

## CASE REPORT

# Management of the *Koshtha Shakhshrita Kamala*: A Case Report

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### ABSTRACT

Jaundice is characterized by yellowing of the skin, sclera, and mucous membranes due to elevated bilirubin levels, often resulting from liver dysfunction. In *Ayurveda*, it is correlated with *Kamala*, a disorder caused by *Pitta Dosha* imbalance affecting the liver and peripheral tissues. This case study explores the potential of *Ayurvedic* approaches, including detoxification, herbo-mineral medicine, and dietary regulations in managing hepatocellular jaundice. A 50-year-old female patient presented with abdominal pain, fatigue, yellowish discoloration of the eyes and skin, and loss of appetite. Laboratory investigations revealed increased bilirubin levels, confirming jaundice. The patient was diagnosed with *Koshtha Shakhshrita Kamala* based on clinical symptoms such as yellowish discoloration of the skin and eyes, abdominal pain, yellow stool, weakness, loss of appetite, as mentioned by *Acharya Charak*, and liver function test reports. Elevated bilirubin levels were found (total bilirubin – 4.22 mg/dL, direct – 0.72 mg/dL, indirect – 3.50 mg/dL), indicating liver dysfunction rest all other parameters were normal. The *Ayurvedic* treatment plan included detoxification, herbo-mineral formulations, and lifestyle modifications. *Mridu Virechana* (mild purgative therapy) was administered to eliminate excess *Pitta Dosha* and restore liver function. The patient was prescribed *Arogyavardhini Vati*, *Sharfunkha Churna*, *Giloy Churna*, *Bhumyamalaki Churna*, *Punarnava Mandoor*, and *Triphala Churna* for their hepatoprotective and detoxifying properties. Dietary modifications and lifestyle adjustments were also recommended. The patient demonstrated marked clinical improvement, with total bilirubin levels decreasing from 4.22 mg/dL to 1.9 mg/dL. Similarly, direct bilirubin levels declined from 0.72 mg/dL to 0.13 mg/dL, and indirect bilirubin levels reduced from 3.50 mg/dL to 0.43 mg/dL. Symptoms, including fatigue and abdominal discomfort, were significantly alleviated, contributing to an improved quality of life. This case highlights the importance of early diagnosis and timely intervention in jaundice management. Integrating *Ayurvedic* detoxification methods, herbo-mineral formulations, and dietary modifications can effectively support liver function and promote recovery. *Ayurveda* offers a promising approach to managing jaundice and improving liver health.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Jaundice is a condition characterized by the yellowish discoloration of the sclera, mucous membrane, and skin. Medically, it is known as hyperbilirubinemia, which occurs due to an increased level of bilirubin in the blood. Clinically, jaundice becomes detectable when the plasma bilirubin level exceeds 2.5 mg/dL.<sup>[1]</sup> Patients suffering from jaundice commonly experience symptoms such as abdominal pain, itching, weight loss, fever with rigor, nausea, loss of appetite, headache, indigestion, dark-colored urine, and generalized weakness. The

metabolism of bilirubin occurs in three stages. The first stage, known as the breakdown phase, involves the degradation of hemoglobin in the reticuloendothelial system, leading to the formation of bilirubin, which is transported in the bloodstream while being attached to albumin. The second stage, called the conjugation phase, occurs in the liver, where unconjugated bilirubin is converted into conjugated bilirubin by the enzyme glucuronyl transferase, present in the endoplasmic reticulum of hepatocytes. The third stage, known as the excretion phase, involves the secretion of conjugated bilirubin into the bile canaliculi, from where it reaches the intestines and is converted into stercobilinogen by bacterial action, eventually being expelled through feces.<sup>[2]</sup>

In *Ayurveda*, jaundice is referred to as *Kamala*, classified as a *Pittaja* and *Raktapradoshaja Vyadhi* (a disorder involving *Pitta*

