

AN UPDATE ON OBSERVATIONAL STUDY OF SHRI PRAHLAD JANI AT STERLING HOSPITAL AHMEDABAD BEING DONE BY DEFENCE INSTITUTE OF PHYSIOLOGY AND ALLIED SCIENCES (DIPAS), DRDO, DELHI IN COLLABORATION WITH STERLING HOSPITAL , SRISTI AND GOVT. OF GUJARAT

An observational study on Shri Prahlad Jani (*Mataji*), who claims to survive without food and water for more than seven decades, was carried out for 15 days wef 22 Apr 2010 to 06 May 2010 at Sterling Hospitals, Ahmedabad to understand the paradoxical phenomenon.

This study is being lead by Dr G Ilavazhagan, Director, Defence Institute of Physiology & Allied Science (DIPAS) - DRDO, Dr. Sudhir Shah, eminent Neurologist, and a panel of distinguished specialists from different medical disciplines which include Dr. Urman Dhruv (Consulting Physician & Diabetologist), Dr. Himanshu Patel (Nephrologist), in collaboration with Prof. Dr. Anil K Gupta from SRISTI and Govt. of Gujarat. Sterling Hospital provided the whole infrastructure for the project.

The study Protocol duly cleared by the Ethical Committees of DIPAS and Sterling Hospital was strictly followed and all efforts were made to see that privacy, safety, security and dignity of Shri Prahlad Jani was not compromised at any stage during the study. This study was also approved by competent authority from DRDO.

During the study a protocol of round the clock strict surveillance was followed with the help of CCTV camera and personal observations. He was taken out for MRI, Ultrasound, X-Ray and exposure to sun under continuous video recordings. Periodic clinical, biochemical, radiological and other relevant examinations were done on Shri Prahlad Jani.

During the above observation period Shri Prahlad Jani has not consumed anything and has not passed stool. The only contact with any form of fluid was during gargling and bathing periodically during the study beginning from 5th day of study. Mr Jani has also not passed urine from his body during the observation period.

It is hypothesized that Shri Prahlad Jani has some extreme form of adaptation to starvation and water restriction as evident from serum Leptin and Ghrelin levels that have been estimated. Cell biology studies have shown that the peripheral blood mononuclear cells exhibit more tolerance to stress.

More studies are being conducted to get answers for the following questions:-

- How the metabolic waste material is eliminated from the body?
- From where does he get his energy for sustenance and survival?
- How he is maintaining his hydration status?

The following investigations are being carried out:-

- ❖ The nitrogenous waste excreted through skin is estimated.
- ❖ The analysis of exhaled gas by GCMS is being done for the presence of volatile metabolites.
- ❖ Serum LCMS-MS for special metabolites highlighting the alternate intermediary metabolic pathway is being done.
- ❖ Proteomic and Transcriptomic analysis is being carried out.
- ❖ Differential gene expression studies are also under progress.
- ❖ Possibility of recycling of nitrogenous waste material, utilizing the volatile ketones as an energy source, resorption from the bladder is also being looked into.
- ❖ Further studies are being planned for random observation at his place of residence over a period of time.

This study is limited in the extent of invasive testing that can be done.