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Case Study

MANAGEMENT OF STHOLYA (OBESITY) BY PANCHAKARMA

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ABSTRACT

The changes in the lifestyle have made the modern man sedentary and inactive. Moreover, during the course of time, the dietary habits have also changed a lot towards junk foods and drinks. Due to these factors the prevalence of obesity is growing worldwide, resulting in multi systemic disorders like diabetes, hypertension, cardiac abnormalities etc. For the treatment of obesity, modern medicine emphasis upon calorie restriction in the diet, exercises and appetite suppressant drugs, but these drugs have adverse actions on other systems and may produce symptoms like dryness of mouth, constipation, migraine headache, menstrual disorders etc. In Ayurveda, obesity has been described as Santarpanokta vikara under the heading Stholya. For the treatment in Ayurveda, Langhana (fasting), Vyayama (regular exercise) and Shodhana (purification measures) have been advised by our Acharyas. At the same time, these modalities are effective, without side effects, economic and easily available. So, Ayurveda can provide a better choice of treatment in Stholya through Panchakarma modalities. A 23 years old female patient came to Panchakarma O.P.D. was weighing 103kg with height 161cm; BMI was 39.70kg/m² and according to the guidelines of NHI it falls under the class II obese category. She was treated with Aama pachana, Rukshana karma i.e., Udwartana, Snehana (Abhyantra and Bahya), Swedana, Virechana and Basti along with oral medicines, dietary regimes and life style modification. She lost about 23kg of weight, which was 80gm and BMI was 30.90kg/m² after 5 months of *Panchakarma* and oral treatment without any complications.

INTRODUCTION

Obesity is a condition of excessive accumulation of fat in the body. The term is normally described to the people who are grossly overweight; however, the term overweight is referred for the mild degree of adiposity. Adipose tissue is loose connective tissue composed of adipocytes, primarily located beneath the skin, also found around internal organs. Its main role is to store energy in the form of fat, also cushions and insulates the body. Obesity does not depend on the amount of body weight, but on the amount of body fat- specifically adipose tissue.



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So, the excess of adipose tissue in the body results in obesity.

Obesity is not merely a cosmetic concern but also a medical problem. Obese body acts like a host which invites multiple diseases in the future, most commonly diabetes, high blood pressure and heart problems. Although, there are genetic, behavioral, metabolic and hormonal influences on body weight, obesity occurs when a person takes more calories than burn out through exercise and normal daily activities and these excess calories are stored as fat causing obesity. In Ayurveda, the disease "Stholya" can be well matched with Obesity. The word 'Stholya' is derived from the Mool dhatu 'Sthu' with 'Ach' pratyaya which means bulky, thick or big.[1] It also indicates the over nutritional state of the body. Acharya Charaka says-"Sama pramana sharer" i.e., well-built physique is considered as the best.[2] Stholya is a condition in which Medo dhatu along with Mamsa dhatu is increased abnormally in a person, resulting in the

pendulous appearance of buttocks, belly and breast region. Here, the bulkiness of body structures increases; however, there is no correspondence increase in the energy level.[3] Stholva has been explained under *Shleshma nanatamaja vikar*^[4], Santarpana nimittaja roga^[5] and is considered as Bahu dosha youkta roga.[6] Stholya being a Dushya dominant disorder, Meda plays very important role in its pathogenesis. Meda is an important Dhatu among Sapta dhatus and its function is to moisten and smoothen the body by its properties like *Snigdha*, *Guru* and Drava with the predominance of Pruthvi, Apa and Teja mahabhuta.^[7,8] Another substance called Vasa, an Updhatu and Snehamsha of Shuddha mamsa dhatu is also a fatty substance.[9] It is formed after the Dhatwagni pak of Mamsa dhatu. The quantity of Meda is 2 Anjali and the Vasa is 3 Anjali in the body. Thus, total Meda content in body is enumerated as 5 anjali.[10] In Stholya, this proportion is found to be raised. While explaining the treatment of Stholya, Acharya Charaka has said that it is very difficult to treat *Atistholya* condition because, if *Karshana* therapy is applied then it further leads to the aggravation of *Vayu* and *Agni*, whereas, if *Brimhna* therapy is given it further increases the *Meda dhatu*. However, a very wide variety of treatment modalities have been described in Ayurveda that are very efficient in this condition.

