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### Role of PathyaAahara-Vihara in the Management of Obesity

Yashwant Kumar Chandrakar<sup>1\*</sup>, Anita Sharma<sup>2</sup>, andPradipkumar Suryawanshi<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1-3</sup>Post Graduate Department of Swasthavritta and Yoga Shri Narayan Prasad Awasthi Govt. Ayurved College Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India

#### **ABSTRACT**

In this modern era there are different types of lifestyle disorders. Obesity is one such disorder which is increasing day by day. Obesity or overweight is usually caused by sedentary life style, irregular diet, excessive eating, sleep pattern, lack of physical activity, hormonal imbalance, hereditary, side effects of certain medications, etc. WHO considers Obesity as a global epidemic and it is rapidly becoming a major public health problem. In *Ayurveda*, Obesity is known as *Sthaulya* or *MedoRoga* which is caused by the accumulation of fat. In *Ayurveda*, Obese personalities are comprises under eight varieties of *Ninditapurusha*. Obesity is a chronic clinical condition which often persists throughout the life. *Pathyaahara* is invariably accepted as treatment in *Ayurveda*, hence it is also applicable to the disorders of Obesity.

#### **KEYWORDS**

Sthaulya, Obesity, Nidana, Pathya, Aahara, Vihara



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#### INTRODUCTION

Depending on the physical appearance, there are eight types of undesirable persons – too tall, too short, too hairy, hair-less, too dark, too white,toofat and too lean (emaciated), *Atisthaulya* comprises one of them<sup>1</sup>.

अतिस्थूलस्य तावदायुषोद्वासः जवोपरोधः कृच्छव्यवायतदौर्बल्यंदौर्गन्ध्यं स्वेदाबाधःक्षुधतिमात्रं पिपासाअतियोगश्चेतिभवन्त्यष्टौदोषाः ।

#### च. सू.21/4

Obese persons have eight *Doshas* – deficient in longevity, slow in movement, difficulties in *vyavaya*, weakness, bad smell, excessive sweating, excessive hunger and thirst<sup>2</sup>.

Obesityis one of the most major factors to ill health. Obesityor overweight are the fifth leading hazard of worldwide deaths. Globally, Obesity has more than doubled since 1980. In 2014, more than 1.9 billion adults, 18 years and older, were overweight<sup>3</sup>.

Obesity is a state of excessive or abnormal accumulation of fat in the form of adipose tissue. The ofexcess amount fat accumulates in the body, either around the waist, thigh, and trunk or peripherally around the body. Diabetes mellitus and cardiovascular diseases such hypertension, stroke, and coronary artery disease, high cholesterol level, hormonal

disorders, carcinoma, osteoarthritis, infertility, etc are its associated risk factor. Body Mass Index (BMI) is commonly used to determination of human weight for height. It is calculated by person's weight in kilograms divided by the square of the height in meters (kg/m²).

**Table 1** Classification of Obesity according to RMI<sup>4</sup>

Classification	BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )
Underweight	<18.50
Normal range	18.50 - 24.99
Overweight	>25.0
Pre-obese	25.0 - 29.99
Obese class-1	30.00 - 34.99
Obese class-2	35.00 – 39.99
Obese class-3	>40

#### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 1. To study Ayurvedic concept of Sthaulya.
- 2. To study role of *Aahara Vihar* in the management of *Sthaulya*.

#### **ETYMOLOGY**

• स्थूलस्य भावः स्थौल्यम् ।

वाचस्पत्यमभाग 6

According to *VachaspatyamSthaulya* is heaviness of the body.

 मेदः संकीर्तनान्मेदोदुष्टेरिमधानंमेदोदुष्टया च स्थौल्यम् । मधुकोष

According

to

MadhavakaraMedodhatudusti is called as Medoroga. Meda is main dushyinvolved in samprapti of Sthaulya.

मांसान्मेदः प्रजायते ।

च.चि. 15 / 15

Meda is formed from mamsadhatu.

#### **AETIOLOGY**



As per *Acharya Bhavamishra* extensive growth causing heaviness and bulkiness of the body especialy in *Udaradi*region. This state of *Sthula* is called as *Sthaulya*.

According to *AacharyaCharaka* causes of Obesity are excessive eating, intake of heavy, sweet, cold, fatty food substances, *Kaphavardhaka* food and drinks, no physical exercise, abstinence of sexual indulgence, day sleep, cheerfulness, lack of worries and heredity<sup>2</sup>.