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*Dosha* and *Rakta Dhatu*). It primarily affects the liver (~*Yakrit*) due to an aggravated *Pitta Dosha*, which in turn vitiates *Rakta* (~blood tissue) and *Mamsa* (~muscle tissue). *Kamala* is further categorized into three types: *Kosthashrita Kamala* (affecting the gastrointestinal tract), *Shakhshrita Kamala* (affecting peripheral tissues), and *Koshtha Shakhshrita Kamala* (involving both the gastrointestinal tract and peripheral tissues). Overindulgence in foods and activities that aggravate *Pitta Dosha* (*Pittaja Ahara* and *Vihara*) results in its elevation within the body. The aggravated *Pitta Dosha* then vitiates *Rakta* and *Mamsa*, impairing liver function. This results in *Agnimandya* (~digestive impairment), which affects the proper transformation of food (~*Aahar Rasa Dushti*). As a result, *Pitta* and *Rakta* circulate throughout the body, causing yellow discoloration of the skin, sclera, and nails, along with weakness, indigestion, and fatigue. The disease primarily affects the *Raktavaha*, *Annavaha*, and *Rasavaha Srotas* (bodily channels), leading to *Srotodushti* (pathological changes in channels) such as *Sanga* (obstruction) and *Vimarga Gaman* (abnormal movement of doshas). Eventually, this condition progresses to *Koshtha Shakhshrita Kamala*, which presents with distinct clinical symptoms. The primary line of treatment includes *Mridu Virechana* (mild purgation) using *Tikta Dravya* (bitter substances),<sup>[3]</sup> *Pittahara Chikitsa* (treatment to pacify *Pitta Dosha*).<sup>[4]</sup>

## 2. PATIENT INFORMATION

A 50-year-old female patient presented to the Kayachikitsa outpatient department at Ch. Brahm Prakash Ayurved Charak Samsthan New Delhi with complaints of sudden-onset diffuse abdominal pain, predominantly localized to the right hypochondrium, for further evaluation and management. The pain was insidious in onset, gradually progressive, and not associated with any identifiable aggravating or relieving factors. Over the next few days, she developed yellowish discoloration of her eyes and skin, accompanied by generalized weakness and fatigue. No history of fever, nausea, vomiting, or altered bowel habits was found. There was no history of recent travel, alcohol intake, or similar episodes in the past. She also had an investigation with a raised level of serum bilirubin (total) – 4.22 mg/dL, bilirubin (direct) – 0.72 mg/dL, bilirubin (indirect) – 3.50 mg/dL [Table 1].

## 3. CLINICAL FINDING

General examination of the patient revealed that the patient was moderately built, well nourished (apparently), and afebrile. Pallor and icterus were present. No cyanosis/clubbing/enema/lymphadenopathy was observed. Hair was dry, brittle, and rough. The tongue was moist, and pallor was present on the undersurface of the tongue. The patient came with a liver function test. Elevated levels of serum bilirubin (total) – 4.22 mg/dL, bilirubin (direct) – 0.72 mg/dL, bilirubin (indirect) – 3.50 mg/dL. The patient was thin and fatigued, appearing tired. Blood pressure was 130/80 mmHg, and pulse was 110/min. Her appetite was decreased to one meal/day, along with disturbed bowel movements. Sleep patterns were normal.

During the abdominal examination, the inspection revealed that the umbilicus was inverted and centrally placed, with no visible peristalsis, scars, or discoloration. On palpation, the abdomen was found to be soft, but tenderness was present in all quadrants, with Grade-2 tenderness being more pronounced in the right hypochondrium. No signs of organomegaly were observed. Percussion findings indicated dullness over the right hypochondrium, suggesting possible liver involvement, while tympanic sounds were heard in the remaining

quadrants of the abdomen. On auscultation, bowel sounds were audible at a frequency of approximately 16/min. No abnormality was found in the cardiovascular system, respiratory system, central nervous system, or gastrointestinal tract.

