

CLINICAL

Aurum muriaticum natronatum—four case reports

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Four cases treated with *Aurum muriaticum natronatum* are presented using the patients' own words; two cases of fibromyoma of uterus and thyroid disorders, and two of eczema and depression with suicidal ideation after disappointed romantic love. The case analyses and management are discussed and distilled into the materia medica of *Aurum muriaticum natronatum* with the creation of a heuristic. *Homeopathy* (2007) 96, 258–269.

Keywords: *Aurum muriaticum natronatum*; fibromyoma uterus; thyroid; eczema; depression; suicidal thoughts; disappointed love; materia medica; heuristic

Introduction

These case reports explore the author's growing in understanding of *Aurum muriaticum natronatum* as an important homeopathic medicine gained from the process of treating four people struggling with deep and complex physical and emotional pathology, from 1995 to 2007. The cases reflect the reality of private practice homeopathy in that they are not perfect in management or length of follow-up. All the four patients refused to allow me to write to their GP or specialists—this made some aspects of management difficult. Also, for this reason precise details of investigation results are lacking as they were reluctant to ask for copies from their GPs.

The analysis of each case is given as the case develops. Heuristics (empirical short cuts used to assess complex situations to form conclusions and/or make decisions) are used as appropriate. An heuristic for the prescription of *Aurum muriaticum natronatum* is presented. Symptoms are given in the patients own words ... represents a gap in spontaneous narrative.

Case 1: fibromyoma, goitre and thyrotoxicosis

“S” is a 27-year-old woman with green eyes and long brown hair.

First consultation October 1995

“For the last 2 years I have been so tired all the time. I got pains in my tummy and when I felt I found this big hard lump. I thought I had cancer. My doctor found a huge fibroid in my uterus. ... I was put on hormone injections for 11 months and the fibroid got smaller.

... The first gynaecologist said that the fibroid was so big that I would need a hysterectomy. But I want to have children. The gynaecologist said if the fibroid were to shrink a lot (to the size of an orange) then he may be able to operate and remove the fibroid but leave my uterus but there was a risk that my uterus would be damaged while trying to take out the fibroid and might have to be removed anyway. ... My mother had to have a hysterectomy because she had a huge fibroid.

... I have only had 2 periods since the hormone injections stopped 6 months ago and they have been so painful the first day and I lose big clots for 6 days.

... Then my thyroid started swelling and my heart was racing and I got so hot all the time. My GP said my pulse was twice the speed it should be. I was put on thiouracil and thyroxine and this seemed to sort out my thyroid but my fibroid grew as big as ever it was before the hormone injections.

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... Before it all started I was supposed to be a witness in a court case and got so worried about it. And just when I had wound myself up about going in the witness box the case got postponed 5 times. ... I couldn't sleep and kept getting big waves of panic attacks ... With the panic attacks I would get stabbing pains in my chest and my arms would go numb ... As soon as my doctor said it was just panic and not my heart I was fine.

... I've had the same boyfriend since I was 15. He is the love of my life. He is from Australia and he wants to go back.

(Begins to cry and keeps on crying). ... He has wanted to go back to Australia for 6 years, but it has become a big issue in the last 2 years ... I can't leave my mother because I am worried about her, and I am scared to go.

... I hate the number 3, I will never pick 3 in a lottery and I will never do the same thing 3 times in a row ... I am really scared of spiders and a bit afraid of being alone in the dark, but I can sleep in the house alone."

On examination: Uterus huge extends to 2cm above umbilicus and is as hard as stone; large firm goitre, clinically euthyroid.

Analysis October 1995

The focus of pathology is the huge, hard fibroid of uterus. Her other physical pathology- goitre and thyrotoxicosis- is suppressed by conventional drugs (thiouracil and thyroxine). Her illness appears to have been precipitated by emotional strain of disappointment of her romantic love and sustained anxiety. This is similar to *Ignatia amara* or *Natrum muriaticum* but these are not specifically indicated in her uterine pathology (see Graph 1).

