

Surgical Remedies.

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Under a title, such as this, the whole homœopathic Materia Medica may be called into service, for if a cure may be made by the properly chosen remedy, no surgery will be necessary. On the other hand, if accident or pathology renders surgery imparative, certain remedies aid in preparing the patient for operation. Finally, when the successful operation restores the patient to a condition for recovery, another list of remedies becomes available to remove whatever symptoms remain and the more gently to aid in restoring the individual to perfect health. With this knowledge as a background, a review of the Materia Medica, from A to Z, furnishes the following outstanding remedies arranged in three groups.

GROUP I

The remedies here listed are those which, prescribed early, according to the symptoms shown by the individual patient, will so well remove the symptoms that the probability of a surgical operation is also removed.

REMEDY	LEADING symptoms	SURGICAL RELIEF, PROBABLE
<i>Abies nigra</i> <i>Nux vomica</i> <i>Pulsatilla</i>	A sense of weight or load, with sore pain.	A gastric ulcer.
<i>Aconitum nap.</i>	Early congestion in plethoric.	Beginning infection.
<i>Æsculus hip,</i> <i>Aloe</i> <i>Collinsonia</i>	Pain, dryness, pressure or bleeding in rectum.	Beginning hæmorrhoids.
<i>Aletris farinosa</i> <i>Cinnamon</i> <i>Trillium</i> <i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Relaxation of female pelvic organs with pain and severe hæmorrhages.	Curettage or hysterectomy.
<i>Alumina</i> <i>Opium</i>	Lack of proper bowel action, due to sluggish sensations.	Appendicitis, ptosis.

REMEDY	LEADING SYMPTOMS	SURGICAL RELIEF, PROBABLE.
<i>Argentum met.</i> <i>Argentum nit.</i>	Irritation at mucocutaneous outlets.	Ulcers.
<i>Allium. cepa</i> <i>Arsenicum iod.</i> <i>Camphora</i> <i>Gelsemium</i> <i>Natrum mur.</i> <i>Arum triphyllum.</i>	Acute coryzas, with sneezing, stuffed nose and general malaise.	Sinusitis, inflammation of antrum.
<i>Baryta carb.</i> <i>Baryta iodide</i>	Hypertrophied tonsils and adenoids.	Tonsillectomy.
<i>Belladonna</i> <i>Bryonia</i> <i>Phosphorus</i>	Acute to sub-acute inflammations, local or deep.	Appendicitis, pleurisy with effusion.
<i>Berberis vulg.</i> <i>Lycopodium</i> <i>Capsicum</i>	Kidney colic, due to calculi. Acute inflammation of nose, throat, Eustachian tube and mastoid bone.	Abscess of kidney or nephrectomy. Mastoiditis.
<i>Chimaphila</i> <i>Cerefolius</i> <i>Bryonia</i> <i>Belladonna</i> <i>Colocynth</i> <i>Dioscorea</i> <i>Echinacea</i> <i>Hepar sulph.</i> <i>Hecla lava</i> <i>Silica</i>	Hypertrophy of the prostate. Abdominal colic with or without fever.	Prostatectomy. Appendicitis.
<i>Merc. sol.</i> <i>Merc. viv.</i> <i>Merc. iod. flav.</i> <i>Merc. iod. rub.</i> <i>Psorinum</i>	General septicæmia, inflammations to pus formations.	Incisions, drainage, exploratory operations.
<i>Phytolacca</i>	Throat infections, leading towards quinsy.	Lancing of abscess.
<i>Spigelia</i>	Repeated tendency to quinsy. Acute mastitis, early chronic mastitis or lump. Left sided super orbital pain.	Tonsillectomy. Lancing abscess. Removal of breast.
		Resembles sinusitis.

In the case of an Italian woman, following an operation for probable tumor of the uterus, which resulted in a hysterectomy, she had a severe left sided pain, starting in the groin and going in waves to the left breast, several times in the day, and preventing sleep at night. She had back to the hospital for observation with no relief. She was given one dose of *Spigelia* 30th upon the one symptom, "left sided pain." When next seen she reported that the pain left with no return, thus preventing of secondary operation. This illustrates the strong affinity of *Spigelia* for left sided injury to nerves.

GROUP II

Here are found remedies whose action is to prepare the patient to meet his necessary operation with the greatest fortitude and put his system into the best possible condition to resist the shock of the anæsthetic and operation.