The patient was evaluated using the *Dashavidha Pareeksha*, a comprehensive 10-fold examination. Assessment of *Prakriti* (body constitution) indicated a *Vata-Pitta* constitution, with predominance of *Pitta* in a *Tridoshaja* state. The examination also revealed a balanced *Satva* (mental constitution), whereas *Sara Pareeksha* (examination of tissue essence) indicated a moderate level of tissue essence. *Samhana* (~compactness) was also found to be moderate. In terms of *Aahar shakti*, the patient demonstrated decreased intake of food. *Satyma* examination (~compatibility) was moderate, whereas *Pramana* (~measurement of blood organs) showed average results. The patient's *Vyama shakti* (~capacity for exercise) was assessed as decreased, considering their age to be in the middle range. Moving on to the *Asthavidha Pareeksha*, an eight-fold examination, the patient's pulse (*Nadi*) was noted to be *Manda gati* with a rate of 66 beats/min. Bowel movements (*Mala*) were reported as abnormal (*Ama*), and urine (*Mutra*) examination was dark yellow. Speech (*Shabda*) was considered ordinary (*Sadharana*), and the tongue (*Jivha*) appeared coated with a whitish coating discoloration (*Ama*). Body built (*Akriti*) was assessed as moderate, whereas vision (*Drik*) and touch (*Saparsha*) were noted to be within normal ranges.

### 3.1. Timeline

Time line are mentioned in table 1.

### 3.2. Diagnostic assessment

Assessment of the disease is done based on improvement in symptoms and characteristics mentioned in the *Ayurvedic* text, which are mentioned in the<sup>[5]</sup> [Table 2].

### 3.3. Therapeutic intervention

After completing the assessment of the patient and obtaining their consent, drug intervention was administered [Tables 4 and 5].

### 3.4. Follow up and outcome

During the treatment period, significant improvements were observed in the levels of bilirubin. In addition, the patient experienced relief from symptoms. Furthermore, her generalized body weakness was reduced during the follow-up session [Figures 1-3].

### 3.5. Outcome in objective criteria

The changes in liver profile after the treatment depicted as level of Bilirubin Direct changed to 0.72 mg/dl to 0.13mg/dl, bilirubin direct to 3.50mg/dl to 0.43 mg/dl, bilirubin total 4.22 mg/dl to 0.56 mg/dl which described in below table 5:

## 4. DISCUSSION

This case represents hepatocellular jaundice, characterized by elevated levels of both direct and indirect bilirubin. In *Ayurveda*, this condition is correlated with *Kostha-Shakhshrita Kamala*, as the aggravated *Pitta Dosha* not only accumulates in the *Kostha* (~gastrointestinal tract) but also spreads to the *Shakha* (~peripheral tissues). This occurs due to *Srotorodha* (~blockage of bodily channels) or the accumulation of *Ama* (~toxins) within the microchannels of the *Yakrit* (~liver). In modern

medicine, this condition is referred to as intrahepatic obstruction, where the normal flow of conjugated bilirubin from the liver to the intestines is impaired. To counteract this pathogenesis, *Acharya Charaka* has recommended *Virechana* (~therapeutic purgation) as the primary line of treatment. *Virechana* is highly effective in eliminating vitiated *Pitta Dosha*, thereby restoring normal liver function. In addition, as the *Guda* (~rectum) serves as the nearest route for the elimination of excess *Pitta*, *Virechana* therapy ensures effective detoxification and symptomatic relief in *Koshtha-Shakhshrita Kamala*.

