



# Sensitive Points of Elephants

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According to the ancient, Indian text Hastayurveda, there are 107 sensitive points on the elephant's body. These sensitive points are called as *Marmams*, in Malayalam. The text says that, injuries on any one of these points can cause serious health problems to the elephant. These points are distributed through out the body and

**Dr.K.Chandrasekharan** their location and numbers are discussed below.  
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Location	Numbers
Limbs (all 4 feet) (11 on each feet)	44
Lower abdomen	3
Chest	9
Back	14
Neck	12
Head	25

The *marmams* are classified as follows

Classification	Numbers
Asthi	8
Snayu	33
Dhamani	9
Sira	17
Sandhi	40

Based on their location these *marmams* are named as follows:

Location	Name
Lower joint of the limbs	<i>Chowlam</i>
Knee of fore limb	<i>Kopparam</i>
Knee of hind limb	<i>Janu</i>
Tip of trunk	<i>Jara</i>
Inside the mouth	<i>Anthakari</i>
Centre of head	<i>Avajam</i>
Between eyebrows	<i>Vataram</i>
Temporal region	<i>Arunan</i>
Behind the seating area of mahout	<i>Shroni</i>
Pelvis	<i>Pakwi</i>
In front of penis	<i>Mutratravam</i>

The effect of injuries on the various <i>marmams</i> are discussed below	
<i>Marmam</i> classification	Effects
<i>Asthi</i>	Swellings
<i>Snayu</i>	Chronic pain and nerve stretching
<i>Dhamani</i>	Blood flow
<i>Sira</i>	Viscous blood flows out, thirst and temporary insanity
<i>Sandhi</i>	Swelling at joints or joints become thin and weak

Besides the above mentioned regions, few other regions such as the anal opening, the heart, centre of the face, penis, between breasts, central pelvis, centre of the forehead bump, are also extremely sensitive to pressure or injury. There are at least 30 *marmams* in all these regions. Injuries are caused by excessive use of restraining devices. Mahouts have to be very careful about using their hook, long pole and stick.