Rubrics (Complete Repertory, Van Zandvoort):

- Female; TUMORS; general; fibroma; uterus (87)
- Female; TUMORS; general; fibroma; hard, stony; uterus (2)
- External Throat; GOITRE (150)
- Mind; ANXIETY (565)
- Mind; AILMENTS from; love, disappointed, unhappy (40).

Homeopathic treatment

Aurum muriaticum natronatum 200 cH 1 dose, then 6 cH twice a day.

Continue thyroid drugs.

October 1995-1997

Aurum muriaticum natronatum 6 cH twice a day was continued from 26 October 1995 till 3 May 1996 and the fibroid decreased in size from that of a watermelon to 5cm diameter. The hard goitre remained unchanged. Results of thyroid function tests on 21 November 1995: TSH 3.8 (normal 0.2-3.0 mU/l), free T4 22 (normal 12-28 pmol/l). So I stopped her thiouracil and thyroxine, then the goitre receded (she continued on *Aur-m-n* 6 cH b.d.) becoming unpalpable. In June 1996 the fibromyoma was surgically removed, leaving the uterus intact. Post-operative complications of deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolus were treated by Heparin infusion then Warfarin for 3 months. Pre- and post-operative treatments of *Aurum muriaticum natronatum* 200 cH drops were prescribed.

Consultation November 1997

"I have been really happy since the operation. I have a new boyfriend and we are getting married next year. ... In the last 2 months I have become ill again but it feels different. ... I am really anxious and trembling all the time ... My voice trembles and my arms and legs and hands tremble ... It all gets better when I sit down ... The anxiety and trembling go away when I sit down, but I am too restless to sit down ... It is not like the old panic attacks. I am just anxious and trembling all the time ... I am really hot all the time and a bit sweaty. I am hot even when others are cold ... The anxiety and trembling comes in attacks but the heat is there all the time ... My periods are regular and normal now. I bleed for 3 days every 28 days."

On examination: Skin very warm, goitre: big soft and hot, hot red face, pulse bounding 120 regular, palms hot and sweaty, no lid lag, no proptosis.

	Merc-i-r.	Aur-m-n.	Lap-a.	Rur-i.	Calc-l.	Calc-f.	Aur.	Iod.	Thyr.	Kali-l.	Phos.	Iarent.	Crot-h.	Calc-p.	Bufo.	Phyt.	Calc.	Sep.	Frank.
Total Rubrics Family	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
TUMORS; general; ... (87)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
TUMORS; general; ... (2)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
External Throat; GOITER (150)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
AILMENTS from; love, ... (40)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mind; ANXIETY (565)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Graph 1 Repertorisation of Case 1 at initial consultation. (MacRepertory Professional version 6.1, expert analysis settings using Complete Millennium Repertory of Van Zandvoort).

Analysis November 1997

There has been a shift in pathology to the thyroid after the excision of the fibroid of uterus. Clinically she is hyperthyroid. The form of anxiety is different and amelioration of anxiety by sitting is a striking and unusual modality in someone who is also physically restless (see Graph 2).

Rubrics:

- Mind: ANXIETY; sitting; amel., all anxiety disappears (1)
- External Throat; GOITRE (150)
- Generalities; HEAT; sensation of (172)
- Generalities; RESTLESSNESS, physical (149).

Homeopathic treatment

Iodum 200cH 1 dose daily for 3 days, check free T4/T3 and TSH now and repeat in 1 month. If T4/T3 is still high, to take *Iodum* 12cH daily until euthyroid.

March 1998

The first thyroid function tests confirmed thyrotoxicosis (before treatment with *Iodum* 200cH); the second tests were normal (1 month after *Iodum* 200cH 1 dose). Symptomatic improvement began within 24 h of taking *Iodum* 200cH. The anxiety and trembling stopped after 7 days and the sensation of heat resolved gradually in 4 weeks.

