

Placenta Humanum (Welsh)

By Linda Gwillim



Some cultures revere the human placenta as a ceremonial symbol, carrying the spirit and binding the newborn with its ancestors, or as an immune-boosting medicine, to eat. Having attended many births and seen most of the placentas unceremoniously disposed of in bin-liners, Linda Gwillim, sure that this 'life-support machine' would make a great remedy, set about conducting a proving

The proving took place in October 1999 and was proven at the 40th potency, representing the 40 weeks of pregnancy. There were 16 provers, two of whom were given placebo. The methodology followed was Hahnemannian, as laid out by Sherr. The word 'Welsh' was incorporated as a request from Helios to identify the remedy, because there were other 'placenta remedies' in stock, none of which had been proven.

Summary Of The Physical Symptoms

It was amazing to see just how many of the physical symptoms could be related to the foetus and birth – the head, heart and extremities being the main focal points for the physical symptoms. The main sensation was that of constriction and pressure. The most striking physical symptoms were as follows:

A sensation of pressure in the head.
Heightened senses, in particular the vision and the hearing. This was marked and provers talked about the intensity of colour and depth of vision and sensitivity to noise.
A decreased appetite but with a particular craving for sweet food. An increased thirst.
Lots of female symptoms around menstruation and ovulation.
Palpitation and accelerated heart beat with a sensation of constriction in the chest.
Lots of symptoms in the extremities: pins and needles and numbness.
Very sleepy in the day and needing to 'catnap'.
Craving and better for fresh air.
Feeling cold and craving warmth.

Stages Of The Journey

On writing up the repertory section it became apparent that what could not be seen was the *process*. This proving definitely reflected a journey of some kind for practically everybody involved with it. Within this journey there seemed to be five main different stages:

Calmness

A great feeling of calmness was experienced by most of the provers around the time of taking the remedy and for a few days afterwards.

Indifference

The majority of provers then went into a state of indifference. They became convinced that they must have had the placebo, that the proving was not worth bothering with, or that they themselves were not valid. Most supervisors complained about how hard it was to get their provers to phone them to relate their symptoms. Provers felt disconnected, separate and undervalued. (Is not the placenta the most undervalued organ?) This lasted for approximately a week.

Nostalgia

This was very marked, with provers looking back and taking account of who they were and what the meaning of their life had been. In particular they were looking at their family relationships, both in the past and now in the present. This stage happened approximately during the second and third week of the proving.

The Main Journey

During approximately the next two weeks, the provers then went one of two ways:

1. Going with the flow and acknowledging the process.
2. Resisting the journey and having an intensification of symptoms.

Recognition Of Self

This came more easily to those who put up the least resistance and happened much quicker. For those who resisted, the journey was harder and longer but nevertheless, seemingly as rewarding.

At a meeting of the provers, when the remedy was announced, there was seen to be a correlation between the experience of the provers during their time in the womb and during birth to their experience with *Placenta*. Provers whose pregnancies/births had been more traumatic, seemed to have a more difficult time during the proving, with the resolution taking longer.

Themes

Prior to the proving it was very easy to speculate what *Placenta* in potency might be capable of doing. I hypothesised about post-natal depression, mothers failing to bond with newborns, reproductive disorders.

issues around nourishment, connection and separation, and autism. I imagined the remedy would be helpful in cases of autism because of the 'connection and separation' via the umbilicus, but also because there is something about the many autistic children that I treat where they appear not to have fully arrived in this world and, as the aborigines and many African tribes believe, my feeling is that the placenta is the carrier of the spirit. I will explain more of this below, when writing about 'pre-miasmatic remedies'. What became apparent after months of studying, supervising, proving and insight was that the remedy is more powerful and goes deeper than we expected.

Each prover and supervisor experienced the remedy differently. Their experiences were not uniform and, in many cases, the remedy magnified what was unique to the prover and their situation.

However, certain themes occurred again and again, sometimes appearing in physical, mental or emotional symptoms, sometimes revealing themselves in dreams. So, these are the themes that appeared. I have illustrated them with the symptoms recorded by the provers.

Colour

Colour as a theme often comes up in provings. In the *Placenta* proving this was manifested mainly by the attraction to the colour burgundy. Many people involved with the proving bought burgundy clothes and bedding, painted walls burgundy and had gifts that were burgundy colour. I travelled to Helios pharmacy in a burgundy van and succussed the remedy on a burgundy-covered book! It is also interesting to note that burgundy is the colour formed by mixing the colours red and violet: the colours of the base and crown chakras.

