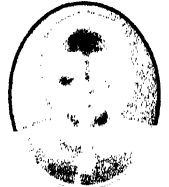




Homoeopathic Queries & Solutions

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Q1. Sir, while working in a semi-rural hospital as a homoeopathic physician, I have seen quite a many practitioners who advice laboratory measurement of Serum Albumin in patients of malnutrition. I wish to know, what is the role of measurement of serum albumin in these cases?

Dr DHALESHWAR BHARNE (Village-Lanje, Balaghat)

A1. Albumin is the most common laboratory measurement of visceral protein status. But contrary to the popular belief, hypo-albuminaemia is rarely present in cases of isolated calorie malnutrition.

Hypoalbuminaemia is a marker of systemic inflammatory response and has a prognostic importance. It is associated with increased morbidity and mortality in hospitalized patients. The daily liver synthesis of albumin is 120-170 mg/Kg body weight. It is distributed between intra and extra vascular spaces. During injury, liver increases the production of acute phase proteins and decreases albumin synthesis. This is coupled with extravasations and increased catabolism and finally culminates in hypoalbuminaemia. Hence Serum Albumin is a poor index of Nutritional status but as mentioned earlier, it serves as a marker of injury and metabolic stress during injury response.

Q2. Sir, I have just completed my BHMS and am working under a surgeon. My question is, in which conditions is "Nil By Mouth" ordered and why? How do we then administer homoeopathic medicines in such cases?

Dr DHEERAJ KINHIKAR (Pandhurna)

A2. Enteral or oral feeding is contraindicated in all patients suspected to have Peritonitis, Intestinal Obstruction, Intractable vomiting or severe diarrhoea, post surgical paralytic ileus and other abdominal pathologies or crisis. The basic reason is hypotension and haemodynamic instability due to any cause, is associated with decreased intestinal blood flow - what is termed, in physiological parlance, as shunting of blood from less to more vital organs. Thus there is low tolerance to any enteral feed inclusive of liquids. In these cases, till the emergency is over, total parenteral nutrition or nutrition by intravenous fluids is advocated. As far as administration of homoeopathic dilution is concerned, it may be rubbed on the skin of the patient ie on the lips or still better, 1 drop put below the tongue, but with the instructions that it should not be swallowed.

Q3. Recently I had attended a seminar and heard that in *Stramonium* " Desire for Light" can be inferred as "to gain further knowledge". How far is this connotation true? Please opine.

Dr SAPAN RASTOGI (Aurangabad)

A3. I am sorry. No such interpretation has any sanction from the Organon. *Stramonium* is not only indicated for < of vomiting and convulsions from sight of bright light (Ref Page 276 - Allens Keynotes) I think the term "light" must be restricted strictly in the colloquial sense and should not be stretched any further. "The *Stramonium* patient not only is worse in dark room but also better from bright light"

