



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY HEALTH SCIENCES

ISSN: 2394 9406

“AYURVEDIC DIETARY INTERVENTIONS IN MADHUMEHA: PATHYA-APATHYA FRAMEWORK FOR TYPE 2 DIABETES MELLITUS MANAGEMENT”

Dr Jyoti B Choure¹, Dr Shubhangini S Nagaralmath²

1.Associate professor , Department of swastha vritta, LRP ayurvedic medical college, hospital, post graduate institute and research centre, ishwarpur Email id : jyotichoure01@gmail.com

2.Associate professor, Department of shalyatantra, LRP ayurvedic medical college, hospital, post graduate institute and research centre, Ishwarpur Email id : shubhasn@gmail.com

Abstract: Madhumeha, the Vataja subtype of Prameha in Ayurveda, manifests as a metabolic syndrome paralleling type 2 diabetes mellitus through Kapha-mediated Srotorodha and impaired Agni. This systematic review elucidates a structured Pathya-Apathya regimen emphasizing Yava-centric, Tikta-Kashaya dominant diets to dismantle pathogenesis, enhance Dhatu Poshana, and avert complications like Dhatukshaya. Synthesizing Charaka-Sushruta principles with randomized trial data, findings advocate personalized Ahar Vidhi—reducing postprandial glycemia by 20-30% via Lekhana foods—positioning Ayurveda as a viable adjunctive therapy amid escalating global diabetes incidence exceeding 500 million cases¹.

Keywords: Madhumeha; Prameha; Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus; Pathya Apathya; Kapha Vikriti; Yava Diet.

INTRODUCTION

Ayurveda delineates Madhumeha as a Krichchrasadhya (difficult-to-cure) disorder arising from Santarpanotha Kapha Vriddhi, transitioning to Vata Prakopa with characteristic Madhura Mutra and Karapada Suptata. Etiologically, it stems from Nidana like Ati Madhura Ahara and Guru Vihara, obstructing Medovaha Srotas akin to modern insulin resistance from visceral adiposity. Central to Chikitsa, Pathya serves as Apatarpana, targeting root Samprapti by restoring Ushma and Srotoshuddhi without depleting Dhatus². Contemporary epidemiology underscores relevance: India hosts 101 million diabetics, with dietary transitions fueling Type 2 prevalence. Unlike glycemic indexing, Ayurveda's dosha lens enables Prakriti-tailored interventions, evidenced by barley diets lowering HbA1c 1.2% over 12 weeks. This paper constructs an evidence-informed dietary protocol, bridging Samhitas with RCTs for translational utility³.

Materials and Methods

Review Design: Narrative synthesis of classical texts (Charaka Samhita Chi.6, Sushruta Uttara 40) and peer-reviewed literature (PubMed, AYUSH Research Portal, 2000-2025).

Inclusion Criteria: Studies on Prameha/Madhumeha dietetics, T2DM-Ayurveda correlations, Pathya RCTs. Excluded: Single-case reports, non-English.

Search Terms: "Madhumeha diet," "Pathya Apathya Prameha," "Ayurvedic T2DM intervention."⁴

Analysis: Qualitative appraisal via Nidana Panchaka framework; quantitative from HbA1c/FBS meta-trends.

Pathogenesis of Madhumeha: Nidana-Samprapti Analysis-

Primary Nidanas—Sheeta-Snigdha Ahara, Vega Dharana—aggravate Kapha, yielding Drava Shleshma that infiltrates Basti. Progression⁵
Jatharagni Mandya → Ama → Medo Vridhi.⁶

Purvarupa (Pipasa, Kandu) herald reversible phase; post-Kshaudra Mutra, prognosis worsens sans Rooksha Chikitsa. Modern lens:

Hyperinsulinemia from glucolipotoxicity mirrors Kapha-Stambhana.⁷

Pathya Ahara: Evidence-Based

Protocols-

Pathya embodies Kaphapittashamaka

Gunas: Laghu, Rooksha, Ushna Virya.

Quantum: 1/4-1/6 Amapurna per Agni⁸.

Nidana Panchaka Correlation Table-

Component	Classical Features (Ref)	T2DM Equivalent (Ref)
Nidana	Madhura-Mamsa sevana	High GI carbs, obesity
Purvarupa	Bahu Mutrata, Trishna	Polyuria, polydipsia
Samprapti	Kapha-Medovaha Avarana	IR via lipotoxicity
Lakshana	Kshaudra Shabda Mutra	Glycosuria
Upashaya	Yava, Vyayama	Fiber, exercise

Core Dietary Matrix

Daily Structure:

Pratahkal: Yava Kwatha + Triphala (Ama pachana).

Madhyahna: Mudga-Yava Dhal with Shilajit; Tikta Shak (Karela 200g).

Sayam: Shali Roti, Methi Sabji; Jamun

Rasayana.

Category	Pathya (Rationale) [Ref]	Dosa ge	Apathya (Avoid) [Ref]
Cereals	Yava (Lekhana, Mutrala)	120g	Navanna
Legumes	Kulattha (Deepana)	60g	Masha
Vegetables	Parval, Patola (Raktaprasadana)	250g	Alu
Fruits	Amla, Dadima (Madhume hahara)	150g	Mango
Fats	Sarshapa Taila (Rooksha)	10ml	Ghrita

Yavaksara Mantha trials report 28% FBS decline, attributable to beta-glucan mediated absorption⁹.

Apathya Vihara and Compliance Strategies

Prohibitions amplify pathogenesis:

Dadhi, Diwaswapna promote

Shaithilyata. Mitigation via Viruddha avoidance, e.g., Takra substitutes curd¹⁰.

Behavioral Integration: Dinen

Prayatnam (day exercise), Rutu-

anukoola Ahara enhance adherence,
reducing relapse 35% in cohorts.

RESULTS: Clinical Efficacy

Synthesis-

Aggregated data (n=450, 8 studies):

Pathya alone: FBS ↓18-25 mg/dL¹¹

Integrated (Diet+Yoga): HbA1c ↓1.1%
(p<0.01)⁹.

Barley vs. Rice: PPBG ↓32%¹².

Superior in Kapha Prakriti (OR 2.4)¹³.

DISCUSSION

Pathya disrupts Samprapti at Nidana
level, outperforming mono-herbal via
multifactorial Guna modulation.

Limitations: Heterogeneity in Agni
assessment; strengths: Cost-

effectiveness (<\$5/month). Future:

Prakriti-stratified RCTs, GI mapping of

Pathya staples. Positions Ayurveda in

WHO T2DM guidelines¹⁴.

CONCLUSION-

Madhumeha dietary management via
Pathya restores metabolic homeostasis,
meriting Level II evidence integration.
Scalable for primary care.

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