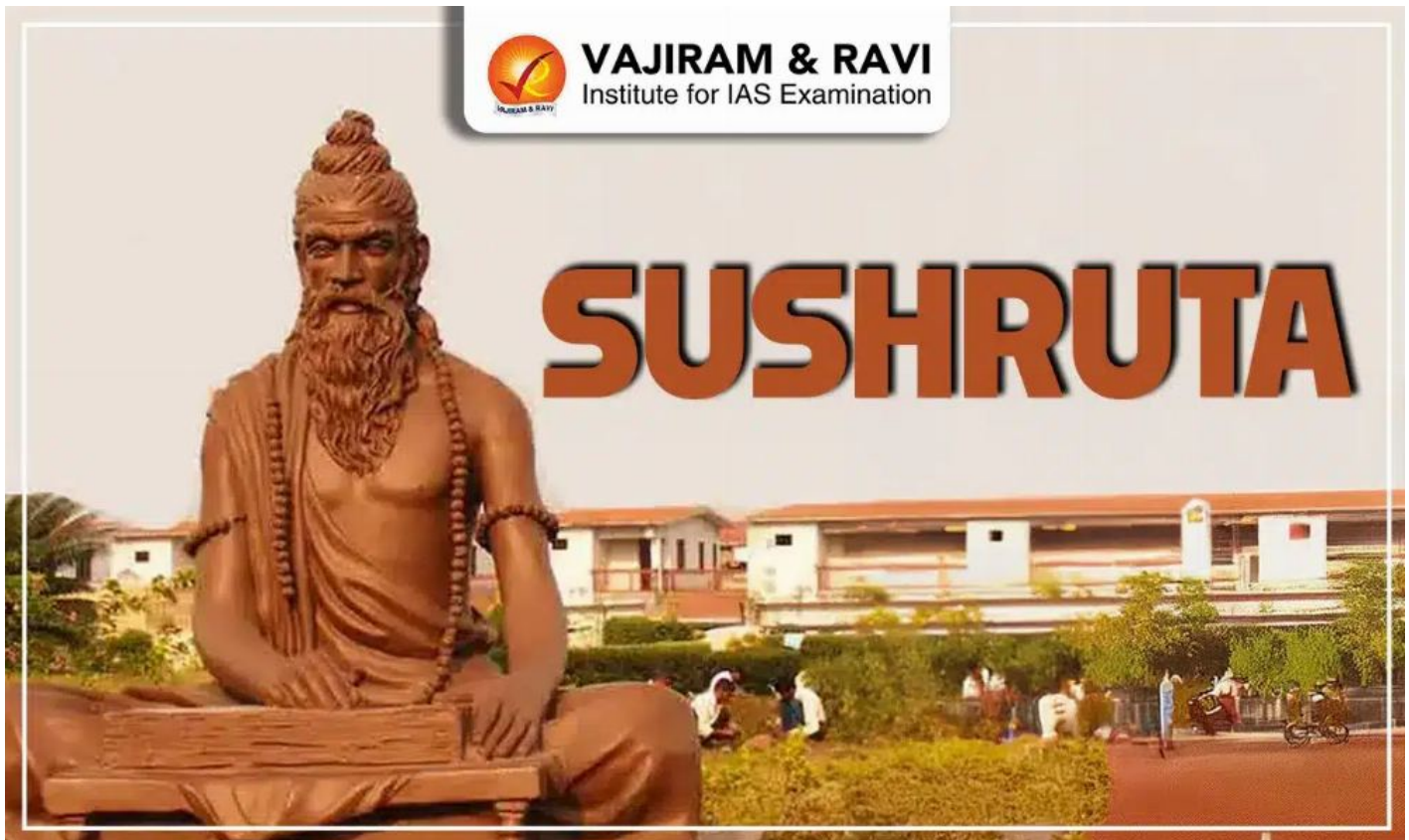


Sushruta

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Sushruta was an ancient Indian surgeon (around 7th century BC) and is the author of 'Sushruta Samhita', a comprehensive textbook on medicine and surgery. He is known as the "Father of Plastic Surgery" and is credited with the advancement of medicine in ancient India. Sushruta took surgery to admirable heights and that era was later regarded as '**The Golden Age of Surgery**' in ancient India.

