

REMEDIES IN INFANTILE PARALYSIS*

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RHUS TOX.

Stiffness in limbs. Dragging gait. Paralysis of rheumatic origin or brought on by getting wet or from exposure to any form of dampness. The patient is chilly. < uncovering. Restlessness is noticeable.

DULCAMARA

Similar in many respects to *Rhus*. Simple paralysis of lower extremities or a beginning paralysis < damp weather or caused by lying on damp ground. These effects from damp cold are to be distinguished from effects of dry cold as in *Aconite*. *Rhus* is better adapted to chronic cases. The paralysis of single parts with < at night and during rest, > by motion, further characterize. *Rhododendron* may simulate from catching cold.

COCCULUS

Paralysis of lower extremities from cold, especially recent cases with pain in paralyzed part. Hysterical paralysis. There may be paralysis of one side with numbness on the other. The *Cocculus* paralysis is one-sided from small of back downward (bladder, rectum, legs). Spinal weakness < lumber region, < walking. One-sided paraplegias. Clumsy gait, knees weak (*Bry. Chin., Gels., Lach., Nat.m., Sepia, Staph.*). Anxiety cold air. Motion < motion of boat, car, carriage <. < eating during menses. Sensitive to cold. Headache occiput to spine, < lying on back of head.

Cocculus affects the cerebro-spinal axis, occiput, lumbar muscles and sensorium. Great lassitude of whole body. Requires

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exertion to stand firmly. Cannot bear contradiction. Every trifle angers. Speaks harshly (*Anac.*). Compare *Nux vom.* and *Ignatia* in paralytic symptoms.

NATRUM MUR.

Paralysis from cold. Paralysis after anger or grief. Great sensitiveness between vertebrae, > lying on something hard. (*Sulph.* and *Physos.* <.) Morning <, vision clouded. Restlessness and debility. Numbness and tingling in extremities, especially fingers and toes. Shortening of muscles. Hamstrings seem short. Painful contractions. Better open air and sweating. < periodically, 9-11 a.m. ; with the sun ; after menses ; alternate days ; heat of sun ; summer ; dampness ; violent emotion or sympathy.

GELSEMIUM

Complete motor paralysis, functional rather than organic, especially affecting brain, cord, motor nerves m.m. *Ge/s.* affects right side frequently. < emotions, dreams, surprise, [shock. Aching, tired, heavy, weak, sore. Tremor or twitches of single muscles. Incoordination. Symptoms with vertigo or drowsiness. Confused, dazed, answers slowly. Dread of falling. Thirstless. Weak knees (*Chin., Cocc., Lach., Nat.m., Nit.ac., Sep., Staph.*) < descending. Tottering gait, can't direct legs. Chilly ache with languor (*Sil.*) mingled or alternating with heat.

BELLIS PERENNIS

Bruised soreness. Left side. Aching, squeezed or throbbing pain. < becoming chilled when hot. > continued motion.

BAPTISIA

Sore aching muscles with marked prostration. Bed too hard. Sense of duality. Besotted, stupid. Aversion to mental exertion, indisposed or lacking power to think. Indifference, stupor, falls asleep when spoken to, or in midst of answer. Parts rested or feel sore and bruised. Compare with *Arn., Ars., Bry., Ge/s.*, in early stages of fever with malaise, flushed face, drowsiness and muscular soreness.

ZINCUM

Increasing weakness, with restlessness. Tremor nightly ; aching, spasm. Descending paralysis. Vertigo ; stupor. Occipital pain dragging down back. Weak legs. Nape of neck tired, < mental exertion. Spine aching, burning along it, sensitive. Lumbar weakness < standing. Can't keep feet and legs still. Stumbling (*Nat.c.*).

FERRUM PHOS.

Passive congestion and weakness. Pulse : full, soft, flowing (*Gels., Syph., Verat. v.*). Bruised soreness. Cerebral irritation. Jerking limbs, drowsiness, chill *with desire to scratch*.

