

Unit 6 Kupōṣaṇa Rogas (Nutritional Disorders) in Bāla Topic 1. Phakka Roga, Kumārashoṣa, Karśya, Parigarbhikā, Sthaulya

Topics: Phakka Roga, Kumārashoşa, Karśya, Parigarbhikā, Sthaulya

Classical anchors:

Karśya (emaciation) etiologies & signs

"सेवा रूक्षान्नपानानां लङ्घनं प्रमिताशनम्... कुर्वन्त्यितकृशं नरम्" — Caraka Saṃhitā, Sūtrasthāna **21/11-12** (dry foods, fasting, overexertion, sleep/urge suppression etc. cause **atikṛśa**).

"शुष्कस्मिगुदरग्रीवो... त्वगस्थिशेषोऽतिकृशः" — Caraka Saṃhitā, Sūtrasthāna **21/15** (phenotype of extreme leanness).

Sthaulya (obesity) definition & risk

"मेदोमांसातिवृद्धत्वाच्चलस्फिगुदरस्तनः... अतिस्थूल उच्यते" — Caraka Samhitā, Sūtrasthāna 21/9.

Therapeutic principles

"गुरु चातर्पणं चेष्टं स्थूलानां कर्शनं प्रति। कृशानां बृंहणार्थं च लघु सन्तर्पणं च यत्" — Caraka Saṃhitā, Sūtrasthāna **21/20** (heavy-non-nourishing for obese; light-nourishing for lean).

"वातघ्नान्यन्नपानानि श्लेष्ममेदोहराणि च... रूक्षाण्युद्धर्तनानि च" — Caraka Saṃhitā, Sūtrasthāna **21/21** (Sthaulya management).

Santarpana-Apatarpana logic

"सन्तर्पयित यः स्निग्धैर्मधुरैर्गुरुपिच्छलैः..." & "रोगास्तस्योपजायन्ते सन्तर्पणनिमित्तजाः..." — Caraka Saṃhitā, Sūtrasthāna 23/3-5 (overnutrition causes Kapha-Meda disorders including prameha, etc.).

"श्रोत्रदौर्बल्यमुन्मादः... विण्मूत्रसंग्रहः..." — Caraka Saṃhitā, Sūtrasthāna **23/28** (features of **apatarpaṇa**—undernutrition).

1) Phakka Roga (Kāśyapa's contribution)

Working definition (Ayurveda): A pediatric kupoṣaṇa complex described in *Kāśyapa Saṃhitā*, classically grouped into **Kṣīrāja**, **Garbha-ja**, and **Vyādhi-ja** types based on cause (milk-related, antenatal, or disease-associated).

Classical symptom flavor (compiled from Kāśyapa descriptions in secondary exegesis): wasting of sphik/buttocks, arms and thighs with udara-vriddhi (protuberant abdomen), fever, and delayed functions; various authors correlate its clusters with rickets/PEM spectrum.

Modern correlation (exam stance): Rickets ± PEM / developmental delay spectrum depending on predominance of bony vs global growth features (be cautious: correlation varies across commentaries).

Nidāna (likely):

- **Kṣīrāja:** *Stanya-doṣa* (esp. Kapha-duṣṭa milk), improper feeding.
- Garbha-ja: maternal malnutrition, in-utero insults (maps to antenatal deficiency).
- **Vyādhi-ja:** chronic illness → malabsorption.

Lakṣaṇa (look for): underweight, abdomen protuberant, hypotonia, delayed dentition/milestones, widened wrists/costochondral joints if rickets-like.

Samprāpti (Ayurvedic): Agni-manda → rasa-dhātu kṣaya → *srotorodha* at asthi-majja in rickets-predominant cases; vāta-prakopa in global wasting.