REMEDY	ITS USE OR SYMPTOM
<i>Aconitum nap.</i>	Plethoric, easily excited persons, full of fears as to the approaching operations.
<i>Belladonna</i>	
<i>Arsenicum alb.</i>	Weakness and exhaustion, with fear and trembling in dread of the ordeal; thirsty and perspiring.
<i>China off.</i>	
<i>Anacardium</i>	When the fear produces an anger, with swearing.
<i>Aurum mur. nat.</i>	Weak and fearful, no nerve, with tendency to run away.
<i>Coffea cruda</i>	The highly sensitive intellectual patient who cannot sleep from too acute hearing.
<i>Gelsemium</i> or <i>Ignatia</i>	For the nervous patient who is unable to prevent too frequent bowel or bladder evacuations.
<i>Glonoin</i>	An unusually high blood pressure, due to nervousness at the approaching operation, will be lessened.
<i>Phosphorus</i>	Given 6 to 12 hours before operation removes tendency to nausea and vomiting from the anæsthetic.

REMEDY	ITS USE OR SYMPTOM
<i>Pulsatilla</i>	This restores the weak, weeping female equilibrium.
<i>Zinc met.</i>	Helps the patient whose nervousness shows itself by restless feet.

GROUP III

As surgery is accomplished only by cutting bruising and tearing living tissue, much pain and suffering naturally results to the patients, so for his relief there will be found in this grouping those remedies whose symptomatology points to a relief of this discomfort to the patient. Also here will be found those remedies whose function is to remove the various after symptoms, such as gas pains nausea, cough and nerve pains, etc., which follow major operations.

REMEDY	ITS INDICATIONS OR SYMPTOMS
<i>Ammonium carb.</i> <i>Antimonium tart.</i> or <i>Aralia racemosa</i>	For the wheezy, loose, rattling cough which often follows an ether anæsthesia.
<i>Apis mellifica</i>	Is of great aid, if there is an inability to urinate.
<i>Arnica mont.</i> <i>Bellis perennis</i> <i>Bryonia</i> or <i>Rhus tox.</i>	These remedies come well into use for the bruising and injury to soft tissues: <i>Arn.</i> and <i>Bry.</i> for the more superficial muscle tissues; <i>Bellis</i> or <i>Rhus</i> for the deeper and more fibrous tissues.
<i>Cimicifuga</i> <i>Hypericum</i> <i>Spigelia</i> or <i>Symphytum</i>	This list helps in the restoration of damaged nerve tissues: <i>Cimic.</i> for intercostal nerves and muscle; <i>Hyper.</i> for injuries to nerves in the extremities; <i>Spig.</i> for injured left side nerve; <i>Symph.</i> for the pain of nerves in fractures and stumps.
<i>Arsenicum Alb.</i> <i>China off.</i> or <i>Causticum</i>	After the operation a general weakness and lack of reaction results and any of these remedies as per the type of patient, will turn the scale for the better.

Natrum mur.
Pulsatilla or
Sepia

Again a weakness and prostration but these remedies are prescribed more on the mental type of patient than upon his weakness, e. g., *Nat. mur.* for the retiring patient; *Puls.* for the mild blonde; *Sepia* for the sullen brunettes.

REMEDY

ITS USE OR SYMPTOM

Phosphorus
Ipecac or
Nux vomica

Some one of these follow, as soon as the patient recovers consciousness, to relieve the nausea and vomiting incident to the anæsthetic. *Phos.* if water is returned as soon as down; *Ip.* if constant nausea; *Nux.* if bilious vomiting.

Colocynthis
Dioscorea or
Lycopodium

For the gas pains these drugs save much suffering: *Colic.* if pains are relieved by pressure on abdomen; *Dios.* if pains are better by lying on stomach; *Lyc.* if there is much gas felt rolling in abdomen.

Berberis vulg.
Cantharis or
Triticum repens.

Often, due to toxicity or scanty fluids, the patient's urine burns or scalds. *Berb.* will relieve if sediment is present; if there is much burning with urinations, *Canth.* will sooth; *Trit.* has an irresistible desire with only a few drops passing.

Without doubt any or all of these remedies may fail in certain cases but no harm will follow a trial and ordinarily the result is excellent. To the surgeon of the old school, ignorant of the homœopathic law, morphine seems to offer the only sure relief from pain, but to those who have the advantage of such homœopathic knowledge the chosen remedy is a boon in allaying the suffering of his patient.

The Homœopathic Recorder.