Case Report: A 23 years old female patient visited OPD of Panchakarma, Abhilashi Ayurvedic College and Research Institute, Abhilashi University, Mandi, with chief complaints of being overweight since childhood and still gradual increase of weight. She had associated complaints of dyspnea on mild exertion, raised appetite, profuse sweating, sleep apnea and loud snoring since long back. She also observed increased fatigue and myalgia since last 2 months. Past history revealed that the patient was not suffering with any other underlying systemic pathology. Family history of patient was positive for obesity from the maternal side. During the first visit, patient was weighing 103kg and BMI was 39.70kg/m².

Table 1: Classification of adults for Underweight, overweight and obese according to BMI^[11]

S. No.	Classification	BMI
1.	Severe underweight	BMI less than 16.5kg/m ²
2.	Underweight	BMI under 18.5kg/m ²
3.	Normal weight	BMI greater than or equal to 18.5 to 24.9kg/m ²
4.	Overweight	BMI greater than or equal to 25 to 29.9kg/m ²
5.	Obesity	BMI greater than or equal to 30kg/m ²
6.	Obesity class I	BMI 30 to 34.9kg/m ²
7.	Obesity class II	BMI 35 to 39.9kg/m ²
8.	Obesity class III	BMI greater than or equal to 40kg/m^2

Hence, on the basis of BMI patient was diagnosed as obese class II.

Table 2: Personal detail and General physical examination

- Appetite- Good
- Bowel- Clear, regular, normal in consistency, 1-2 times a day.
- Micturition- Normal, 3-4 times in day and 1 time at night.
- Sleep- Excessive
- Habits- Fond of sweets, junk and fried food, carbonated drinks, bakery products.
- *Aahara* Mixed diet, non-veg once in a week
- Vihara- Diwaswapana, Atiaasana, Avyayama, Achinta.
- Appearance- Bulky/ heavy
- Built- Endomorph type
- Nourishment-Well nourished
- Gait- Normal
- Icterus- Absent
- Pallor- Absent
- Cyanosis- Absent
- Clubbing- Absent
- Edema- Absent

- B.P.- 130/84 mm Hg
- Pulse- 82 b/min
- Ht.- 161 cm
- Wt.- 103 kg
- BMI-39.70 kg/m²

Table 3: Systemic Examination

Respiratory system	B/L normal vesicular bronchial sounds
	No wheezing/ronchi
Cardiovascular system	• S1 S2 heard normal
	 No added sounds
Per abdomen	• Soft
examination	• Non-tender
Central nervous	Conscious and well oriented
system	• NAD

Investigations

Table 4: Lipid Profile: Showed normal values

Cholesterol Total	184.00 mg/dl
Triglycerides	130.00 mg/dl
HDL Cholesterol	45.00 mg/dl
LDL Cholesterol	93.00 mg/dl
VLDL Cholesterol	13.00 mg/dl
non-HDL Cholesterol	120.00 mg/dl

USG Abdomen: Showed normal study

Table 5: Dashavidha Aatur Pareeksha

Prakriti	Kapha Vata
Vikriti	Kapha dosha, Meda Dhatu
Sara	Madhyama
Samhanana	Madhyama
Pramana	Pravara
Satmya	Madhyama
Satva	Madhyama
Aahar shakti	Pravara
Vyayama Shakti	Avara
Vaya	Madhyama

Table 6: Astasthana Pareeksha

Nadi	Prakrita
Mala	Aamaj Lakshana
Mutra	Prakrita
Jihva	Lipta
Shabda	Prakrita
Sparsha	Anushna Sheeta
Drika	Prakrits
Aakriti	Sthoola

Table 7: Nidana Panchaka

Nidana	 Aaharaj- Madhura, Snigdha, Guru, Abhishyandi Aahar like sweets, fried and bakery items, fast food, excessive eating etc. Viharaj- Diwaswapana, Atiaasana, Avyayama
Poorvaroopa	• Aalasya with gradual increase in weight
Roopa	• <i>Medo vriddhi</i> leading to enlargement of body parts specifically <i>Spik</i> and <i>Udara</i> , excessive thirst, hunger and sweating
Upshaya	• Vyayama
Anupshaya	Santarpana janya aahara

Chikitsa Krama/ Treatment module

The patient was advised to get admitted in IPD but she was not willing for the same as she was from the local area, however she got admitted for the *Virechana* process. Hence, she was administered with following treatments during the course of 5 months and proper observations and precautions were made during the entire treatment:

