

Starvation:

ISHITA
KANODIA

Cause of Death:

- Exhaustion
- Circulatory failure (due to brown atrophy of heart)
- Dehydration & hypothermia contribute to death.

Postmortem Appearances:

- 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
 - 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 \Rightarrow spinal curvature, rickets, dental defects.
 - Adults \Rightarrow 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 lipochromie.
 - fibres lose striations.
- Heart is small from brown atrophy.
- Blood volume is markedly \downarrow .
- bowel contains offensive watery fluid & gas.
- Gall bladder is distended with bile.
- Marked anaemia.

MLI:

ISHITA
KANODIA

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

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

1] Suicide:

→ voluntary fasting for the purpose of exhibition.

→ voluntary fasting to attract public attention \Rightarrow fast unto death
 \Rightarrow 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 \Rightarrow 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.