

A Homœopathic dental prescribing aid by Elizabeth Adalian

This work is based on repertorization and differential materia medica which are explained where appropriate.

FACE

Paralysis of face from pain (Bell's palsy): *Kali chloricum* only remedy.

Trigeminal neuralgia (the pain can be so intense that it can lead to suicide): *Prunus spinosa*.

Sphingurus (affecting the cheekbone). This is not strictly a dental condition but can follow on from extraction of a tooth, especially a wisdom tooth. Pain, pressing cheek bones: *Verbascum* main remedy.

MOUTH

Breath offensive (of unknown origin): treat constitutionally – locate the seat of the problem.

Cancer: treat constitutionally.

Caries of the jaw (decay); this can be a symptom of osteomyelitis which can be a virulent infection with a severely ill patient: *Fluoric acid*, *Hekla lava*.

Caries of the lower jaw: *Staphysagria*.

Cracked lips (angular cheilitis): treat constitutionally.

Damage to nerves after a local injection or surgery: *Hypericum*.

Damage to soft tissue or pain at the site of the needle penetration following injection: *Ledum*.

Fistula, (an abnormal passage between two organs or between an organ cavity and outside): persistent bloody salty discharge: *Fluoric acid*.

Herpes: *Echinacea* 18 drops, diluted in a quarter cup of pure water, 4 times daily during the prodrome, active outbreak and recovery; can abort future attacks;

Natrum muriaticum sores blistering, puffy and burning, deep crack lower lip;

Rhus toxicodendron mouth and chin affected, ulcers at the corners of the mouth;

Rhus glabra is a very important remedy for herpes if *Rhus tox* is indicated but does not hold.

Inflammation follicular (sac-like) or ulcerative, 'Vincent's infection', acute ulcerative gingivitis:

Kali chloricum, acute gangrenous condition of the mouth (with possible foetor);

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Sulphuric acid, aphthae during protracted illness, especially in children with wasting illnesses, ulcers spread rapidly, gums bleed easily, offensive breath, compare *Mercurius solubilis*.

Lichen planus, characterized by a white lacy network especially on the cheeks, often associated with emotional disturbances, normally treated with steroids as it is a systemic disease: *Sulphur iodatum* specific remedy, give low potencies repeatedly.

Mercury poisoning: *Carbo vegetabilis*, *China officinalis*, *Hepar sulphuris calcareum*, *Hydrastis*, *Kali chloricum* use with caution topically (i.e. in mother tincture) as it is a poison.

MOUTH, PAIN

Pain on articulation (temporo-mandibular joint disease); main remedies: *Arum triphyllum* sprained pain in left articulation of jaw when chewing;

Causticum the patient finds it hard to open the mouth;

Rhus tox restless patient, better on motion after initial stiffness, jaws may crack on chewing, easy dislocation of the jaws, facial neuralgia with chilliness.

GUMS, PAIN

Pain in gums, after extraction of teeth: *Cantharis* pain worse after eating; *Fluoric acid* pain worse cold drinks, or better once drink becomes warm in the mouth.

Saliva increased: compare *Baryta carbonica*, *Mercurius solubilis*; *Plantago*, acrid foul taste from the roots of the teeth;

Hekla lava possible caries of the jaw bone, facial neuralgia;

Hyoscyamus violent pain with possible twitching of the facial muscles, nervous patients;

Hypericum facial neuralgia with lancinating pain along the nerves;

Nux vomica worse imbibing cold substances, better warmth, patient irritable, sensitive to pain, tearing pain extending to the head.

Pain, gums, corrosive, where tooth has been extracted: *Staphysagria*.

Pain, jaw bones: *Magnesia carbonica* worse rest, worse night (same modalities as *Mercurius solubilis*).

Rape (oral), treat constitutionally: *Staphysagria* is main remedy

Congested salivary glands: *Trifolium pratense*.

Salivation excessive: treat constitutionally.

Stomatitis, ulcerative (inflammation of the mouth):

Capsicum with foetid smell from the mouth;

Carbo vegetabilis teeth very sensitive when chewing. Gums retract and bleed easily, blood may ooze from the mouth when cleaning the teeth (pyorrhoea in weak patients);

Hyoscyamus (see above);

Kali chloricum often due to mercury poisoning – use cautiously in mother tincture as it is a poison;

Mercurius solubilis foetor, increased salivation (*Baryta carbonica*, *Plantago*), gums bleed on slight touch, tongue takes imprint of teeth, gums are retracted and swollen;

Nux vomica (see above);

Staphysagria (see above).