PYROGEN

Sore, bruised, prostrate yet restless. Bed seems hard (*Arn.*). Duality (*Bapt.*). Headache violent, throbbing. Pulse and temperature variation.

BELLADONNA

Sudden violent onset. Dryness. Redness ; pain throbbing, sharp, cutting, shooting. Jerks, spasms ; jerks during sleep. Twitchings. Excitement. Restless delirium. Back feels broken (*Lyc., Nat.m., Phns.*). Hot head with cold limbs.

NUX VOMICA

Paralysis of lower extremities with contractive sensation and heaviness in limbs. Sudden loss of power of limbs in a.m. Spinal irritation from sexual excesses. Cerebro-spinal axis, nerves, digestive and respiratory organs affected : aggravated reflexes. Twistings, jerks, spasms. Angry, impatient, can't stand pain (*Cham.*). Lumbar ache as if breaking (*Lyc., Nat.m.*). Must raise up to turn over (*Bry.*). Tense cramps in calves. (*Jatropha* has violent cramps that draw calves flat.) (*Jatropha* also has loud gurgle, stool sounding like water from a bunghole, with profuse gushing ; with icy coldness in lower limbs.). *Nux* is easily chilled ; can't uncover, < by motion. < slight causes—anger, noise, odor, light touch ; pressure of clothes ; mental fatigue, exertion or vexation.

ARNICA

Sore, lame, bruised feeling all through body, as if beaten. Tremors ; can't bear pain. Everything lain on is too hard. Looks for a soft place. The parts rested on feel sore and bruised (*Bapt.*, *Pyr.*). Must constantly move to obtain relief from pain (*Rhus*). Unconscious when spoken to or falls asleep in midst of a sentence (*Bapt.*). Paralysis usually left-sided.

BRYONIA

Affects motor apparatus, nerves and muscles. Bursting, splitting or crushing headache. Complains in warm weather after cold days ; after taking cold or getting hot in summer ; from chilliness after overheating ; exposure to draft or cold wind. < motion ; > rest, physical or mental. Thirst. Child dislikes to be carried or raised.

OPIUM

Insensibility and partial or complete paralysis. May come on after fright or bad news. All complaints with great sopor ; painless : wants nothing. Heavy, stupid.

SEPIA

Aggravated cold air, wet, north wind, sexual excesses. > violent motion, warmth, cold drinks. Don't overlook paralysis dependent on menstrual difficulties. Lumbar paralysis (*Cocc.*, *Kali c.*) wants it pressed (*Dulc.*, *Klai c.*, *Nat.m.*, *Rhus*). Weak knees.

LACHESIS

No remedy more profoundly affects the nervous system. (Cf. all venoms and spider poisons.) Trembling from extreme weakness (*Gels.*) but with faintness (unlike *Gels.*). Great mental and physical prostration, < by sleep. May go on to left-sided paralysis, frequently from cerebral exhaustion.

PLATINA

Numbness and sensation of stiffness of many parts, mostly associated with coldness, fright, grief or anger. Dull stinging pains press inwardly.

ACONITE

Restlessness ; heat ; despair. Numbness, tingling (*Cann.i.* and *Staph.* have tingling). < exposure to cold dry wind (*Rhus, Caust., Sulph.*). Doesn't want to be touched.

STRAMONIUM

Unilateral paralysis with twitching. Dreads darkness.

KALI PHOS

Paralysis from spinal irritation, one side. < slight excitement, worry, mental fatigue. Pain < cold. > sleep, eating, gentle motion (*Puls., Ferr.*). Prickly hands and feet, numbness of fingertips. Sad, worn look. Nervous, weak, easily fagged by pain, etc.