Comments

The patient's initial huge, stony-hard fibromyoma of uterus was suppressed by synthetic progestagens and she developed a hyperthyroid goitre. When her thyroid was suppressed by thiouracil and thyroxine the fibroid recurred. Both the fibroid and the thyroid responded well to *Aur-m-n* -the fibroid gradually shrank from the size of a watermelon to 5 cm diameter and her thyroid became normal in function and size. I anticipated that her thyrotoxic goitre would recur after surgical removal of her small fibroid. After discussion the patient decided to proceed with uterine surgery, because she wished to be a mother and was willing to risk a relapse of hyperthyroidism.

The potencies of 200cH and then 6cH twice a day for a long time of *Aurum muriaticum natronatum* were

chosen because there was a clear emotional component plus marked physical pathology (a prescribing heuristic learned from Dr Roger Morrison). She took 6cH twice daily for three menstrual cycles while her fibroid gradually shrank and then 6cH twice daily for 10 days pre-menstrual (when her fibroid swelled) for the next four cycles. Now I would have begun her treatment with Q/LM 1 potency 2 drops in water daily because experience and clinical audit confirm that the Q/LM potencies give a smooth, deep, quick and sustained response in the majority of my cases.

The relapse of hyperthyroidism following surgical removal of the fibroid presented with a different clinical state, with anxiety completely ameliorated by sitting down even though she was still physically restless, a unique symptom of *Iodum*.

Case 2: Hysterectomy for fibromyoma and thyroid cyst

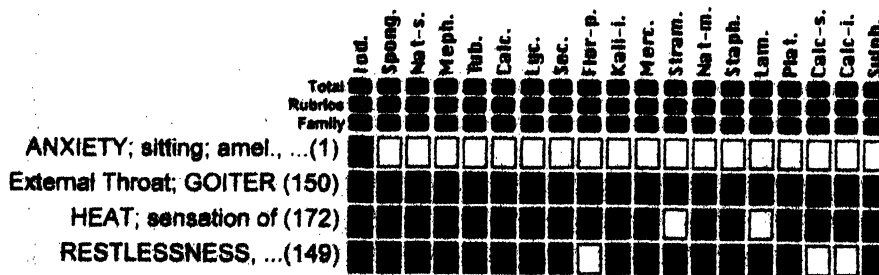
"A" is a 48-year-old woman with brown eyes and brown curly hair.

First consultation December 1995

"A year ago I had a total abdominal hysterectomy because I had a huge fibroid in my uterus, and I have not been well since ... I am tired and miserable and don't sleep well ... The fibroid was enormous, like I was 7 months pregnant. ... Also a year ago I had a cyst in my thyroid which was drained then filled up again.

... I just object to having things wrong with me. I expect to be well. I am naturally energetic and fit and don't tolerate any illness. ... I got so annoyed about the injustice of the hospital system while I was having my hysterectomy.

... I am the middle child of 3. I have always taken my responsibilities for my family and my work very seriously ... I have always wanted to do well ... I am conscious that I have always inflicted very high standards on myself which are above my abilities. ... I am always trying to improve but it feels as if I am chasing something that doesn't exist ... I feel that I have a poor natural ability to concentrate or



Graph 2 Repertorisation of Case 1, November 1997. (MacRepertory Professional version 6.1, expert analysis settings using Complete Millennium Repertory of Van Zandvoort).

assimilate, but the more my memory flags the more I work with enthusiasm ... My self confidence is low ... I keep trying hard to prove myself capable ... My husband is my rock, he is so kind.

... I have loved horse riding since I was 11 ... I was bullied into buying the wrong horse by a friend ... I just took the anger inside and let it fester ... Now I have a new gentle horse and ride with more gentle people.

... A year before the hysterectomy I was in a head-on car crash ... I was so self-critical after that ... I was always telling myself that I was responsible, that it was my fault ... I only cried a little, I expected myself to just get over it. I could never have a really good cry.

... My father died 7 years ago (begins to cry) ... I cried so much after he died, but this is the first time that I have cried about him for a while.

... I am involved in a refuge for abused women and I look after an abandoned gypsy horse. I feel peaceful with horses.

