

Starvation:

ISHITA
KANODIA

- Cause of Death:
- Exhaustion
 - Intercurrent infection
 - Circulatory failure (due to brown atrophy of heart)
- Dehydration & hypothermia contribute to death.

Postmortem Appearance:

- rigor mortis — sets in early
— disappears early
- pale face
- skin is inelastic, pigmented
(follicular hyperkeratosis may develop)
- subcutaneous patches of oedema around the ankle & inside the thighs
- Wet type: — marked oedema of face, trunk, limbs
— ascites, pleural effusions.
- trophic skin changes
- brittle nails
- dry, lustreless, brittle hair
- fat is almost completely absent in subcutaneous tissue (fat of female breast & orbit are spared until late)
- loss of fat about the internal organs, omentum.
- subpericardial fat is replaced by a watery gelatinous material
- Children ⇒ spinal curvature, rickets, dental defects.
- Adults ⇒ progressive demineralization & osteomalacia.
- Changes of premature senility in all organs & tissues.
- Extreme emaciation & general reduction in size & weight of all organs (except the brain).
- Muscles are atrophied & darker due to increased lipochrome.
— fibres lose striations.
- Heart is small from brown atrophy.
- Blood volume is markedly ↓.
- Bowel contains offensive watery fluid & gas.
- Marked anaemia.
- Gall bladder is distended with bile.

MLI:

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→ Exclusion of diseases likely to cause loss of weight is essential.

- Malignant disease
- Progressive muscular atrophy
- Addison's disease
- Diabetes mellitus
- Tuberculosis
- Pernicious anaemia
- Chronic diarrhoea.

1] Suicide:

→ voluntary fasting for the purpose of exhibition.

→ voluntary fasting to attract public attention ⇒ fast unto death
⇒ rectification of grievances.

2] Homicide: victim is usually an infant / old-aged / feeble-minded

→ illegitimate children are frequently starved to death.

→ Children starved by their parents / guardian ⇒ **Baby-farmer.**

3] Accident: During famine / trapped in pits, mines / landslides, etc.

→ stricture / cancer of oesophagus / ankylosis of jaw.

→ Neglect in drug addicts (desire for drug > desire for food).

→ Psychiatric causes: — paranoid schizophrenia

— senile dementia.