Background about Sushruta

Sushruta is thought to have been born in the **7th century BC** in eastern India. He belonged to a rich heritage of learned scholars.

- Sushruta is considered a son of **Sage Vishvamitra**.
- However, **Late Vedic** hymns attributed to Sushruta suggested that he flourished in the late Vedic period, which would place him around 1000 BCE.

Sushruta's Literary work

Sushruta Samhita: It is regarded as one of the '**Great Trilogy of Ayurvedic Medicine**' (Charaka Samhita, Sushruta Samhita and Astanga Hridaya) and is the foundation of the ancient Hindu form of medicine known as '**Ayurveda**'.

- "**Sushruta Samhita**" relates to the school of surgery and contains **principles of surgery**, a description of more than 100 surgical **instruments**, a description of **operative procedures**, 650 drugs, and descriptions of anatomy, embryology, toxicology, and therapeutics.
- The Sushruta Samhita is organized into five major sections:
 - **Sutrasthana**: Primary principles dealing with basic principles of medical sciences and pharmacology;
 - **Nidana**: It deals with pathological concepts;
 - **Sarirasthana**: On human anatomy;
 - **Chikitsasthanam**: On medical and surgical management;
 - **Kalpasthanam**: On toxicology.

Contribution of Sushruta in Medicine

Sushruta is regarded as the 'Father of Indian Medicine' and the 'Father of Plastic Surgery.' Modern-day Ayurveda heavily draws from the Sushruta Samhita. This ancient text outlines a holistic approach to medicinal treatment, categorizes the divisions of Ayurveda, and expounds on Sushruta's unique methods for Panchakarma and other specialized treatments.

- The contributions of Sushruta are not only limited to the surgical field but also extended to the different branches of anatomy, embryology, gynaecology, obstetrics, paediatrics, toxicology, medicine, etc.

Contribution to Surgery

Sushruta is known as the 'Father of Surgery'. He was among the first people in history to propose that surgical students should learn about the human body and its organs by dissecting a dead body.

- Sushruta induced **anaesthesia** using intoxicants like **wine and henbane** for a successful surgery.
- He specialized in **rhinoplasty** (plastic surgery) and **ophthalmology** (cataract ejection).
 - India was the first place where rhinoplasty (developed by Sushruta) was invented and used, and even modern science agrees with this.
- **Sushruta has described surgery under eight heads:**
 - Chedya (excision)
 - Lekhya (scarification)
 - Vedhya (puncturing)
 - Esha (exploration)
 - Ahrya (extraction)
 - Vsraya (evacuation)
 - Sivya (suturing)

Contribution to Anatomy

Sushruta was one of the **first to investigate human anatomy**. He describes in detail the study of anatomy with the aid of a dead body in the **Sushruta Samahita**.

- The study of anatomy is covered in the **ten chapters of Sushruta Samhita's Sarirasthana**.
 - Significant anatomical considerations of the ancient Hindu are found in his work.
- There is also compelling evidence that Sushruta revealed his knowledge of human anatomy through both **surface inspection of the human body** and **human dissection**, as he believed that students aspiring to be surgeons should have a good understanding of the structure of the human body.

Other Contributions by Sushruta

- Aside from trauma involving general surgery, Sushruta detailed the treatment of 12 different **types of fractures** and six different types of dislocations.
- He discussed the principles of traction, manipulation, apposition, stabilisation, and postoperative physiotherapy.
- Sushruta also recommended methods for **stimulating hair growth** and removing unwanted hair.

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/upsc-exam/sushruta/>

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