

Palladium: A study of the Persona through cases

Abstract: *Palladium immediately conjures the image of Dr Skinner's famous cure of Right Ovarian Neuralgia of a young girl who wanted her sister to sit on her abdomen, so fierce was the pain. I wish to share with you certain common aspects of the Palladium persona that I encountered through these cases.*



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CASE 1

A tall, strikingly beautiful, smiling 18 yr old, with good eye contact and talking excitedly walked into the clinic on 16/8/06 for recurring Rt ovarian cyst since 4yrs. She had painful menses, Rt lower abdominal pain > pressure with occasional vomiting. 2 yrs ago a chocolate cyst 10 x 6 cm was laproscopically removed, currently one cyst 5 x 3 cm present. The pain can come on any day of menses and is always < before major exams despite having no exam fear and being academically good. The intensity of pain remains the same despite the laparoscopy. Menarche 12 yrs, 4/28 regular menses. She loved fresh, hot food, milk, avoided any kind of junk food and drank 4 liters of water daily as 'it is good for the skin'. She browsed the net for latest medical info, exercised 2 hrs a day and always carried an umbrella "for that flawless skin". She slept on her abdomen and always covered herself fully. Extremes of weather bothered her, she loved open air. Her Mother's siblings had Ca pancreas, intestines, blood; Father's sister had benign tumour in the breast; pt had measles as a child.

This extremely talented girl was performing Bharata Natyam since age 9, sang Carnatic classical music, wrote poetry, and was a good mimic, was doing BA in travel and tourism. This obedient girl was very popular helping the elderly, poor, children, classmates easily but had no close friends. She was hurt if ignored, never forgot it but would continue to interact with the person. She moved away from

arguments, never asked for anything, nor share anything. Very neat, orderly, would cry easily but only > by consolation by family who she was very close to. Her favourite stars were Aishwarya Rai and Brad Pitt and she wanted to be as world famous as the beautiful people she liked. Her ambition was to be a VJ (regular channel) after doing MBA. She feared reprimand, disease, ugliness. She loved to be flattered and be in the good books of all, so though she was a natural leader would give all a chance. She loved to go by the rules and was hardworking. Her family (parents + older br) migrated to Bahrain when she was a baby. The pushy M used to bring the children twice a yr during holidays and the pt would attend dance and music classes daily. They were a close knit family, strict in values but would always encourage the children in all activities.

The first time the ovarian pain started was when she heard of them all relocating to India 4 yrs ago. The pain always increased during her Board exams though she had no exam fear and aced the exams.

Phos was my first reaction (beautiful, graceful, talented) but where was that extra warmth? Then the choice was *Carc / Lyco / Plat* H/o Parental domination, fastidious, talented, sensitive to reprimand, ambitious, sleeps on abd, Desires milk, sweets, hot food, to dance..but where was the sadness either expressed or otherwise? She was far too happy yet the recurring ov



cyst suggested an internalization of her sensitivity to her environment.

Image conscious, rt ovarian cyst pain, desire sweets, hot food, aversion sun, fastidious, ambitious, desire flattery, loves to be famous but gives all a chance, not a showoff, no GI problems, no power issues so *Lyc* was ruled out.

Ambitious, proud, obsessed about good looks, creativity expressed within societal norms (classical dance, music and poetry), No sexual straying (wants to be VJ in reg TV channel not on MTV, careful talking to boys as family's acceptance important) wants the whole world to love her-helps the elderly, poor, classmates, children easily, though a natural leader gives all a chance, av beggars not due to haughtiness but from fear of ugliness and the ov pain was > pressure unlike *Plat* which is sensitive to touch, so not *Plat*.

I REPERTORISED the case using Robin Murphy's Repertory with the following rubrics

Desire hot food, sweets, milk. Aversion sun and fried food.

A/f bad news, des flattery, des to be famous, crying easily > consolation, sympathetic, fastidious, forgets never insults, fear of reprimand, diseases, ugliness.

Rt ovarian cyst, enlarged rt ovary, rt ovary pain > pressure.

Palladium was staring at me. *Palladium* 30 3 doses, SL 1 mth, *Mag-phos* 6x as SOS pain

FU: 1mth Menses normal, no pain, covers according to weather, stopped obsessing about health, cyst same. SL for 1 mth.

FU: 1mth Pain free menses, cyst smaller, occasionally eats pizza with friends, stopped carrying umbrella all the time. SL for 1mth.

FU: 1mth Pain free menses, Cyst < 1cm. SL for 1mth.

CASE 2

A good looking, 34yr old mother of two came for Alopecia Areata since age 16 with male pattern baldness. She used expensive, foreign masking material to hide it effectively.

he had ASSOCIATED COMPLAINTS of Sinusitis, Chronic

hoarse voice < cold air/ drink; Headache < anxiety, MB > sleep; Dysmenorrhea > heat, movement, pressure; recurring Vaginal itch.

Nothing significant in PHYSICAL GENERALS.