Separation and Connection

Keywords: indifference, boundaries, 'spaciness', letting go, disconnection, outsider, detached, confusion, control, distanced.

Feeling of suspended animation. (003)

Separation – indifference to son – sent him to live with his father. Time to let go and accept it. A desire and reluctance to sever the connection of relationships. I felt estranged from all other friends – remote and retreating. (004)

I feel as if I'm on an iceberg floating away from mum. I feel an outsider to the family, as if I'm a bird being pushed out of the nest. I'm on a rope bridge from girlhood to womanhood – I've got to make things right for myself. (008)

Disconnected with anxiety in the solar plexus. I'm unable to control my environment. (009)

Detached – feeling air around me – especially head and face. I'm calm, almost to the point of no reaction. It feels like I don't exist, I don't have a life in my own right. (010)

Feeling distant and spaced out, withdrawn into my headspace, no normal sense of time

Delayed answering due to confusion, distance interrupting communication – as if behind a screen. (011)

Spacey rushes, heightened senses, everything an effort to focus and engage brain, as if on drugs. (016)

Dreams of not being needed and feeling excluded, on the outside. (002)

Dreams of first cell division at conception. (004)

Dreams of gates and fences blocked off and hard to get through. (010)

Relationships and Family Issues

Keywords: Protection, mother, children, love, support, nurture, irritability, remembering, nostalgia.

Sense of loving relationship with children. Feel rich in love, children, lover and friends. Feel well loved and supported by parents, feels blessed and nurtured. (001)

More caring for daughter than normal when she is upset. (002)

More attentive and protective towards children, clearer and firmer. Childhood memories of childhood and of children when small, nice and not so nice. Good relationship with mother. (004) (NS)

A lot of emotion resurfaced regarding relationship with family. Family relations on mind – looking back on life with great clarity and realise why I am walking the path that I am on. (008)

Aversion to physical contact with son – need more space – claustrophobia. Short tempered and irritated – slapped son – upset, I don't do that. (011)

More angry with children. (014)

Dreams of mother love and other love – different qualities. (001)

Dreams of dead father – miss the happy family. (004)

Dreams of children, atmosphere of confusion. (005)

Dreams of sister and grandchildren, dying of cancer. (007)

Dreams of looking for somewhere to live – had to be big and clean because of children who were still small. (010)

Dreamt of breast-feeding son. Dreams of father (unusual). (011)

Dreams of playing with children in sea. Dreams of parents. (016)

Pregnancy

There were symptoms that seemed to be specifically linked to placentas, pregnancy and babies. These were not just confined to one or two provers but were experienced by most of them. They appeared on different levels – delusions, dreams and physical sensations.

Desire curl up in a ball and go to sleep. Feeling of suspended animation. (003)

Broody. Remembered miscarriages. Looking for primeval power like that when pushing baby's head out. (004)

Delusion breasts swollen as if pregnant. (005)

Tearful on talking about babies. (008)

Feeling of everything being close – all around me – world has suddenly got smaller. (010)

Delusion of darkness – go to turn the lights on but are on already. (011)

Gasp and crying like a baby. (013)

Delusion being left to drown – sensation of being underwater.

Delusion feels fat as if pregnant. (016)

Dreamt pregnant with around 15 babies. Could feel them moving. (002)

Dreams in a cave and knowing the way out. (003)

Dreams producing milk for someone else's baby – breasts full of milk leaking, proud of them, jutting them out. Dreamt of first cell division at conception. (004)

Dreams of breasts being larger. (005)

Dreams of breast-feeding son. (011)

Dreams of babies and being pregnant. Dreams of water. (016)

Lower abdomen sore as if a big pregnant belly > sitting with legs wide apart. Cramps in abdomen tearing apart sensation as when 28 weeks pregnant and hernia. Razor-like lengths inside belly as if sterilisation clips had broken free – desire to reverse operation – urge to reproduce. Menses delayed. Sensation breasts filling with milk.

Strong feeling of pregnancy – baby moving around in belly. Let down reflex, desire to have nipples sucked. Lower backache – [osteopath said felt as if she'd just had a baby]. (004)

Skin and hair growing similar to pregnancy. (008)

Resurfacing and Sorting Out Of Old Issues

In many ways I could have grouped this theme with the strengthening of the individual and personal journey theme which follows, but some of the feelings were so specific and strong I have made them a theme in their own right.

Keywords: reviewing, regret, change, resentment, realisation, release, inheritance.