Table 8: Treatment Module of 5 Months

No. of days	Treatment	Observations
1st month- 1-15 days	 Udwartana^[12] (Rukshana) with Triphla choorna, Kola churna and kulatha choorna Sarwanga Vashpa Sweda with Vashpa of Dashmool kwath. 	Appetite- Good (increased) Bowel- Clear Sleep- Sound
1-13 days	 Light exercises and Yoga Pathyahara 	Micturition- Normal
16-30 days	 Aam Pachana with Shiva kshara pachak choorna^[13] 3gm BD with warm water. Light exercises and Yoga Pathyaahara 	Appetite- Good Bowel- Clear Sleep- Sound Micturition- Normal Weight- Decreased
2 nd month-	• Snehapana with Panchtikta Ghrita ^[14] mixed with Saindhav salt was performed in Arohana karma for 4	Appetite- Good Bowel- Clear
1-4 days	days.Sukhoshna Jala was given as Anupana.	Sleep- Sound Micturition- Normal Samyaka lakshans of Snehapana were observed on 4 th day
5-6 th days	 Sarwanga Abhyanga was performed with Murchit til taila. Sarwanga vashpa sweda was done with Vashpa of Dashmool kwath. 	Appetite-Good Bowel- Clear Sleep- Sound Micturition- Normal
7 th day	 Sarwanga Abhyanga was performed with Murchit til taila. Sarwanga vashpa sweda was done with Vashpa of Dashmool kwath. Virechana was given with Trivrit Avaleha[15] (75gm) along with Anupana of Triphla kwath (150ml). 	16 Vegas (episodes) of Virechana were observed till 5 pm. Mild weakness. No other complaints as such
	Peya was given after completion of Virechana process.	

8-10 th day	Samsarjana Krama was followed 3 days-	Appetite- Increased
	1st day- Peya	Bowel- Clear
	2 nd day- <i>Peya</i>	Micturition- Normal
	3 rd day- <i>Khichri</i> prepared with <i>Moong dal</i> and rice	Sleep- Sound
11-30 th day	• Parihara- Pathya Aahara and Vihara was advised for 20	Appetite- Normal
	days. (Double the days of the <i>Virechana</i> treatment)	Bowel- Clear
	Light exercises and Yoga	Micturition- Normal
	Warm water intake	Sleep- Sound
	Arogyavardhini Vati 250mg BD	Weight- Decreased
3rd Month	Basti Karma was followed in Karma Basti schedule i.e.,	Appetite- Good
1-30 days	for 30 days with-	Bowel- Clear
	Anuvasana Basti- Saindhavadi Taila ^[16] - 75ml	Micturition- Normal
	Niruha Basti– Lekhana Basti- 400ml	Sleep- Sound
		Weight- decreased
4th and 5th	• Parihara- Pathya Aahara and Vihara was advised for 60	Appetite- Good
Month	days, (double the days of the Basti treatment) along with	Bowel- Clear
	oral medicines-	Micturition- Normal
	Arogyavardhini Vati 250 mg BD	Sleep- Sound
	Vidangadi Loha 250 mg BD	Weight- Decreased
	Trikatu Choorna 3 gm BD	

Details of Therapy

Vashpa Swedana: The therapy *Udvartana* (*Ruksh udwartana*) is a process of powder massage with the herbs having dry quality. It helps in burning down the fat deposited underneath the skin especially in abdomen, thighs and buttock region. In this case, *Udwartana* was given with the powders of *Triphala*, *Kola* and *Kultha*.

On the other hand, *Sarwanga vashpa swedana* is a procedure of steam bath, which helps to mobilize the accumulated *Ama* (body waste-toxins) from different body channels and eliminates it out of the body through sweat. It also liquifies the *Kapha dosha* and *Meda dhatu* which are contributing factors for obesity or overweight. These procedures were followed for 15 days.

Aampachan: To improve metabolism and to purify *Aama* (toxins), *Aampachan* with *Shiva Kshar pachan churna* was given orally for 15 days.

Virechana karma (Purgation): Virechana karma (medication induced purgation) is one of the purificatory modality of Panchakarma. It is not only effective in the elimination of Pitta dosha but also effective in the purification of Vata and Kapha. The root of Trivrita is considered as the best among the purgative drugs. After proper Snehana and Swedana (internal and external), Virechana yoga was given orally in the form of Trivrita avaleha with Anupana of Triphala kwath.

Trivrita avaleha is a Leha Kalpana (semisolid preparation of drugs), prepared with addition of jaggery and prescribed decoction and is indicated specifically for Virechana. It contains- Trivrit (Operculina turpethum), Trijata- Tamalpatra (Cinnamomum tamala), Tvak (Cinnamomum verum), Ela- (Elettaria cadamomum), Madhu (honey) and Sugar.

Parihara kala (Recovery Period): *Parihara kala* is the time of dietetic and behavioral restrictions, which should be followed after the course of *Panchakarma* therapy and it should be double the duration taken for the *Panchakarma*.^[17]

So, after the completion of *Virechana Karma*, 3 days *Samsarjan Krama* was followed to regain the strength of digestive fire and *Parihara* of 20 days was suggested with follow up is advice.