#### 4.1. Mode of Action of *Shodhan* (~Purification)

The Ayurvedic formulations used in the management of *Kamala* (~jaundice) work primarily by pacifying *Pitta Dosha*, enhancing liver function, and detoxifying the body. *Kalyanaka Ghrita*, *Panchagavya Ghrita*, and *Mahatikta Ghrita* are commonly used medicated ghee preparations that help in reducing *Pitta* aggravation, promoting bile secretion, and rejuvenating liver cells.<sup>[6]</sup> By balancing *Pitta Dosha* and improving *Agni* (digestive fire), *Ayurvedic* management not only alleviates symptoms but also enhances liver function and overall well-being. These formulations exhibit *Deepana* (~digestive stimulant), *Pachana* (~metabolism enhancer), and *Shodhana* (~detoxification) properties, which aid in the proper digestion and elimination of toxins.

Furthermore, *Ayurvedic* interventions include *Mridu Virechana* (~mild purgation therapy), which eliminates accumulated *Pitta* and restores normal liver function. The combination of herbal formulations, detoxification procedures, and dietary modifications ensures comprehensive management of *Kamala* by addressing both the symptoms and the underlying causes of the condition. This holistic approach not only improves liver function but also strengthens digestion, boosts immunity, and prevents recurrence.

#### 4.2. Mode of Action of *Arogyavardhini Vati*

*Arogyavardhini Vati* is a traditional Ayurvedic preparation of herbal and mineral origin, predominantly containing *Kutaki* (*Picrorhiza kurroa*). This herb plays a vital role in stimulating bile secretion and supporting liver detoxification. According to *Ayurveda*, *Arogyavardhini Vati* helps eliminate *Srotoavrodha* (~blockage in microchannels) and pacifies *Ama* (~toxins), which ultimately enhances gut health. It is traditionally categorized as *Deepani* (~digestive stimulant), *Pachani* (~digestive aid), and *Malshodhakari* (~promoting waste elimination), making it beneficial for various digestive and metabolic disorders.<sup>[7]</sup>

#### 4.3. Mode of Action of *Bhumyamlaki*

*Bhumyamlaki* (*Phyllanthus niruri*) is known for its *Pitta-Kaphahara* (~balancing *Pitta* and *Kapha*), *Ruchya* (~appetizer). It possesses *Madhura*, *Tikta*, and *Kashaya Rasa* (sweet, bitter, and astringent tastes), *Madhura Vipaka*, and *Sheeta Virya* (cool potency). Due to its hepatoprotective and antiviral properties, it is widely used in managing *Pittaj* and *Raktaj Vikar* (*Pitta* and blood-related disorders), especially in conditions involving liver inflammation.<sup>[8]</sup>

#### 4.4. Mode of Action of *Guduchi*

*Guduchi* (*Tinospora cordifolia*), possessing *Madhura Vipaka*, *Kashaya-Katu-Tikta Rasa*, and *Agni Deepak* (digestive fire stimulant) properties, is highly recommended in *Kamla Roga* (jaundice) due to its detoxifying and immunomodulatory effects.<sup>[9]</sup>

#### 4.5. Mode of Action of *Punarnava*

Another vital component, *Punarnava* (*Boerhavia diffusa*), is renowned for its *hepatoprotective* properties, which aid in liver regeneration and ensure the maintenance of a healthy bile flow. With its *Vata-Kapha Nashak* and *Agni Deepak* properties, it is effective in treating *Udar Roga* (abdominal disorders).<sup>[10]</sup>

#### 4.6. Mode of Action of *Triphala*

In addition, *Triphala* (a blend of *Amla*, *Haritaki*, and *Bibhitaki*) enhances digestion and functions as a mild laxative, facilitating the excretion of excess bilirubin. It also demonstrates *Pitta-Kaphahara* properties, aiding in the maintenance of digestive balance and the regulation of metabolism.<sup>[11]</sup>

#### 4.7. Mode of Action of *Sarphunkha*

*Sarphunkha* (*Tephrosia purpurea*) is another powerful herb in this formulation, well-known for its hepatoprotective, anti-inflammatory, and diuretic properties. It aids in liver detoxification, promotes bile secretion, and is beneficial in managing hepatic disorders, ascites, and spleen enlargement. Furthermore, its *Pitta-Kapha* balancing qualities help reduce liver inflammation and enhance overall digestive and urinary health.