Madhavakara has described causes of Obesity are lack of physical exercise, sleeping during day, *Kaphapradhana* food, end of digestion to become (abnormal) sweet which turn into *Medas* (fat). AstangaHridaya also mentioned excessive intake of *Madhur rasa* causes *Meda and Kaphaj* disorders like *Sthaulya*, *Agnimandya* etc. The influence of all the factors discussed above are mentioned in Table 2,3,4&5.

**Table 2**AharatmakaNidana(Dietary Factors)

Nidana	Ch.Su.⁵	Su.Su. <sup>6</sup>	A.S.Su. <sup>7</sup>	A.H.Su. <sup>8</sup>	M.N. <sup>9</sup>	B.P. <sup>10</sup>	B.R. <sup>11</sup>	Y.R. <sup>12</sup>
Atisampurana (excessive eating)	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Guru (excess use of heavy food)	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-
Madhura(excess use of Sweet food)	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
Sheeta(excess use of cold food)	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SnigdhaAharasevana(excess use of unctous food)	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ShleshmalAharaSevana(Kapha increasing food)	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+
PichhilaAharaSevana	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NavannaSevana(usage of fresh rice)	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nava Madyasevana (usage of fresh alcoholic preparation)	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MadhuraAnnarasa	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+



Anupa and								
JaliyaMamsaSevana(Usage of								
Domestic animal s meat and	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
soups)								
. ,								
GorasaSevana (Ksheera Vikara)								
(extreme utilization of milk,	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
Dadhi, Gritaetc)								
PistaSevana	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adhyashana	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
GudaSevana (extreme								
utilization of Jaggery's and its	+	-	_	-	-	_	+	_
preparation)								
Godhuma (extreme utilization								
of wheat)	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
Masha (extreme utilization of								
Black Gram)	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
DadhiSevana(extreme								
utilization of curd)	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
SarpiSevana(extreme								
utilization of Ghee)	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
IkshuvikaraSevana(extreme								
utilization of Sugarcane and	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
its preparation)								
MatsyaMamsaSevana	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
Atibrimhana	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
Santarpana	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NayaShali	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
							+	

 Table 3ViharatmakaNidana (Lifestyle Factors)

Nidana	Ch.Su.	Su.Su.	A.S.Su.	A.H.Su.	<i>M.N.</i>	<i>B.P.</i>	B.R.	<i>Y.R.</i>
Avyayaam	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	+
Avyavaya	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
Divaswapna	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+
SukhaShaiya	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
Snana	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-

 $\textbf{Table 4} \textit{ManasaVyaparatmakaNidana} \ (Psychological \ Factors)$ 



Nidana	Ch.Su.	Su.Su.	A.S.Su.	A.H.Su.	M.N.	B.P.	B.R.	Y.R.
Harshanityatyavat	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Achintana	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

 Table 5 Anya Nidana
 Other Factors

Nidana	Ch.Su.	Su.Su.	A.S.Su.	A.H.Su.	M.N.	<i>B.P.</i>	B.R.	Y.R.
BeejdoshaSvabhavat (Hereditary)	+		_		_	_	_	_
Snehana(Tailabhyanga)	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
Sugandhitadravya (Pushpamala, Chandan) Sevana	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
BhoajanaPaschataAtimatraJalapana	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-

#### **RUPA** (SYMPTOMS)

According to *Aacharyacharaka*a person is called as over-obese due to excess accumulation of *Meda and Mamsadhatu* resulting into pendulous buttocks, abdomen, and breasts and suffers from deficient metabolism and energy<sup>13</sup>.

AacharyaSushruta has described some more symptoms like mild dyspnoea, severe thirst, hunger, sleep, excessive sweating, bad smell from body, snoring, a sense of depression in the body and blurred speech<sup>6</sup>.

#### **SAMPRAPTI**

According to *AacharyaCharaka* due to obstruction of *Shrotas* by excessive fat Vata circulating vigorously inside the gastric region stimulates digestion and absorption of food thereby increases intake of food by the affected person. Further if the person remains empty stomach then *Agni* and *Vata* together burn the obese like the forest fire burning the forest. Due to excessive increase of *Meda* all the three *dosas* become aggravated and produce many severe

disorders including destroying the life shortly<sup>14</sup>.

AacharyaSushruta mentioned Sthaulya as a RasnimittajVyadhi. The consumption of Kaphavardhakfood and frequent eating i.e having meal before digestion of previous intake, lack of physical exercise, sleeping in daytime all these factors collectively contribute to partial digestion forming MadhuraAamrasa having AtiSnigdha characteristic which circulates in body to make Medas, causing obesity<sup>15</sup>.

