



“बेटी बचाओ, बेटी पढ़ाओ”

JAYOTI VIDYAPEETH WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY, JAIPUR

FACULTY OF HOMOEOPATHIC SCIENCE

Name of Faculty	: JV'n Dr Richa Sharma, Asst. Prof. (Deptt. Of FMT)
Program	: BHMS II Year
Course Name	: FORENSIC MEDICINE AND TOXICOLOGY
Session No. & Name	: 1. STARVATION IN FMT WITH M LI

Program Outcome-

- The important objective of the BHMS course is to impart thorough and comprehensive training to the candidate in various aspects of homoeopathy during completion of course students shall be able to perform with proper skill and knowledge of homoeopathy

Course Outcome-

- Able to understand the basic concept of the subject and its importance.
- Aware of inquest, legal and court procedures applicable to medico-legal and medical practice, code of ethics, duties and rights of medical practitioner, duties towards patients and community, punishment on violation of code of ethics, various forms of medical negligence, medico legal post-mortem.
- To understand the relationship of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology with other Homoeopathic subjects like Homoeopathic Pharmacy, Homoeopathic Materia Medica, Organon of Medicine and Homoeopathic

Philosophy & Psychology, along with allied subjects like Anatomy, Physiology, Surgery, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Practice of Medicine due to integrated way of teaching the subject.

STARVATION

Starvation is due to complete or partial deprivation of regular and constant supply of food required maintaining human life. The effects of starvation are denoted by the term inanition which refers to the exhausted state due to prolonged under nutrition caused by lack of assimilation of food by the tissues. By depriving the body of nutrition starvation slowly allows the body to consume its own reserves, including muscle, fat and organs, By depriving the body of nutrition, starvation slowly allows the body to consume its own reserves, including muscle, fat and organs,

TYPES OF STARVATION-

Starvation is usually of two types:

- i. **Acute starvation** - This condition results from sudden and complete cessation of food and water.
- ii. **Chronic starvation**- Chronic Starvation This condition results from gradual deficiency in the supply of food and water.

Causes of starvation-

- Medical conditions
- Circumstantial causes
- Famine: for any reason, such as political strife and war
- Anorexia nervosa
- Fasting without careful medical supervision
- Bulimia nervosa

- Poverty Celiac Disease
- Being trapped in pits, mines or landslides
- Coma
- Neglect on the part of the parents or guardians
- Major depressive disorder Wilful handling of food
- Diabetes mellitus
- Willful refusal to take food
- Digestive disease Constant vomiting •

CLINICAL FEATURES-

Acute Starvation-

- The person becomes hungry for the first 30–48 hours, followed by stomachache, which is relieved by pressure.
- Features after 4 to 5 days of starvation: a. General emaciation, absorption of the subcutaneous fat, eyes are sunken and glistening; mydriasis; hollowed cheeks with visible bony prominences.
- Dry and cracked lips, coated tongue with intolerable thirst.
- Thick and scanty saliva with weak and whispering voice.
- Dry, rough and inelastic skin, this may be wrinkled and pigmented.

POSTMORTEM FINDINGS-

External Examination-

- Body is emaciated characterized by prominent ribs, with concavities in the intercostals spaces and sunken supraclavicular fossae.
- Rigor mortis sets in and disappears early.

- Pale face, inelastic and pigmented skin, absorption of the subcutaneous fat, sunken eyes; mydriasis; hollowed cheeks with visible bony prominences.
- Dry and cracked lips, coated tongue.
- Dry, rough with inelastic skin, this may be wrinkled and pigmented.
- Atrophied and darker muscles due to increase in lipochrome.
- Thin abdominal concave and limbs.
- Edemas are seen around the ankles and inside the thighs. In wet type, there is edema of the face, trunk and limbs with ascites and pleural

Internal Examination-

- Fat is nearly absent in the subcutaneous tissues and also in the omentum, mesentery and in the internal organs, but the fat around the female breast and the orbit is persistent till last moment.
- Subepicardial fat becomes replaced by a watery gelatinous material.
- Stress fractures may occur.
- All organs and tissues are pale and show changes of premature senility.
- General reduction in size and weight of all the organs except the brain, which is sometimes pale and soft.

MEDICOLEGAL IMPORTANCE-

- Exclusion of diseases that likely to cause loss of weight, e.g. malignant disease, diabetes mellitus, tuberculosis, pernicious anemia, etc. is needed to establish starvation.
- Marked loss of weight and absence of fat, in absence of a disease, the condition goes in favor of starvation.

- Loss of weight and acidosis with ketone bodies in urine are the criteria to advise forced feeding.
- A person may fast voluntarily for the purpose of suicide or for the purpose of exhibition. To have the attraction of public, fasting may be undertaken, e.g. fast on to death.
- To commit homicide this may be used as a means. Victim is usually an infant, which is illegitimate, or aged or feeble-minded person.
- Accidental starvation may occur during famine; being trapped in pits or mines, landslides, shipwreck, etc.
- Signs of self neglect and emaciation may be the sign of drug addicts, where the desire for the drugs is more than that of food.
- Starvation may be either due to psychiatric illnesses, usually of a paranoid schizophrenic nature or due to senile dementia.
- Lunatics and hysterical women may deny food.
- Right to life, as guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India, does not include the right to die. Hence, such arrest with forcible feeding of individuals going on hunger strike is lawful.

Textbook of Forensic medicine and Toxicology by Dr. K.S. Narayan Reddy
 Suggestions to secure good marks to answer in exam-

Explain answer with key point answers

- Questions to check understanding level of students-
 1. What are the types of Starvation? Explain in detail.
 2. What is medico legal importance of Starvation?