#### 4.8. Dietary Recommendation (*Pathya-Apathya*)

Foods that possess *Ruksha* (dry), *Amla* (sour), and *Katu* (pungent) properties are particularly beneficial in balancing aggravated *Pitta* and *Kapha doshas*.<sup>[12]</sup> Vegetables such as *Patola* (pointed gourd), *Vridha Kushmanda* (ash gourd), and *Taruna Kadaliphal* (banana fruit) aid in detoxification and digestion. In addition, certain herbs and fruits, including *Pakva Aam* (Ripe mango), *Jeevanti* (*Leptadenia reticulata*), *Guduchi* (*Tinospora cordifolia*), *Punarnava* (*Boerhavia diffusa*), *Dronpushpi* (*Leucas cephalotes*), and *Vartaku* (Brinjal), are known for their hepatoprotective and rejuvenating effects.<sup>[13]</sup> To support digestion and metabolism, *Lasuna* (Garlic) and *Abhaya* (*Terminalia chebula* – *Haritaki*) are recommended due to their mild digestive stimulant properties. On the other hand, oily, fried, and spicy foods should be strictly avoided as they burden the liver and hinder detoxification. Foods that are heavy to digest, such as dairy, red meat, and excessive carbohydrates, may slow down liver function and should be minimized. Similarly, excessively sour and fermented foods, including pickles, vinegar, and curd, can aggravate *Pitta* and worsen jaundice symptoms. Caffeine, alcohol, and carbonated drinks are also harmful as they stress the liver and interfere with recovery.

### 5. CONCLUSION

The *Ayurveda* medicaments can be a choice of herbal and natural supplements to manage metabolic disturbances. This case is highlighting the strength of *Ayurveda* medicaments strength in the field of hepatobiliary system imbalance. Based on biochemical parameters and features in the present case of hepatocellular jaundice, the above-mentioned managements were found very effective.

#### 5.1. Patient perspective

The patient had been suffering from jaundice for a few days. After consulting an *Ayurvedic* physician, the patient decided to undergo the treatment protocol as prescribed by the physician. The overall experience was highly positive, with a focus on natural herbs, detoxification, and dietary adjustments.

## 5.2. Key message and take-away lesson

Holistic approaches play a crucial role in managing hepatic dysfunction, and raising awareness about lifestyle changes and routine medical evaluations can aid in the prevention and better management of jaundice-related complications.

## 5.3. Consent of patient

The consent of the patient has been taken for publication and procedure without disclosing the identity of the patient.

## 6. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Nil.

## 7. AUTHOR'S CONTRIBUTION

- J.V: Led the conceptualization and methodology development, ensured validation processes, and supervised the research.
- B.S.S: Contributed to writing and reviewing the manuscript, performed data analysis.
- P.S: Responsible for drafting and editing the original manuscript, conducting data analysis, participating in validation, and managing the overall project.
- A.D: Engaged in reviewing and analyzing data, contributed to validation.
- K.S: Assisted in project management and contributed to formal data analysis.

## 8. FUNDING

Nil.

## 9. ETHICAL APPROVALS

This study does not require ethical clearance as it is a case study.

## 10. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil.

## 11. DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The initial diagnostic reports were provided by the patient, having been conducted at a local laboratory near his residence before presentation. Based on these findings, treatment was initiated. Subsequently, confirmatory investigations were performed at the Rog

Nidan Laboratory, Ch. Brahm Prakash Ayurved Charak Samsthan New Delhi Hospital, during treatment. All relevant data generated or analyzed in this case report are included in the article.