Anger towards husband – unfinished business. (001)
Sorting out trouble where trouble is due and not putting up with things. (004)

A lot of emotion resurfaced regarding my relationship with family. Great sense of anger and resentment and loss – horrible issues buried in the seabed have risen up. Negativity of past looked at in a constructive way – reviewing the past. Feeling the release of many ropes and chains, experiencing spiritual release from the bodies that have contained my essential self for so long. As if life strength given back. (008)

Galvanised to make positive changes to house – to sort out long-standing problems. (009)

Despair and frustration at my lack of power to put things right. Tears for things done wrong. I wish I were a better person. More aware of self – acknowledged things from past. (010)

Don't have to carry root of sadness anymore – I feel a lot lighter. (013)

Dreams regarding ex-partner – sign of a chapter ending. (008)

Dreams of finding the solution. Dreams of sorting things out – woke feeling refreshed and positive. Dream of getting rid of old furniture that doesn't fit and I have inherited. (010)

Dreams, I am wrong, inferior, small, childish, late, last, stupid. Realisation of who I am – willing to go into it. (013)

Personal Journey and Strengthening of the Individual

Keywords: realisation, awareness, recognition, re-awakening, purpose, strengthening, individual, potential, acceptance.

A number of proverbs felt a reawakening of original potential and purpose and a strengthening of what was personal and individual to them. This involved a lot of clearing out. Clearing out a lifetime's worth of junk; resolving old issues; curing of chronic symptoms; feeling 'a great letting go and cutting the ties.' It also involved the recognition of individual needs and a desire to address them. In some proverbs this reawakening took the form of a 'flooding back' of old memories.

Photos of self as a child photocopied – liked the child in them. (002)

Thought 'I must retrieve my spirit'. (003)

Time for and opening self up to change. Feeling of freedom, choice and development.

Recognising own needs, making what I am creating more valid, and seeing what is good for me. I'm sorting out trouble where trouble is due. Generally more resolved and strengthened. An urge to go boldly. I feel a survivor rather than a victim. I felt so much myself I thought I might die. (004)

As if life strength given back and someone had switched the light on. (008)

Regret for what I had done and not done, for what I have turned myself into, for everything I have wasted. I have never allowed myself to look back and wonder 'if only'. I'm aware of all the people who have travelled the road before me. I'm mentally more aware of self – my life, my role, my purpose, my own wants and needs. It has taken many years to build myself into the person who could cope with

the life I have to lead – the proving has blown all that apart. I'm back to when I was myself and when I could be myself. (010)

Increased self-awareness. (011)

Acceptance of self. (016)

Dreams of finding the answer, solving the problem. (010)

Dreams, realisation of who I am. (013)

Prover (010) wrote a story, on day 16 of the proving, that we feel sums up the feeling and themes of Placenta and should therefore be included in more detail:

My grandmother lived in a row of shops, a toy shop called 'The Bazaar', Mr Kelly the butcher, a green grocer, and 'Nesta Lamey Ladies Hairdresser'. Nesta Lamey's salon was an amazing place in the two front rooms of my grandmother's house. When you opened the door to peep at the glamorous ladies, it smelled wonderful.

I was a plain brown child and I was swept off my feet by this kaleidoscope of glamour behind the frosted glass door.

When you closed the door of 'the shop' behind you, the hall was silent. Beyond the archway with its mouldings and up three steps was nanny's room behind the shop. It was a plain brown room and I loved it. I fitted. The chairs and the table by the window were just the right height. It was always big enough for what you wanted to do on it, and its covering (of something between a blanket and a carpet) made it very comfortable. It was always warm in this room. There was always something good to eat and no disturbances. It was perfect. Everything about this room was soft and comforting, it was all exactly right. Nothing went wrong in this room, even when 'Grampy Smart' died – he wasn't there any more but his mandolin was still by his chair.

There were four storeys to the house and each storey had rooms at different levels. It was like the whole world in one place with my pretty grandmother to translate it into images that I could understand.

I didn't go to the kitchen very often, Nanny said it was too cold down there so I stayed in the soft brown room, sometimes with a new three-penny toy from 'The Bazaar' but mostly just fitting in to the life that was there. I knew I was lucky to have all of this.

The front bedroom had a dressing table with three mirrors. You could see the bedroom in lots of different ways if you looked in the mirrors. It was quite different from the soft room downstairs. Why do mirrors mean so much? Do we need to see things to know they are real? Does another person's reflection beside yours in a mirror mean that the connection between you is made somewhere else as well as here and now?

There was this most delicate, most beautiful figure of a young lady in Edwardian dress. With gold decoration, a book open on her lap, sitting elegantly with one foot peeping out from under her long dress, long fingers, long neck and the sweetest, tenderest expression on her face. I know her in such detail because she's mine. She came to me when nanny died so that I'd always remember that things were perfect once.