Basti Karma (Therapeutic enema): Basti Karma is one of the modalities among the five Panchakarma. In Basti Karma, medicines are inserted through the anal route in form of medicated oil or herbal decoction. In modern medicine, enemas are mostly given to clean the lower bowel in the treatment of constipation when, all other methods fail. But rather than this, Basti Karma mentioned in Ayurvedic classics is having broader therapeutic action on almost all the tissues of the body and have rejuvenative, curative, preventive and health promotive actions.

As per Ayurvedic classics *Basti* works as plant watered at its root and then root circulate it in all branches. [18] It has also been described as *Ardha Chikitsa* [19] i.e., half treatment for management of all diseases.

Basti Karma is broadly divided in two types according to the contents of the drugs- Sneha Basti (Anuvasan) and Niruha Basti (Aasthaapana). In Anuvasan Basti, medicated oil/ghee, lipids are used, word Anuvasan indicates "To stay", the administrated medicines stay inside for a longer duration, but still do not cause any untoward problem. [20] In Niruha Basti/Aasthapana Basti, decoction of medicinal plants is the main content wherein other ingredients like honey, salt, lipids and other drugs are incorporated to form a colloid or a suspension. Word Niruha, indicates "To eliminate" or eliminate morbid Doshas or disease from body, and its synonym word "Asthapan" indicates establish life span and age. [21]

Basti have been categorized into various types according to the type of ingredients, action of Basti and number of Basti. Medicines/ingredients used in Basti Karma are selected as per the condition of disease and condition of the patient. Basti is commonly used alone or along with Avurveda medications in all Vata Vvadhi (neurological disorders) and is also indicated in various diseases like Adhman (abdominal spasmodic pain), Annaha (abdominal distension), Malavrodh (constipation), Rajokshay (amenorrhea), Vatrakta (gout), Pleeha roga (splenomegaly) Parshva graham (slipped disc), Prishta graham (spondylosis), Pakshaghata (paralysis) etc. Based on the ingredients it can be used for increasing weight in emaciated peoples (Brimhan Basti) and also to reduce weight in obese (Lekhan Basti).

In this case, the *Basti* was given in *Karma Basti* schedule i.e., for 30 days; where a total of 18 *Anuvasana* and 12 *Niruha* were given as following-

Anuvasana Basti

Administration of medicated oil or other fat through the rectal route in a prescribed dose is called *Anuvasana Basti*. In this case, *Saindhvadi oil* (75ml) was used for *Anuvasana Basti*.

Contents of Saindhvadi oil

Saindhav lavana- Rock Salt
Arka- Calotropis procera
Maricha- Piper nigrum
Jwalankhya- Plumbago zeylancia (Lead wort)
Markava- Eclipta alba
Haridra- Curcuma longa
Daru haridra- Berberis aristata
Murchit Taila- Sesame oil (Sesamum indicum)
Water

Niruha Basti (Decoction enema): Lekhan Basti

Lekhana Basti is a type of Niruha Basti in which the composition of the medicines is administered in the form of emulsion through rectal route. This emulsion contains Madhu (honey), Saindhava Lavana (rock salt), Sneha (medicated oil), Kalka (paste of herbal powder) and Kwath (herbal decoction).

Lekhana or Karshana Basti consists of Madhu, Saindhava, Taila, Gomutra, Kshara and Triphala Kwatha is named as Lekhana Basti-

- 1. *Madhu-* Honey
- 2. Saindhava-Rock salt
- 3. *Tila taila- Sesamum orientale* linn seed oil
- 4. Triphala kwatha- Amalki (Phyllanthus emblica linn.), Vibhitaki (Terminalia bellirica), Haritaki (Terminalia chebula).
- 5. Prakshepa Dravya- Gomutra, Yava kshara (alkali preparation of barley), Tuttha- (CuSo4), Kasisa (Feso4), Hingu Niryasa (Ferula narthex linn.), Shilajatu black bitumen.

After the completion of *Basti Karma*, again *Parihara* of 60 days was advised.