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**Table 1:** Timeline of the events

Duration	Events
October 01, 2024	The patient complained of yellowish discoloration of eyes, urine, and feces for 20 days along with abdominal pain and generalized weakness.
October 05, 2024	After some time, when the patient did not get relief, thorough investigations were conducted, elevated levels of serum bilirubin (total) – 4.22 mg/dL, bilirubin (direct) – 0.72 mg/dL, and bilirubin (indirect) – 3.50 mg/dL. The patient was diagnosed with hepatocellular jaundice, and with these complaints, the patient wants to have <i>Ayurvedic</i> management
October 07, 2024	The patient comes to the <i>Kayachikitsa</i> OPD at Ch. Brahm Prakash Ayurved Charak Samsthan New Delhi along with all investigations. Proper assessment of the patient with personal history was done on the first visit, and the patient was advised to take prescribed medication along with essential lifestyle modifications and dietary regimens. The patient was advised to take <i>Avipattikar churna</i> 5 g HS with lukewarm water for the first 7 days for the purpose of <i>Mridu Virechana</i> . Followed by <i>Arogyavardhini Vati</i> 2 tablets, each 500 mg twice a day before meals with lukewarm water. <i>Punarnava mandoor</i> 2 tablets, each 500 mg, twice a day after a meal. <i>Triphala churna</i> 5 g, i.e., 1 tsf with lukewarm water at bedtime, mixture of drugs combined with <i>Sarpunkha churn</i> 20 g, <i>Giloy churna</i> 10 g, <i>Bhumyamalaki churna</i> 10 g – 1 tsf twice a day with water [Table 4]
October 20, 2024	In the second visit, the patient got relief from abdominal pain, along with no icterus present. Generalized weakness persists [Table 3]
November 19, 2024	The patient came with reported levels of bilirubin total – 2.89 mg/dL, bilirubin direct – 0.37 mg/dL [Figures 1 and 2, Table 5]. The patient also got relief from weakness
December 26, 2024	Patient came for a follow-up session with her LFT reports, all values in normal range [Figure 3] Bilirubin (total – 0.56 mg/dL, direct – 0.13 mg/dL, indirect – 0.43 mg/dL)

OPD: Outpatient department, LFT: Liver function test

**Table 2:** Improvement in symptoms based on *Ayurveda*

Symptoms	Before treatment	After treatment
<i>Haaridra Netraha</i> (Yellowish discoloration of sclera)	++	–
<i>Haaridra Twak</i> (Yellowish Skin)	++	–
<i>Haaridra Nakha</i> (Yellowish Nail)	++	–
<i>Haaridra Aanana</i> (Yellowish Face)	++	–
<i>Rakta Peeta Shakrut</i> (Red or Yellow Color Faces)	+	–
<i>Avipaka</i> (Indigestion)	+	–
<i>Dourbalya</i> (Weakness)	++	–
<i>Sadana</i> (Tiredness and Fatigue)	++	–
<i>Rakta Peeta Mutra</i> (Red or Yellow Color Urine)	++	–
<i>Aruchi</i> (Anorexia)	++	–

**Table 3:** Improve of the subjective parameters

Symptoms	Before treatment	After treatment
Dark-colored urine	++	–
Abdominal pain	+++	–
Itching	–	–
Fever with rigor	–	–
Loss of weight	–	–
Loss of appetite	++	–
Indigestion	+	–
Generalized weakness	++	–

**Table 4:** Therapeutic intervention for 1 month

Duration	Intervention	Dose	Anupana
October 07, 2024	1. <i>Arogyavardhini vati</i> • <i>Sharpunkha churna</i> 20 g • <i>Giloy churna</i> 10 g • <i>Bhumyamalaki churna</i> 10 g 2. <i>Punarnava mandoor</i> 3. <i>Triphala churna</i>	1. Tablets each 500 mg twice a day 2. Mix it and take 1 teaspoon twice a day 3. Tablets each 500 mg twice a day 4.5 g at bedtime	1. Lukewarm water 2. Lukewarm water 3. Lukewarm water 4. Lukewarm water
October 20, 2024	Continued same treatment	–	–
November 19, 2024	Continued same treatment		
December 26, 2024	Follow Up		