Management (principles):

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- **Bṛṃhaṇa** (nourishing) with age-appropriate, energy-dense *mādhura-snigdha* foods (milk/curd/ghṛta, *mudga*, rice/śaṣṭika), add **visible fat** to raise kcal density.
- Agni-dīpana/pācana first in anorectic child (jeeraka/ajwain water in weaning ages; avoid strong spices).
- Stanya-śodhana & mātṛ-pathya if breastfed (mother's diet correction).
- **Sūrya-sevana** (morning light) & safe outdoor play (vitamin-D logic).
- **Modern dovetail:** treat rickets/PEM as per pediatric protocols (dietary prescription; **vitamin D + calcium** when indicated; deworm; infection control; physiotherapy).

Prognosis: good with early correction; watch for residual skeletal deformities if late.

2) Kumārashoşa / Bāla-śoşa (Childhood wasting)

Definition: Progressive **dhātu-kṣaya** in a child presenting with **weight faltering**, anorexia, recurrent infections, irritability; commonly apatarpaṇa-janya (undernutrition) or chronic disease-related. Secondary literature equates "Bālaśoṣa/Kumāraśoṣa" with PEM.

Rationale (classical): Apatarpaṇa features in Sūtra 23—neuro-somatic weakness, stool/urine retention, limb pains—mirror severe undernutrition.

Assessment: plot weight-for-age, length/height-for-age, MUAC; edema, hair/skin changes; look for TB/CHD/CKD.

Management:

- Laghu-santarpana → Bṛṃhaṇa: frequent, thick, energy-dense feeds (add ½-1 tsp ghee/oil per katori), iron-zinc-protein focus; correct micronutrients.
- Rasāyana-anukūla āhāra (dates, sesame/ragi, milk, ghṛta) within age-safety.
- Treat intercurrent infection, deworm, vaccinations up-to-date; developmental stimulation.
- Mother-infant dyad: if breastfeeding, mātṛ-āhāra counselling.

3) Karśya (generalized thinness/emaciation)

Definition (proven by śloka): Excessive leanness from **rūkṣa āhāra**, fasting, over-exertion, sleep & urge suppression, chronic illness; phenotype "śuṣka-sphig-udara-grīva... tvag-asthi-śeṣa."

Exam-friendly list (from Caraka 21/11-15):

- **Hetu:** rūkṣa āhāra; **laṅghana** overuse; *kriyātiyoga*; śoka; *vega-nidrā-vinigraha*.
- Lakṣaṇa: dry/flattened buttocks-abdomen-neck, prominent veins, "skin-and-bone," poor exercise & thermotolerance, and association with plīha/kāsa/kṣaya/śvāsa.

Chikitsā-sūtra:

- "कृशानां... लघु सन्तर्पणं" light yet nourishing; build **rasa** → **māṁ́sa** steadily.
- Meals: warm, snigdha gruels (yavāgu), milk/curd/paneer, māmsa-rasa where acceptable; bedtime milk with ghṛta;
 day-sleep permitted in undernourished if needed (contrast with sthavara).
- Avoid excess vyāyāma; institute abhyanga-snigdha sveda to pacify vāta.

4) Parigarbhikā

Definition (Ayurveda): A pediatric disorder arising when an infant is breast-fed by a **pregnant woman**, linked to **alpapoṣaṇāṃśa** (reduced nutritive value) and *stanya-doṣa*, described in Kāśyapa/Āṣṭāṅga tradition; features include

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anorexia, vomiting, fever, cough, indigestion.

(A precise root-text śloka in Devanāgarī is variably transmitted in editions; since a secure pāṭha was not available in the public domain, it is not quoted here.)

Clinical stance: Failure to thrive/ill-health temporally associated with feeding from a pregnant mother.

Management:

- Prefer exclusive mother's milk if mother is not pregnant; when pregnancy occurs, closely monitor infant
 growth; if ill-health temporally linked, consider wet-nursing/donor human milk or expressed milk from a nonpregnant healthy mother per modern lactation ethics; correct mātṛ āhāra and treat any stanya-doṣa in the
 mother.
- Treat the child symptomatically (fever/cough, dīpana-pācana for ajeerna in age-appropriate form), then bṛṃhaṇa.