GUMS, SWELLING

Swelling, gums, around decayed teeth:

Anagallis with pain in facial muscles. Gums bleed and retract, salivation, foul taste (*Mercurius solubilis*);
Baryta carbonica gums bleed and retract, salivation, foul taste (*Mercurius solubilis*);
Calcarea sulphurica deeper acting than *Hepar*, use where pus has found a vent, discharges are yellow and thick;
Carbo vegetabilis (see above);
Cocculus pain in decayed teeth, only when eating;
Natrum muriaticum, confirm with general picture;
Phosphorus some haemorrhagic concomitant;
Sabina worse only when chewing.

Swelling, gums, after extraction of teeth:

Silica possible abscess at root of teeth. Worse cold water compare: *Gunpowder* which has a good record in such cases.

Swelling, lips (treat constitutionally).

Swelling, jaw bones:

Magnesia carbonica worse night, worse cold drinks.

Thrush:

Borax sore mouth of nursing infant, child cries when feeding, white fungus-like growth.; child worse downward motion;
Kali chloricum sore mouth of nursing infant, a more inflammatory condition than seen in *Borax*;
Mercurius solubilis (see above);
Sulphuric acid (see above).

Tumours (cysts) recurrent (even with surgery): go on the general picture: Benzoic acid, *Calcarea carbonica*, *Cantharis*, *Lycopodium*, *Natrum sulphuricum*, Nitric acid, *Silica*, *Staphysagria*.

TEETH

Teeth, abscess of root:

Ammonia carbonica pressing teeth together;
Baryta carbonica (see above);
Calcarea carbonica (see above);
Cantharis foetid smell from mouth, worse eating;
Causticum gums bleed easily, possible pain on articulation;
Hekla lava (see above);
HEPAR SULPHURIS gums and mouth exquisitely painful to touch, and bleed easily; ulcers on the gums and in the mouth, with a 'lardaceous' base; pain may extend to the ears; the patient is irritable and very chilly;
Lachesis pain left-sided or starts on the left side and transfers to the right side. Worse on waking, may extend to the ears, related to *Hepar*, but note that *Lachesis* is a warm patient;
Lycopodium pain better warm applications, worse 4 to 8 pm, and night, pain right-sided or starts on the right-sided and transfers to the left;
Mercurius solubilis glands swollen, radiating pain (only remedy, also see above for full picture);
Petroleum pain on closing the teeth, sore on chewing;
Phosphorus easy bleeding of gums;
Plumbum gums swollen, pale, distinct blue line along the margin of the gums;
PYROGEN restless patient, breath offensive (*Mercurius solubilis*), great pain, plus violent boring in the abscesses, abscesses may

affect the glands, abscesses recur (*Syphilinum*), chronic complaints that date back to septic conditions;
SILICA abscesses at root of teeth, worse cold water;
Sulphur for relapsing cases or to throw out a clearer picture to prescribe on; helps to clear out drugs;
Zincum metallicum.

Teeth black: *China officinalis*;

Fluoric acid early decay of teeth. (See above);
Kreosotum early decay of teeth, teeth crumble;
STAPHYSAGRIA early decay of teeth, teeth crumble, worse in pregnancy.

Teeth cupped or dwarfed in children:

SYPHILINUM constitutional blight, teeth pegged
Kreosotum serrated;
Medorrhinum.

Teeth decay, at edge of gums: *Syphilinum*, *Thuja* (see above).

Teeth decay in children: *Calcarea phosphorica* due to poor mineralization (tubercular constitution);
Kreosotum tubercular constitution;
Staphysagria can be tri-miasmatic constitution.

Teeth, decay, early: see Teeth, black (above).

Teeth decay in diabetes: *Sulphuric acid* (see above).

Teeth decay rapidly (where diet does not account for the severity): *Fluoric acid* (see above);
Kreosotum with spongy, bleeding gums, teeth dark and crumbling (*Staphysagria*), putrid odour and bitter taste;
Sepia worse pregnancy (*Staphysagria*)

Teeth decay at the roots: *Fluoric acid* (see above)

Mezereum teeth feel elongated (*Plantago*), worse eating
Thuja very sensitive teeth, gums retract.

