

Chapter 4

THE ROLE OF YOGA AND THE NURSE IN SYMPTOM MANAGEMENT OF ASTHMA PATIENTS*

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INTRODUCTION

Asthma is a chronic inflammatory disease with respiratory symptoms such as wheezing, cough, shortness of breath and chest tightness. Asthma, which is one of the most commonly seen chest diseases with an increasing rate of morbidity and mortality affecting about 300 million in the world, is a disease that can be seen in all age groups and in both genders. As a result of life shifting from rural area to the urban area and individuals preferring a more modern life, it is thought that this prevalence will gradually increase and it is estimated that four hundred million more people will have asthma by the year 2025.^{1, 2} The prevalence of asthma is known to vary between 2.0-6.0% among adults in Turkey and it is estimated that there are about 3.5 million asthma patients.²⁻⁴

Non-pharmacological treatment is as important as a pharmacological treatment in taking asthma disease under control.⁵ The use of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM), which is a non-pharmacological treatment method, is gradually increasing in asthma patients.⁶⁻¹⁰

CAM methods asthma patients mostly refer to can be listed as yoga, acupuncture, acupressure, breathing techniques, chiropractic, aromatherapy, food supplements and herbal therapies.^{7, 11-13} There are various studies in the world stating that yoga, which is one of these CAM methods, provides symptom control and increases respiratory functions and quality of life in asthma patients.^{5, 14-18}

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