F/H: DM and HT on both sides

This friendly, charming, talented lady was a popular TV actress and talk show host. She could sing, dance, read voraciously both English and Tamil literature. She was gentle, yielding, hated quarrels and feared ridicule. She cried easily > consolation only by H. Regular yoga, gym and healthy eating were important in her life. She was concerned about the marginalized and wanted to be famous by making TV films on destitute women and telecasting them on as many channels as possible. The Alopecia started when she ended a relationship with a close cousin

There were many disappointments in her life....when she heard from an aunt that cousins don't marry, she quietly cut off the relationship she had with a close cousin at 15 yrs. At 19 she got married to her classmate and quit college...still regrets not having studied further. She moved in with her in-laws-a large, orthodox, business family living in the distant suburbs, totally housebound. Started a beauty parlour with a sister in law but diplomatically quit due to differences of business vision, still friendly with SIL. Persuaded H to move to the city, joined the radio station, quit as boss was overbearing, still popular with all there. Started acting in TV serials, no villain roles, always informed the extended family about all roles, never went for outstation shoots for more than 4 days a month, cooperated well with the unit yet quit a serial midway as found the lead actor was obnoxious to her. Never mentioned it to anyone except H. Is happy doing talk shows esp with the marginalised.

I tried all the disappointment/ dysmenorrhea/ alopecia remedies. Nothing helped the hair growth and dysmenorrhea. Only the associated complaints got better. Then one day she said that she wanted to be world famous but everybody should love her and she could not understand why she needed ap-

proval and flattery always. I was preparing for this *Palladium* paper and suddenly I knew she was *Palladium*. Allen did mention under face, diminished growth of beard....Rx *Palladium* 200 3P. SL 1 mth. FU: 1 mth Hair had restarted growing albiet sparsely for the first time in years, the dysmenorrhea was not so intense. She has been on SL since then and the improvement seems gradually coming.

The common strands of *Palladium* persona that I saw with these cases were:

- Pleasant, multitalented, sensitive
- Obsessed with good looks
- Sexually inclined but never strays
- Must be in good books of all
- Shares limelight easily
- Media—choice of occupation
- Timid by choice not a coward
- Cries easily >consolation only by family
- A/F bad news

Looking up Kent's Repertory, Desires flattery, other's good opinion are the unique mind symptoms. Delusion neglected/ not appreciated/ thinks he is insulted; A/f mortification; ego, dissatisfied with everything, desire company, alone while <, are the other 3,2 marks common symptoms. These symptoms have no basis at all, reinforcing an increased sensitivity due to high ego. So they try to do everything well in order to get into the good books of others to become, VISHWAPRIYA The darling of the world.

PALLADIUM SOME COMPARISONS with some leading remedies that also have an ovario-uterian base for their symptom complex.

Platina –Excessive sensitivity of the genitals; dysmenorrhea; ovaritis with burning pain; excessive sexual desire with tendency to masturbation/ nymphomania; sterility; uterus prolapse/fibroid/Ca; < touch, coition, menses during

Lachesis—Uterus/ovarian pain; It ovaritis/ tumour/ suppuration; disease goes It to rt; > menses flow < least pressure (even clothing)

Helonias –Heavy, sore uterus; tiredness; constant backache; prolapse uterus < after miscarriage

Argentum-m et—Ov cyst ; It ov feels enormous; prolapsed ut; bruised pain< jar

Lilium-tig – Left ovarian sharp pain extending to breast/ thigh; uterus bearing down pain with urge to stool/ urine, >rest, external support < standing.

Apis – Right ovarian cyst/ swelling; stinging, burning ov/ ut pain; ov pain< coition.

Podo—Right ovarian cyst, pain extending to shoulder; uterus prolapse after delivery/ overstrain.

Sepia—Uterus bearing down pain> crossing limbs; ball sensation in uterus/ vagina.

PALLADIUM OVARIAN/ UTERINE SYMPTOMS

SENSATION OF UTERUS BEARING DOWN

Menses during and after, pain < standing/ moving, > rubbing/lying/pressure maybe associated with feeling of uterine prolapse/headaches and nausea/ glairy mucus in throat or vagina/soreness right abdomen with pains shooting down rt thigh

Pains change in different parts with great lassitude, cold hands and feet

Leucorrhoea: Jelly like/glairy menses before or after with heaviness of uterus

Uterus, cutting pain with urge to stool/urine, > after stool/ urine

Uterus displacement with constant pain in back, hips and cold extremities

Menstrual discharge while nursing

Rt nipple area, stitching pain running deep inside, < deep breathing, > walking in open air

Rt ovary, swelling and induration; neuralgia shooting pains and soreness downwards or navel to breasts which seem heavy

PALLADIUM VISHWAPRIYA

- Pride Easily Wounded; Feels Neglected
- Ailments From Bad News
- Longs For Other's Good Opinion, It Is Imp
- Lots Of Excitement During Party < After
- Awful Right Ovary Pain > Pressure / Rubbing
- Desire Company, < Alone; Weepy; Occasional Foul Language
- Intense Pain Across Head From Ear To Ear
- Uterine Bearing Down Pain; Glairy Mucus
- Much better after sleep/ stool; > open air

The Follow up said the patient was much better.