Guidelines for Determining Your Constitution

Instructions: To determine your constitution it is best to fill out the chart twice. First, base your choices on what is most consistent over a long period of your life (your prakruti), then fill it out a second time responding to how you have been feeling more recently (your vikruti). Sometimes it helps to have a friend ask you the questions and fill in the chart for you, as they may have insight (and impartiality) to offer. After finishing the chart each time, add up the number of marks under vata, pitta and kapha.

This will help you discover your own ratio of doshas in your prakruti and vikruti. Most people will have one dosha predominant, a few will have two doshas approximately equal and even fewer will have all three doshas in equal proportion. For instance, if your vikruti shows more pitta than your prakruti, you will want to follow a pitta-soothing regimen to try and bring your vikruti back into balance with your prakruti. If your prakruti and vikruti seem about the same, then you would choose the regimen of your strongest dosha.

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| OBSERVATIONS Body size Body weight | V P K | VATA Slim Low | PITTA Medium Medium | KAPHA Large Overweight |
|--|-------|---|--|--|
| Chin Cheeks Eyes | | Thin, angular Wrinkled, sunken Small, sunken, dry, active, black, brown, nervous Uneven shape, deviated septum Dry, cracked, black/brown tinge Stick out, big, roomy, thin gums | yellow/red, sensitive to light | Rounded, double Rounded, plump Big, beautiful, blue, calm, loving |
| Nose Lips Teeth | | | | Short rounded, button nose Smooth, oily, pale, whitish Healthy, white, strong gums |
| Skin Hair | | Thin, dry, cold, rough, dark Dry, brown, black, knotted, brittle, scarce | Smooth, oily, warm, rosy Straight, oily, blond, gray, red, bald | Thick, oily, cool, white, pale Thick, curly, oily, wavy, luxurian |
| Nails Neck | | Dry, rough, brittle, break easily Thin, tall | Sharp, flexible, pink, lustrous Medium | Thick, oily, smooth, polished Big, folded |
| Chest Belly Belly-button Hips Joints | | Flat, sunken Thin, flat, sunken Small, irregular, herniated Slender, thin Cold, cracking | Moderate Moderate Oval, superficial Moderate Moderate | Expanded, round Big, pot-bellied Big, deep, round, stretched Heavy, big Large, lubricated |
| Appetite Digestion Taste Thirst Elimination | | Irregular, scanty Irregular, forms gas Sweet, sour, salty Changeable Constipation | Strong, unbearable Quick, causes burning Sweet, bitter, astringent Surplus Loose | Slow but steady Prolonged, forms mucous Bitter, pungent, astringent Sparse Thick, oily, sluggish |
| Physical Activity Mental Activity | | Hyperactive Hyperactive | Moderate Moderate | Slow Dull, slow |
| Emotions Faith Intellect Recollection | | Anxiety, fear, uncertainty Variable Quick but faulty response Recent good, remote poor | Anger, hate, jealousy Extremist Accurate response Distinct | Calm, greedy, attachment Consistent Slow, exact Slow and sustained |
| Dreams Sleep | | Quick, active, many, fearful Scanty, broken up, | Fiery, war, violence Little but sound | Lakes, snow, romantic Deep, prolonged |
| Speech Financial TOTAL | | sleeplessness Rapid, unclear Poor, spends on trifles | Sharp, penetrating Spends money on luxuries | Slow, monotonous Rich, good money preserver |