ARGENTUM NITRICUM

Cerebral spinal nerves. Violent pains like deep sticking splinters. Faltering in speech and gait. Craves sugar which < . Flatulence. Weak spine, trembling limbs. Weakness, rigidity or twisting in calves. < emotions, anxiety or suspense. > cool air, hard pressure and motion.

STANNUM

Paralytic heaviness (*Gels.*). Extreme weakness ; flops ; can't even talk. Neuralgia, cramps, spasms hysteria. Anxious, nervous, sad. < before menses. Weak, discouraged.

HYOSCYAMUS

Brain and nerves, congested nerve center. Spasms, tremor, jerks, cramps or active mania.

RUTA

Bruised aching. Restlessness, painful weariness and heaviness. Affects fibrous tissues. Flexor tendons, sprains. Thighs feel broken. Weak, bruised feeling in small of back, hips or lower limbs, in a.m. Stumbles easily (*Con., Nat.c., Plat.*). Lumbago, < cold air, wind, damp, wet : < lying or sitting ; > on back or warmth and motion.

SECALE

Cramps in hands, legs, feet. Fingers spread (*Lac c., Lyc.*) ; bent backward or clenched ; look water-soaked. Externally icy cold but burning hot internally. Objects to being covered, especially the abdomen. Numbness with insufferable tingling, crawling or twitching, gnawing or cramping, with stiffness in single parts starting in face or back (*Nux*), limbs, fingertips. > by forcible extension, < warmth, during, menses. > cold, bathing or uncovering. Drawing, tearing in limbs, with tingling numbness. Convulsive twitchings, < at night.

CAUSTICUM

Weakness (characteristic of the potash salts). Increasing uncertainty of control, finally stumbling. Paralysis of single parts. Contracted tendons, especially palms (*Nat.m.*) and hamstrings. Cramps of calves, feet or toes. Paralysis from cold wind or draft. Patient improved for a time, then at a standstill (*Psor., Sulph.*). Faint feeling or sinking strength with trembling (*Gels.*) going on to gradually appearing paralysis. Mood : melancholy, sandness, hopelessness, sees the dark side ; or anxious, irritable, hysterical. Remember in chronic rheumatism and paralysis, pains apt to be drawing and tearing. < open air ; > bed. Note especially *contraction of Flexors.*

PHOSPHORUS

Produces softening of atrophy with attendant symptoms, such as prostration, trembling, numbness and complete paralysis. Both in acute and chronic forms of disease. Over-sensitiveness of all senses with fidgeting, < external impressions, light, odor, noise, touch ; and later when organic changes have occurred loss of motion, sensation and sensitiveness. Anxious, restlessness from irritation of brain and nervous system ; organic changes to apathy, sluggishness, indifference. Paralysis from fatty degeneration of nerve cells. Progressive spinal paralysis. From drain of sexual excess (*Nux, Nat. m.*). Functional paralysis from fatigue.

PLUMBUM

Localized paralysis. Paralysis with atrophy. Wrist drop. Paralysis of extensors, < motion. More of upper extremities from

sclerosis or fatty degeneration. Paralysis with contractions. Tremor followed by paralysis. Hyperaesthesia of well side. Retracted abdomen. Pains in limbs, < night, > rubbing. Twitching with paralysis.

CUPRUM

Similar to *Plumbum* in many paralytic conditions, but more cramping. Periodically and in groups. Cramps of extremities, with great weariness of limbs.

ALUMINA

Paralysis of lower extremities, especially of spinal origin. Legs so heavy patient can scarcely drag. Weariness even when sitting.

THUJA

Atrophy of long muscles. Hips give way. Limbs feel paralyzed.

CONIUM

Nerves and muscles affected. Irregular action, going on to progressive debility. Trembling. Old look, associated with paralysis. Vertigo on lying or turning over.

SILICA

Exaggerated reflexes. Keenly sensitive to noise, pain, or cold; chilly, < by cold changes; air draft; dampness. After checked perspiration. Sensitive to nervous excitement, light, noise, jarring spine.

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