5) Sthaulya (Pediatric Obesity)

Definition (proven by śloka): "मेदोमांसातिवृद्धत्वात् चल-स्फिग्-उदर-स्तनः... नरोऽतिस्थूल" — excess meda+māṃsa, pendulous buttocks-abdomen-breasts, low drive for proper metabolism.

Why it matters (classical risk comparison): Of sthūla and kṛśa, Caraka prioritizes reducing sthūla first because of higher suffering/risk. "स्थौल्यकाश्यें वरं काश्यम…"

Nidāna (Sūtra 23): Snigdha-madhura-guru-picchila foods, new grains, sweets, dairy excess, sedentary life, day-sleep → santarpanīya vyādhis.

Lakṣaṇa (Ayurveda + pediatrics): central adiposity, fatigue/"alpa-utsāha," **atidāha/atisveda/kṣudra-śvāsa** (commonly described), snoring; BMI-for-age ≥95th centile; comorbid HTN, dyslipidaemia, insulin resistance.

Chikitsā-sūtra (core lines you can write):

- Apatarpaṇa/Laṅghana guided by: "वातघ्नान्यन्नपानानि श्लेष्ममेदोहराणि... रूक्षाण्युद्धर्तनानि" (Vāta-pacifying, Kapha-Meda-hara, rukṣa-uṣṇa basti where appropriate; udvartana).
- Pathya āhāra: barley/millets/old grains, mudga/kulattha, buttermilk; Caraka lists prashātikā, śyāmākā, yava, kodrava, mudga, kulattha as ideal staples (21/25).
- Vihāra: no day-sleep for medasvin—"मेदस्विन:... दिवा न श्रयीरण् कदाचन" (21/45).
- **Modern dovetail:** family-based lifestyle change; ≥60 min/day **MVPA**, screen-time limits, sleep hygiene; dietitian-led energy deficit without compromising micronutrients.

Differential snapshots

Disorder	Core clue	Age/setting	Overlap	First steps
Phakka	Wasting with protuberant abdomen ; wrist/costochondral widening if rickets-like	6-24 mo	Rickets/PEM	Bṛṃhaṇa + Ca/Vit-D , sunshine, treat <i>stanya</i> issues
Kumārashoşa	Progressive weight faltering ± infections	Any	Marasmus/secondary malnutrition	Laghu-santarpana → Bṛṃhaṇa, deworm; investigate chronic disease

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Disorder	Core clue	Age/setting	Overlap	First steps
Karśya	Rūkṣa-ahara/fasting history, "skin-and-bone" look	Any	Constitutional thinness	Snigdha-bṛṃhaṇa, reduce exertion; abhyanga
Parigarbhikā	Ill-health in infant fed by pregnant mother	Lactation	Stanya-dușți disorders	Consider wet-nurse/donor milk; treat mother & child
Sthaulya	Central adiposity, sedentary/day-sleep, sweet-fat diet	School-age/adolescence rising	Hypothyroid, Cushing rare	Apatarpaṇa, grains/legumes, udvartana, activity

Treatment planning templates (how to write your answer)

A. Karśya 10-step plan (Caraka-aligned)

- 1. Classify severity (Z-scores/MUAC).
- 2. Rule out TB, CHD, CKD, malabsorption.
- 3. Start laghu-santarpana (21/20): small, frequent, thick feeds.
- 4. Dīpana-pācana if anorexia (jeeraka-ambu).
- 5. Bṛṃhaṇa recipes (khichri+ghṛta, māṃsa-rasa where acceptable).
- 6. Micronutrients: iron, zinc, vitamin A per age.
- 7. Abhyanga-snāna, gentle play.
- 8. Treat intercurrent infections.
- 9. Parental counselling (appetite cycling, responsive feeding).
- 10. Follow-up on weight velocity.