# AAHARA-VIHARA IN THE MANAGEMENT OF OBESITY

नित्यंहिताहारविहारसेवीसमीक्ष्यकारीविषयेष्वसक्तः । दाता समः सत्यपरः क्षमावान् आप्तोपसेवी च भवत्यरोगः ।।

#### अ.हृ.सू.४ / 36

The person who for at all times use wholesome food and habits, thinks, is not curios for world wise matters, sacrifices, is balanced towards all beings, speaks truth, forgives, and who follows words of *Aapta* does not develop any disease.



Lifestyle moderations like diet, exercise and behavioral therapies are generally recommended in Obesity. *Pathya* (wholesome) are desirable in all disease which is helpful in preserving the equilibrium of *Tridoshas*. *In Brihatrayees* and *Laghutrayees* have mentioned *pathyaahra-vihara* for Obesity.

In Sthaulya, Acharya Charakahas described uses of Guru, Vata-hara, Kaphahara, Meda-haraAnnapana, dry, hot basti,

sharp, dry massage (*udvartana*) as given in table 8, for reduction of fat in Obese persons<sup>16</sup>.

AacharyaSushruta has mentioned silajatu, guggulu, and other drugs which increase dryness and reduce fat, he also added that physical exercise, lekhanbasti will work good in the management of Obesity<sup>17</sup>as given in Table 7,8,9. AacharyaVagbatahas advisednityalanghan for obese patients, mentioned in Table 9.

<b>Table 6</b> Pathyaahara	Table	<b>6</b> Pathyaaha	ra
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Pathya Pathya	Ch.Su. <sup>16</sup>	Su. Su. <sup>17</sup>	A.S. Su. 18	A.H.Su. <sup>19</sup>	B.P. <sup>20</sup>	B.R. <sup>21</sup>	Y.R. <sup>22</sup>
ShukaDhanya (food grain)							
Prashatika	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
Priyangu	+	-	-	-	=	+	-
Shyamaka (Sanva)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Yavaka	+	-	+	_	-	-	-
Yava (Barley)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Jurna (Jwara)	+	-	+	+	=	-	-
Kodrava (Kodo)	+	-	-	-	+	+	+
Nivara	_	-	-		-	+	-
Kordushaka (Kodo)	-	+	-		-	-	-
PuranaShali	-	-	-	-	+	+	+
Godhuma	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
Laja	-	-			-	+	
ShamiDhanya(P ulses)							
Mudga	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Kullattha	+	-	+	+	+	+	+
Chakramudga	+	-	-		-	-	-
Adhaki	+	-	_		_	-	-
Chanaka	_	-	_		-	+	
Rajmasha	-	-	-		-	-	-
Mashura	-	-	-		-	+	-
Uddalaka	-	+	-		+	-	+
ShakaVarga							
Patola	+	-	-		-	-	-
Vartaka (Brinjala)	<u>-</u>	-	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	-	+	<del>-</del>
PatraShaka	=	-	=	=	-	+	-
PhalaVarga					-		· ·
Triphala	+	+	+	+		+	-



+	-	+	+	+	-	-
-	=	-	-	-	+	-
-	+	-	=	-	-	-
-	=	+	+	=	+	-
-	-	+	+	+		-
-	=	-	-	=	+	=
•						
+	+	+	+	+	+	+
		+				+ - + + + + + - + + + + +

Pathya	Ch.Su.	Su.Su.	A.S.Su.	A.H.Su.	<i>B.P.</i>	B.R.	Y.R.
Vidanga	+	-	+	+	+	-	-
Nagara (Sundhi)	+	-	+	+	+	-	-
Trikatu		-			-	+	-
Kshara (Yavakshara)	+	-	+	+	+	-	-
Takrarista	+	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arista (Medahara-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-
Mansahara-							
Kaphahara-)							
TikshnaAushadha	_	-	+	-	-	-	-
UshnaAushadha	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
UshnaJalapana	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
RukshaDravya	_	+ (Viruksha)	+	-	-	-	-
ChhedniyaDravya	-	+	+	-	-	-	-
MadhuwithTriphala	-	-	+	+	+	-	+
Guduchi	+	-	+	+	-	_	-
Haritaki	+	-	+	+	-	-	-
Mustaka	+	-	+	+	-	-	-
(Nagaramotha)							
Madhudaka (Honey	+	-	+	+	+	+	+
with water)							
Rasanjana	_	+	+	+	-	-	-
Vrihata-Panchamula	+	_	_	_	+	-	-
with Madhu							
Shilajatu with	+	-	+	+	+	-	-
Agnimantha rasa							
Black Iron powder	+	+	+	+	+	+	-
Vrihata-Panchamula	-	-	+	+	-	-	-
Shilajatu	-	+	_	-	-	+	-
Guggula	-	+	+	+	-	+	-
UsnaManda	-	-		-	_	+	+
PuranaVainava (Yava	-	-	-	-	_	+	_
of old Bambu)							
Sarshapa Tail	_	-	-	-	-	+	-
Tila Tail	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
Agurulepa	_	_	_	-	_	+	_