On discharge, the patient was advised to visit OPD after two months with a set of do's and don'ts during this period along with oral medicines and some *Yogasana's*.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The treatment was continued for 5 months in the form of both Shodhana and Shaman chikitsa. Initially Rukshana along with Swedana was carried out. Rukshana in form of Udwartana helps in mitigation of Kapha Dosha and Meda dhatu, whereas full body steam in form of Sarwanga Vaspa swedana reduces stiffness and produces lightness to the body. This was followed by Aam pachana, Snehana and Virechana Karma. Pachan is given when moderate quantity of Ama is aggravated or when vitiated Dosha are moderately strong, so here after Aam pachan, Dosha avasechana i.e., expulsion of morbid Doshas by administering cleansing treatment like purgation (Virechana in this case is given with *Trivrit avleha*). *Trivrit* is classified in as a Sukh Virechaka and helps in treatment of Kapha and Pitta dominant disorders. Due to its Ushna, Katu and Ruksha properties it helps in reducing weight. After completion of Virechana process, patient underwent Samsarjana Krama for 3 days followed by Parihara kala for 20 days.

For Basti Chikitsa, Karma Basti was selected in which 12 Nirhua (Lekhan Basti) were administered along with 18 Anuvasana Basti. In Sthoulya, along with Kapha dosha, Vata is also dominant factor. Acharyas have specially mentioned Ushna and Tikta basti in Sthoulya. Acharya's have explained Basti itself a complete treatment of Vata and further mixture of

Ruksha, Tikshna and Ushna dravya with Basti contribute to Kapha and Medo dushti. Acharyas recommend Asthapana Basti specially Lekhan basti for management of Sthoulya. The Basti prepared with Triphala Kwatha, Gomutra, Madhu, Kshara is named as Lekhana Basti. Lekhana helps to remove obstruction of Meda, Kapha and Kleda from body by its Virya and normalize the function of Agni and Vayu. Lekhana Basti is a type of enema (given through the ano-rectal route) which contains Ayurveda drugs which cause the excoriation of the excessive fat from the body.

Triphala is used in form of Kwatha in the preparation of Lekhana Basti. Sthoulya is a Kaphavataja vyadhi. Most of these drugs having Tikshana, Ushna properties and consists of Katu, Tikta, Kashaya rasa. It acts on Kapha-Vata by virtue of its Ushnavirya. There is Meda and Mamsa vriddhi in Sthoulya Roga along with production of Ama Rasa. The Lekhana Basti breaks the Srotosanga. As the drugs having Tikta, Katu and Kashaya Rasa, they cause Shoshana, Lekhana, Amahara Karma. By the virtue of its Deepana and Pachanakarma, the combination works at the level of Agni. By Deepana properties, it mainly corrects the Medo dhatvagnimandya and checks the further progression of Meda sanchaya by preventing the formulation of Meda.

Madhu is having Yogavahi, Sroto shodhaka properties. It also has Kaphanashaka and properties. Madhu is also mentioned in Sthoulya Chikitsa. Due to above mentioned properties Madhu is aphrodisiac in nature. It increases the properties of other ingredients by virtue of being Yogvahi. Due to Sroto shodhaka capability, it cleanses the channels of the body and facilitates the easy reach of other drugs throughout the body.

Saindhava, possess Sukshma, Vyavayi Guna, helps Basti dravya to spread and act fast. Saindhava is having Ushna, Teekshna guna which are helpful in absorption of Bastidravya, by its deep penetrating nature and it helps to pass the drug molecules in to the systemic circulation through the intestinal mucosa. It is also helpful in easy Pratyagamana of Basti Dravya without causing any untoward effect. Thus, in case of Basti, Saindhava is mainly expected to help in the fast spreading and absorption of Basti.

Tila Taila- The *Tila Taila* is *Ushna, Tikshna, Katu, Tikta* and *Kapha-Vatashamaka* in nature.

Prakshepa Dravaya (Ushakadi Gana) are having Katu, Ushna, Tikshana, Rukshana, Medohara, Sroto shodhana, Aamapachana, Vata anulomana and Kaphavata shamaka properties. The Ushakadi Gana has Lekhana properties which removes the excessive fat.

These drugs have *Medoghna Prabhava.* Katu, Tikta, Kashaya Rasa is opposite of Kapha, Ama

and Medodhatu. So Katu, Tikta and Kashaya Rasa reduce the Kapha, Ama and Medodhatu.

Saindhavadi taila was used in Anuvasana Basti most of its contents are also Vata kaphahara.

CONCLUSION

So, by this single case study, we can evaluate that the administration of *Panchkarma* therapies like *Rukshana, Virechana* and *Basti* therapy, along with oral medication, have *Medoghana prabhava*, so they help to remove obstruction of *Meda, Kapha* and *Kleda* from body by their *Virya* and helps to alleviate *Vata* and normalize the function of *Agni* and *Vayu*. Hence, these therapies of *Panchakarma* can be considered very effective in the management of *Stholya* i.e., obesity.

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