Teeth, pain in decayed teeth: *Nux vomica* (see above)

Teeth, dentition difficult,² main remedies: *Chamomilla* rosy cheeks (circumscribed), irritable child, very sensitive to the pain, worse warm drinks, worse entering warm room, better cold applications possible swelling of sub-maxillary glands, possible convulsions a concomitant (*Cicuta*, *Cuprum*); give *Cina* in *Calcarea carbonica* type children with similar irritability;
Kreosotum child sleepless from the pain, poor teeth, decay on eruption (see above);
Physolacca child bites gums together;
Podophyllum dentition with diarrhoea, painless putrid stools; main focus in on the bowels;
Rheum dentition with sour-smelling diarrhoea;
Zincum metallicum restless children, who are weak, due to some former illness that has not been properly expressed.

Teeth, grinding (clenching) is often a tubercular condition so look to this miasm when choosing a remedy; it could also be a sign of tension so look to the underlying causes.

Tooth, fractured with 'hyperaemic pulp' i.e. where blood rushes to the area: *Concholinum* pain on exposure to extremes of temperature, tooth exquisitely sensitive (*Staphysagria*).

Enamel, deficiency of: *Calcarea fluorica*, *Fluoric acid* (see above), *Silica* due to poor mineralization

Gingivae hyperplastic: a condition seen in mouth breathers: treat the breathing problem.

GUMS

Gums, abscesses from decayed teeth: *Hekla lava* (see above).

Gums, injuries, bleeding after extraction: *Hamamelis* gums bleed easily, dark fluid.

Gum, injuries, lacerated after extraction: *Calendula* promotes healthy granulation and rapid healing by first intention; mouth-wash can be made up in tincture diluted with pure water; used locally as a rinse, held in the mouth as long as possible; *Echinacea* may be used in the same way, i.e. internally and as a mouthwash.

Gum, injuries, painful after extraction: *Hyoscyamus* (see above); *Hypericum* (see above); *Nux vomica* (see above).

Gum, injuries, bleeding from cavity after extraction: *Phosphorus* do not give in high potency initially in case lung pathology is stirred up; *Trillium* a safer bet in these cases!

Gum, after extraction of wisdom teeth, pain in wound, various localities in head and face, cannot eat or sleep: *Hekla lava*

JAW

Jaw, enlargement of lower near cavity, causing the cheek to bulge, after tooth extraction: *Hekla lava*.

Jaw, pain in upper, after extraction of molars, sore mouth, sensitive to touch: *Hekla lava*.

Teeth, loose: *Calcarea fluorica* with or without pain, teeth become loose in the sockets.

TEETH, PAIN

Pain, canine teeth: *Calcarea carbonica* (see above), *Nux vomica* (see above), *Sepia* worse pregnancy (see above), *Sulphuric acid* (see above).

Pain, constant in badly decayed teeth: *Plantago* neuralgic toothache, pains shoot through the side of the face (*Hypericum*), teeth sensitive and sore to touch, salivation (*Baryta carbonica*, *Mercurius solubilis*), teeth feel too long (*Mezereum*), worse cold air, worse contact, *toothache better while eating*, with possible reflex neuralgia of the eyelids; tincture also recommended locally; (good general remedy for neuralgic toothache where there are few indications)

Pain after extraction: *Arnica* use in moderation to avoid the dry socket syndrome, may be given prophylactically beforehand; *Staphysagria* (see above)

Pain after filling: *ARNICA* may also be given prophylactically beforehand; *Mercurius solubilis* (see above); *Mercurius iodatus flavus* it is specifically right sided with *Mercurius solubilis* indications; *NUX VOMICA* (see above); *Sepia*.

Pain in healthy teeth *Nux vomica* only remedy.

Pain in incisors: *Colchicum* worse cold and warmth (*Calcarea carbonica*); Sulphur.

Pain in molars: *Bryonia*; *Kreosotum* (see above); *Staphysagria* teeth very sensitive (see above)

Zincum metallicum worse teething (see above).

Pain in roots: *Magnesia carbonica* worse pregnancy, worse night, rest, *Staphysagria* (see above).

Teeth rough from tartar: patient tends to produce large amounts of supra-gingival calculus in the mouth: *Calcarea renalis* prevents tartar re-forming, *Fragaria*, *Mezereum*.

TEETH SENSITIVE

Teeth sensitive to air, (go on general indications): *Aconite*, *Belladonna*, *CALCAREA CARBONICA*, *NATRUM MURIATICUM*.

