	Sa 2.54 Ve11.27 Su 12.43 Ju24.04	Me 29.54

In Chart 2 Lagna lord Mars has Nodal affliction along with afflictions to the fourth house from Moon sign by Nodes, fulfilling the criteria for Type - 4 Nodal affliction. This chart is also having Moon Mercury opposition afflicting 5th house from the ascendant.

		Ju Ma	
			Ke
Ve Ra Su	**Navamsa 2**		
		Mo Sa	As Me

CHART 3

T.AISWARYA

Date of Birth: 13-8-1991

Place of Birth: HYDERABAD

Time of Birth : 3.40 AM

Birth star: Uttara Phalguni

Dasa balance at the time of birth : 2years 7months of Sun Dasa

			Ke 24.50 As 23.57
			Su25.59 Ju29.40
SaR 08.31		**Rasi 3**	Ve R 11.01 MeR11.03 Ma 23.55
Ra 24.50			Mo 4.06

In chart 3 Ascendant has Nodal affliction along with afflictions to the fourth house from the Moon sign by Nodes, fulfilling the criteria for Type - 4 Nodal affliction.

Sa R Ju		As Ke	
Mo Su	**Navamsa 3**		VeR MeR
	Ma Ra		

CHART 4

NIVEDITA

Date of Birth: 20-10-1986

Place of Birth: Dhule, MAHARASTRA.

Time of Birth : 7.21 AM.

Birth star: KRITTIKA

Dasa balance at the time of birth : 5 Years and 1month of SUN DASA

Ra27.12	Mo 28.33		
JuR19.55	**Rasi 4**		
Ma 12.37			
	Sa13.25	Su 2.42 As 13.34 VeR26.20 Me26.56	Ke 27.12

In Chart 4 Moon Mercury opposition is afflicting Ascendant.

Ra JuR	Ma	VeR	Me
As			
	Navamsa 4		
Mo	Sa	Su	Ke

CHART 5:

Srinivasan

Date of Birth: 3-5-1971

Place of Birth: Bhubaneswar

Time of Birth : 11.15 AM

Birth star: ASLESHA

Dasa balance at the time of birth : 1 Year and 4months of Mercury Dasa.

Me R 29.41 Ve18.04	Su18.41	Sa00.38	
	Rasi 5		As 13.46 Ke 26.27 Mo28.56
Ra 26.27 Ma6.12			
	Ju R 10.34		

In chart 5 Moon which is also Lagna lord is with Rahu and Ketu in the Ascendant fulfilling criteria for Type -5 Nodal affliction.

Here Ascendant and Moon are associated with Rahu-Ketu. Therefore though they are aspected by Jupiter, it is not able to protect this patient from schizophrenia .

Mo Me R			
Ma Ke Sa	**Navamsa 5**		Ra
Ve	As	JuR	Su