Table	<b>8</b> Anya	Pathya

Pathya	Ch	.Su. Su	.Su. A.S	Su. A.H.	.Su. B.I	P. B.R.	Y.R.
Guru+ApatarpanAah	ara +	-	+	+	-	-	-
Vatahara, Kaphah MedoharaAnnapana	ara- +	-	+	+	-	-	-
Katu-Tikta-Kasaya Dravya	rasa -	-	-	-	-	+	-
LekhanaBasti	_	+	_	_	+	+	+
Ruksha and UshnaBa		-	-	-	<u> </u>	-	-
RukshaUdvartana	+	-	+	-	-		-
RukshaAahara	-	-	_	+	_	+	-
RukshaSnana	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
Udvartana	=	-	-	-	-	+	-
Dhumrapana	=	-	-	-	+	-	-
Raktamokshana	-		-	-	+	=	-
BhojanapurvaJalapa			-	-	-	+	-
Jirnebhojana (Eating after digestion)	+	-	-	-	+	-	-
UshnaManda	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Table 9Pathyavihara	at ~						
Pathya (Y. 1 1)	Ch.Su.	Su.Su.	A.S.Su.	A.H.Su.	<i>B.P.</i>	B.R.	Y.R.
Shrama(Hardwork)	-	-	-	-	+	+	+
Jagarana (Late nights)	+	-	+	+	+	+	+
Vyavaya(Sexual activity)	+	-	+	-	+	+	+
Vyayama(Physical exercise)	+	+	+	+	-	+	+
NityaBhramana (Regular use of reducing therapy)	-	-	-	-	-	Bhramana +	-
NityaLanghana	_		+	+		+	
Chinta(Thinking)	+	<u>-</u> -	+	+	+	+	+
Shoka (Sorrow)	-	=	-	-	-	-	-
Krodha(Anger)	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
Kshu(Hunger)	-	-	-	+	-	=	-
Trishna(Thirst)	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
Upvasa (Fasting)	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
Aptarpana	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
Atapa(Dhupa)	-	-	-	+	-	-	-
AsukhaSaiya	-	-	-	-	+	-	-
Adhva(Walk)	-	-	-		+	+	+
Hasta-Ashwayana (Sawari)	-	-	-	-	-	+	-
Sodhana	-	_	-	+	_		-
Vamana	-	-	-	-	_	+	-

Virechana



#### **DISCUSSION**

Excessive intake of calories and sedentary lifestyle are the main reasons of *Sthaulya*. Excessive eating of *Guru*, *Madhura*, *Sheeta*, *SnigdhaAahara*, lack of physical activity and excessive sleeping are root causes of *Sthaulya*. Heredity is a causative factor of *Sthaulya* described by *AacharyaCharaka*. *AacharyaSushruta*has advised *nidanaparivarjanam*(avoid responsible factors) for the management of *Sthaulya*.

AacharyaCharakaandVagbhatahave enlisted Guru, Apatarpan, Vatahara. MedoharaAahara Kaphahara, in the management of Sthaulya.Madhuis thebest dravya for management of Sthaulya due to its Guru and Ruksha properties. NityaLanghana therapy, NityaBhramana, Chintana and physical activity are advised by many Aacharyafor the management of Sthaulya.

*Rukshadravya*are also indicated in *Sthaulya*. If defective food is put into practice, the medicine will not act. On the other hand if appropriate food habits is practiced as *Pathya*then medicine will not be required. In *Ayurveda it is recommended that PathyaAahara-vihara*is

management of Sthaulya.

acts as remedy and helpful in

#### **CONCLUSION**

Obesity has become the chief health problem in India as well as across the world. Excessive intake of fatty food, sedentary life style, heredity, day sleep etc plays a major role in *samprapti* of Obesity. Aaharaand vihara can play a key role in the management ofObesity. Proper management of Aahara-vihara reduces obesity by decreasing Meda. mamsaandkapha. Hence when regimen of Pathyais followed and Apathyais avoided it leads to good health in cases of Sthaulya.

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