

YOGA PRACTICE APPROPRIATE FOR WOMEN DURING MENSTRUATION

Tell the teacher at the beginning of class that you are menstruating. A quiet practice of sitting postures, supine supported postures and supported forward bends is best for the physical conditions of menstruation. This practice also creates a quiet and centered mind.

If you have normal periods, are not experiencing discomfort, and are attending a regular class, you may do lateral standing poses: Uthita Trikonasana, Uthita Parsvakonasana, Virabhadrasana II and Ardha Chandrasana with support of the wall. Also Parsvottanasana can be done with hands on the wall. At home the standing postures are better dropped in favor of supported supine postures and supported forward bends. For menstrual difficulties, please consult your teacher.

Avoid all inversions and strenuous postures including these:

- Urdhva Mukha Svanasana and active backbends
- Chaturanga Dandasana
- Jathara Parivartanasana, Urdhva Prasurita Padasana, and Navasana (abdominal work)
- Jumpings
- Rope work
- Arm Balances

Basic Program for Beginning Students

A good program to follow when in class or for home practice is:

1.



Upavistha Konasana - sitting upright with support of the wall. 5 minutes.

2.



Baddha Konasana - sitting upright with wall or chair support. 5 minutes.

3.



Supta Swastikasana. 5 minutes.

4.



Supta Baddha Konasana, with belt around sacrum and feet. 5 minutes.

5.



Swastikasana with supported forward bend. 2-3 minutes each side.

6.



Virasana with supported forward bend. 2-3 minutes.

7.



Janusirsasana three times on each side, with support for the head. 2-3 minutes each side.

8.



Upavistha Konasana forward, with support. 2-3 minutes

9.

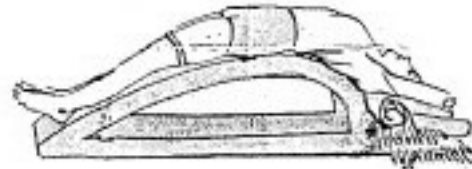


Upavistha Konasana to the side, with support. 2-3 minutes each side.

10.



Crossed Bolsters, 10 minutes...



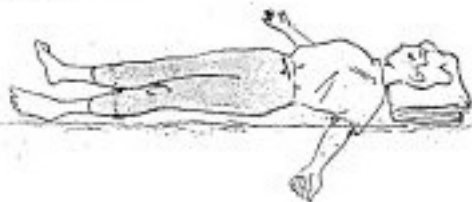
... or Viparsita Dandasana bench, 10 minutes

11.



Setu Bandha Sarvangasana on bench or bolster, with belt for legs and support for feet. 10-15 minutes.

12.



Savasana. 10 minutes.

Based on the work of Yogi Acharya B.K.S. Iyengar and Dr. Geeta Iyengar
 Recommended reading: Yoga, A Gem for Women by Geeta S. Iyengar
 I.Y.A. of G.N.Y. Hobby Connell, Mary Dunn, Becket Myers

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