Clinical Usage Of Placenta

Placenta has been used widely over the past four years and what follows is a summary of the symptoms it has been a useful remedy for:

Dysmenorrhoea. Irregular menstruation
Infertility
Weakness of placenta during pregnancy
Miscarriage
Placenta praevia
Retained placenta
Pre-term babies / babies who are induced
Babies who are not bonding with their mothers and refuse breast milk
Eating disorders
Post-vaccine damage
Respiratory problems
Autism / Asperger's
Allergies
Deep, old grief

Case One

Female, aged 50, suffering from breast cancer. She had done well on *Calcarea carbonica* and *Carcinosin* in the past, but it was when she started to talk about her soft pink belly and having to go back to the womb to discover who she was and why she had cancer that I began to think of *Placenta* for her. A month after a single dose of *Placenta 40* she bounced into my consulting room telling me that she had found herself. She has now gone abroad to write a book about her experiences, in remission from her cancer.

Case Two

Another case which used 'Placenta language': a female who talked about going back to a time before speech, to a place between two worlds. She talked about 'chewed string' (umbilical cord) and a feeling of disconnection in the territory of the mother. This patient suffered from an enlarged heart and chronic breathing problems and has responded well to the remedy.

Case Three

A female patient, who had previously been responding well to *Staphysagria*, reported the following after having taken *Placenta 40*. (Remedy self-prescribed after hearing about *Placenta*). A lot of symptoms came and went very quickly, aching joints, swollen glands. Periods regulated for the first time in years with, unusually, no pain and no PMT. The continual discharge of milk from the right breast stopped. Energy and motivation increased. Feeling a lot more spiritual. Things have become much more in flow due mostly to her change in attitude. Most importantly, she feels closer and happier with her children.

Case Four

A female had been suffering from ME after a traumatic removal of the placenta, following the birth of her daughter 12 years ago. After the remedy she experienced abdominal pulling and tugging sensations for several days. Her sexual energy increased substantially, her sleep improved (with dreams of babies) and she wanted to wear burgundy clothes. A striking symptom after the remedy was the conviction

that her mother was not her mother; on investigation she found this not to be true and thought that this had stemmed from 'a need to know myself'.

She was left with a huge improvement in her ME, increased sexual energy and a general sense of well-being.

Case Five

This was a case of a nine-year-old autistic boy who had responded only slightly to remedies in the past. He basically lived in a world of his own, not really contacting any body. The only thing he ever really responded to was his favourite tape – that of a heart-beat! My feeling was that he had never really been born into this world but had one foot in this world and one in another. He was separate and 'spacey'. I gave *Placenta 40* on these symptoms alone. On his next follow up he was much more present and more content within himself but the most exciting change was that he was slowly starting to make eye contact!

In this case and in general, looking at the more disconnected, separation issues, I have seen a lot of similarities with the remedy *Hydrogen*. Also, on hearing Jeremy Sherr's presentation of *Helium*, I was amazed at the similarity of themes to those of *Placenta*. In relation to Jan Scholten's work on the periodic table of elements, I wonder if *Placenta* is the remedy of the series before the Hydrogen series? Also, in connection with reading Harry Van Der Zee's *Miasms In Labour*, I would see *Placenta* as a 'pre-miasmatic remedy'. He is talking about the remedies that fit the state before incarnation; he says: 'we could also call them pre-incarnated remedies. These people are floaters: they have not descended fully yet.'

Case Six

This was the baby whose placenta was used for the proving. The mother was very keen for me to try giving the baby *Placenta 40* when she developed a chronic eye, nose and chest infection. It was not of too serious a nature but had been lingering for over a week. After being given one dose of the remedy, the symptoms cleared within 24 hours and the mother described the baby as 'blossoming - unfolding and growing into her body'.

The mother is more than happy to see if *Placenta* will continue to be a useful remedy as an individual prescription for this baby. Also, other mothers in the area are keen to see if a remedy made from their future placentas will help their individual babies constitutionally. This could lead to some very interesting research. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the mother and child for all their help, cooperation and enthusiasm in the making of this remedy.

Please send me any of your cases that have responded to *Placenta 40* so that I can accumulate as much clinical evidence as possible. For more details (including a repertory of proving symptoms), please see the publication of the proving *Placenta Humanum Welsh*, obtainable from Helios Homeopathic Pharmacy, or from the following website: www.welshschoolofhomeopathy.org.uk or email: linda.gwillim@talk21.com

Sherr, J; *The Dynamics and Methodology of Homeopathic Proving*, Dynamis Books, UK, 1995