Teeth, sensitive, cannot bear dental operations; very nervous patients with dental phobia; prescribe in advance of their visit to the dentist and ensure they visit a sensitive dentist:

ANTIMONIUM CRUDUM worse touching teeth with the tongue, extremely irritable patient;

Conchiolinum (mother of pearl) is a wonderful remedy for teeth which are sensitive to touch; it also acts on the diathesis of the bone, it would therefore be well indicated to build teeth up after injury; if sensitive teeth were the main symptom, it would be a better remedy to give than *Staphysagria* as this is a deep-acting remedy and may stir things up if given without other indications *Fluoric acid* (see above);

Ignatia the reaction is out of proportion to the degree of suffering involved;

Magnesia carbonica (see above);

Staphysagria (see above).

Teeth, sensitive to cold water, go on general indications of the remedies, main remedies are: *Arsenicum album*; *Bryonia*; *CALCAREA CARBONICA*; *LACHESIS*; *Nux vomica*; *Silica*; *Staphysagria*; *Theridion*, also noise and vibration

Teeth sensitive to the least cold: *Carbo animalis* main remedy)

Wisdom teeth, ailments from eruption of: *Calcarea carbonica* (see above); *Chamomilla* (see above); *Cheiranthus* (specific remedy); *Fluoric acid* (see above); *Magnesia carbonica* main remedy, see above for indications; *Silica* (see above).

THROAT

Swallowing difficult: Treat constitutionally.

DISCUSSION

Always go on the general indications of the remedy to confirm. Give high doses in acute states where suppuration threatens. Remedies like *Calcarea fluorica*, *Calcarea renalis*, *Conchiolinum*, *Hekla lava*, *Kali chloricum*, and *Sulphur iodatum* work well in low doses with repetition

Fluoric acid is closely related to *Silica*. *Fluoric acid* is warm-blooded and is a more destructive remedy, being mainly syphilitic.

From this research I could extrapolate that *Nux vomica* is an important remedy for dental pain. However, the usual remedy that comes to mind is *Hepar sulphuris calcareum* (where *Nux vomica* may be indicated). Note the differentials as given above and go by the modalities.

Children with delayed teething or problems during dentition should be treated constitutionally.

Give a prophylactic 'antibiotic' for patients with heart

disease or prostheses (where legally necessary) such as *Calendula*, *Echinacea*, *Hydrastis* or *Pyrogen* (go on the indications). Also these remedies help avoid infection over the root canal (apicectomy). This decision should be at the discretion of the dentist.

Note that anorexia and bulimia nervosa can damage the teeth, treat constitutionally.

Ask patients to avoid the excessive consumption of grapefruits and lemons as they erode the enamel of the teeth (note this especially for *Medorrhinum* patients!).

In cases where the patient is mentally or physically handicapped and finds it hard to cooperate, treat constitutionally.

Advise the patients regarding vitamin deficiencies and appropriate supplements if the patient is under-nourished (to aid absorption). Make dietary suggestions.

EMOTIONAL ISSUES

If the patient presents with despondency and despair or grief, treat constitutionally. Also this applies if the patient has a poor self-image. Loss of teeth in itself may create great grief and despair; again treat constitutionally and even suggest counselling as this may be symptomatic of a more deep-seated problem. Much can be done to help stroke patients constitutionally to avoid dental problems. Counsel your patient if there is a feeling of abuse by a dentist in their childhood or with a former dentist (real or imagined). A patient with self-destructive behaviour and one who uses verbal abuse may have problems in the mouth and teeth, treat this constitutionally. This ties up with anorexia and bulimia.

REFERENCES

Repertories: Kent, Knerr, Künzli, Phatak.

Materia medica: Allen's *Handbook*, Boericke, Clarke, Phatak

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FOOTNOTES

1 Note the term *osteogenesis imperfecta* when teeth wear out on erupting (in infants). *Amylogenesis imperfecta* applies to the same condition. They are both hereditary diseases. In *osteogenesis imperfecta* the bones are also affected and there may be multiple spontaneous bone fractures and there may be blue sclerotics in the eye. *Amylogenesis imperfecta* is characterised by defective enamel and *osteogenesis imperfecta* by defective dentine but clinically both will present with worn down, pitted and discoloured teeth.

2 Note that teething problems are often a tubercular condition so the child may need *Calcarea carbonica*, *Phosphorus*, *Silica* or *Tuberculinum* constitutionally to eradicate the tendency.

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