B. Sthaulya 8-step plan (Caraka-aligned)

- 1. Growth/BMI-for-age plotting.
- 2. Identify santarpana hetus (23/3-5).
- 3. **Apatarpaṇa** diet swap: old grains, pulses; avoid day-sleep (21/45).
- 4. **Udvartana** (powder massage) & activity prescription (≥60 min/day).
- 5. Behavioural contracts (family meals, no TV-meals).
- 6. Screen lipids/BP in adolescents.
- 7. Address psychosocial aspects (bullying, self-image).
- 8. Longitudinal review (3-monthly).

Assessment

Long Answer (10 marks)

Describe and differentiate Phakka Roga, Kumārashoṣa, Karśya, Parigarbhikā and Sthaulya under headings—definition, nidāna, lakṣaṇa, samprāpti, chikitsā-sūtra—quoting relevant *Caraka* Sūtras 21/11-15 (Karśya), 21/9 & 21/21 (Sthaulya), and Sūtra 23/3-5 & 23/28 (Santarpana/Apatarpana). Correlate with modern PEM/rickets/obesity.

Short Essays (5 marks each)

- 1. Phakka Roga—types (Kṣīrāja/Garbha-ja/Vyādhi-ja), clinical picture, and integrative management.
- 2. Parigarbhikā—definition, symptom set, and counselling algorithm for lactation during pregnancy.
- 3. Karśya—etiologies per Caraka and a step-wise bṛṃhaṇa plan for a 2-year-old.

Short Answers (3 marks each)

• Write the Caraka śloka that states diet rules for sthūla vs kṛśa (21/20) and explain it.

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- List **three** santarpanīya hetus and **three** apatarpaṇa features.
- Name the **three types of Phakka** and one key clinical sign of each.

MCQs (1 mark each)

- 1. Parigarbhikā is classically associated with:
 - a) Feeding by a **pregnant** mother b) Teething c) Weaning d) Vaccination **Ans:** a
- 2. The śloka "वातघ्नान्यन्नपानानि... रूक्षाण्युद्धर्तनानि" pertains to management of:
 - a) Karśya b) **Sthaulya** c) Phakka d) Parigarbhikā. **Ans:** b.
- 3. "शुष्कस्फिगुदरग्रीवो... त्वगस्थिशेषः" describes:
 - a) Sthaulya b) Karśya c) Udara-roga d) Rakta-kṣaya. Ans: b.

References

Classical (primary)

- Caraka Saṃhitā, Sūtrasthāna 21 (Aṣṭauninditīya): verses 6-10, 11-15, 16-20, 21-25, 45 (features & management of Sthaulya/Karśya).
- Caraka Saṃhitā, Sūtrasthāna 23 (Santarpanīya): verses 3-5 (hetus & disorders of over-nutrition) and 28 (apatarpaṇa features).
- Kāśyapa Saṃhitā (Vṛddhajīvakīya Tantra) Phakka Roga (Chikitsā sthāna; traditional tri-classification). (Critical details summarized from peer-reviewed reviews due to limited open-access pāṭha.)

Modern / Standard & Reviews

- JAIMS & WJPR reviews on Phakka Roga—definitions, types, and correlations to rickets/PEM.
- IJMHS / WJPMR articles on **Phakka** and **Parigarbhikā** (infant of pregnant lactating mother).
- Carakasamhitaonline & Siva.sh digital texts for authenticated **Devanāgarī** ślokas and translations (Sūtrasthāna 21 & 23)
- IAP/Ghai Textbook of Pediatrics PEM, rickets, and pediatric obesity management (for modern benchmarks).

Quick self-check (2 minutes)

- Can you **quote** the line prescribing opposite regimens for **sthūla** vs **kṛśa** and apply it to a 5-year-old with BMI >95th centile? (21/20).
- If a breastfed infant loses weight after the mother conceives, what **Ayurvedic term** flags this association and what is the **first corrective step**? (Parigarbhikā → consider **wet-nurse/donor milk** + treat *stanya-doṣa*).

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