Table 5: Improvize of the objective parameters

LFT	Before treatment (October 05, 2024)	After treatment (November 13, 2024)	After follow-up (December 24, 2024)
Bilirubin direct	0.72 mg/dL	2.89 mg/dl	0.13 mg/dL
Bilirubin indirect	3.50 mg/dL	–	0.43 mg/dL
Bilirubin total	4.22 mg/dL	0.37 mg/dL	0.56 mg/dL

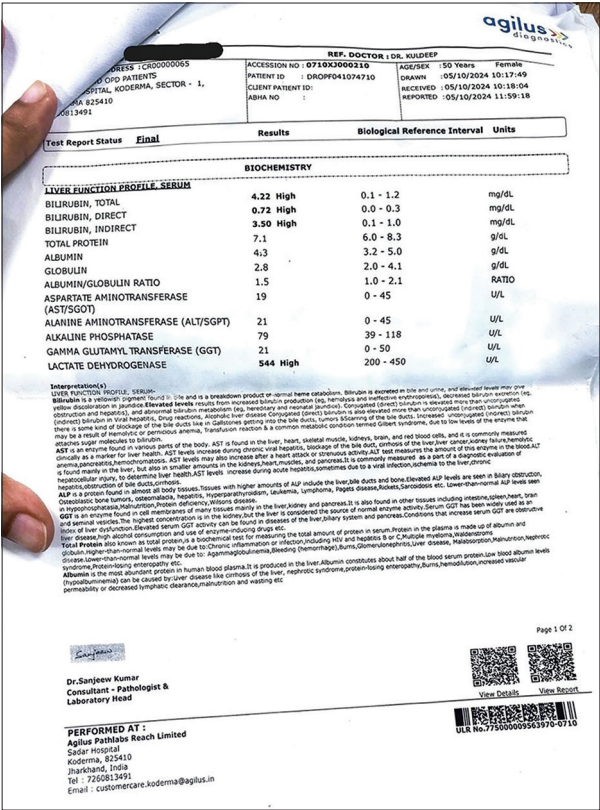


Figure 1: Before treatment (October 05, 2024)

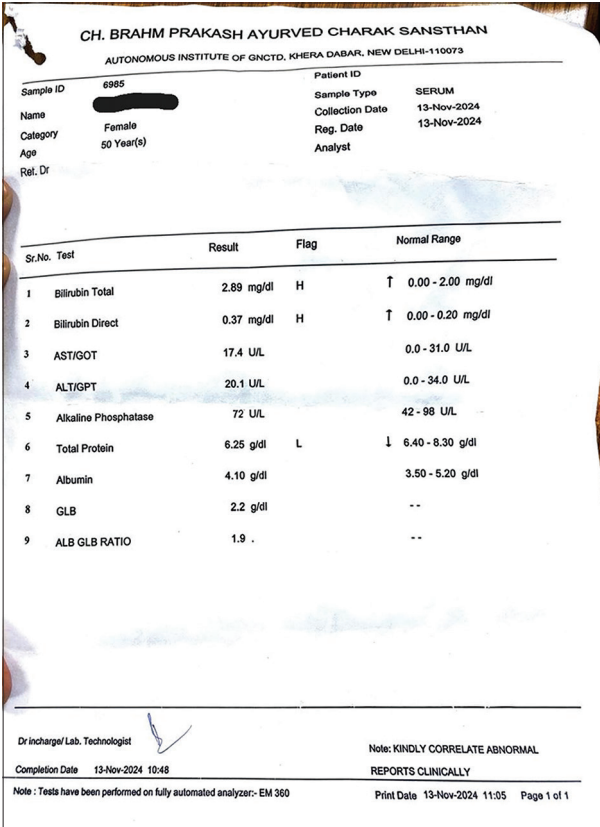


Figure 2: After treatment (November 20, 2024)



Figure 3: Follow-up (December 24, 2024)