... I get photophobia in the sun and feel uncomfortable in general. I used to sunbathe a lot ... I feel energized and excited during thunderstorms. When I was young I was afraid of thunderstorms ... I feel refreshed and my energy goes up if I have a little sleep in the afternoon ... I get wide awake with white wine and can't sleep, but red wine makes me very sleepy ... I absolutely hate butter and orange peel ... I like gassy drinks and Italian food: tomato, garlic, cheese; and salt. ... I feel better alone when I am ill and worse from consolation."

Analysis

She had a huge fibroid uterus leading to a hysterectomy and a cyst in thyroid— this combination of symptoms is similar to Case 1. She is a gentle introspective lady who tends to suppress her anger— this is similar to *Staphisagria*. Recent experience in treating Case 1 led to a prescription of *Aurum muriaticum natronatum* without formal repertorisation (ie using the *recognition*, then *representative*, then *availability* heuristics¹—all open to bias— yet effective in this instance).

Homeopathic treatment

Aurum muriaticum natronatum: 200cH 1 dose (one pill) and 30cH drops as required (30 ml stock bottle).

Outcome

Amelioration of presenting complaints (persistent tiredness, sadness, insomnia and loss of self-confidence since hysterectomy) began from the first day of treatment. The thyroid cyst resolved in 24 days and she rapidly progressed to complete recovery.

Comments

The patient lived 300 miles away and attended for only one follow-up appointment. Further communication was by written note in a Christmas card from the patient: she took *Aurum muriaticum natronatum* 30cH drops as she felt she needed to every 2–3 months responded quickly and remained well emotionally and physically with normal energy.

Case 3: Severe depression and eczema

Summary

"M" is now 50 and I have treated her with homeopathic medicines for 11 years. She presented in 1996 with eczema, anxiety over the poor health of her children and sadness due to marital disharmony. She responded to some extent to *Carcinosinum* (Burnett), *Ignatia amara*, *Natrum carbonicum* and *Magnesia murialica*. In 2002 she developed severe endogenous depression with persistent suicidal ideation. Treatment by a consultant psychiatrist with nine different antidepressants at full doses plus a course of nine electroconvulsive treatments did not ameliorate her depression. Her depression responded slightly to *Aurum metallicum*, better to *Aurum muriaticum* and well to *Aurum muriaticum natronatum*. After 2 years of treatment with *Aurum muriaticum natronatum* prescribed in ascending LM potencies daily she was able to stop her psychotropic drugs.

Appearance and manner

She has a long oval face, a natural dignity and grace, black curly hair and green eyes. She smiles to hide her suffering, has a cheerful manner and laughs inappropriately to hide her true feelings.

March 1996–November 1999

"I have dermatitis on my neck ... I am a district nurse caring for patients with cancer ... I took all the responsibility for caring for my husband's father while he was dying of cancer. I carried a lot on myself.

... I am not very good at enjoying myself ... I need to know that everyone else is OK before I enjoy myself ... I take on all the responsibility and take the responsibility off other's shoulders ... I want everything tidy and sorted out ... I resent it when other people are enjoying themselves ... I feel guilty when I try to relax and try to enjoy myself ... even on holiday I have to organize everything so that they are all happy ... I defuse situations to avoid arguments and confrontations ... I don't like to upset others. I want to please everyone.

... I prefer working in the community and working by myself ... because then I can maintain my own standards of work and care ... I have very high

standards and do my best to protect the dignity of my patients.

... I remember criticism vividly ... I could never do well enough for my father ... I dislike being watched ... I need space to be ... to be alone ... It takes me a long time to recover from emotional injuries ... I have to do my duty in order to be able to enjoy myself ... I have to earn enjoyment ... I always put everyone else first.

... I feel as if my daughter is trying to hurt me ... I want my daughter to be well so that I can be happy ... I cannot let go of my responsibilities and my feelings ... I keep feeling I should not be enjoying things ... I am wary of saying I am enjoying anything because I fear that it will go wrong, that something bad will happen ... I feel that I don't deserve to be happy.

... My father had such power over me ... nothing I did was good enough ... He never acknowledged that I had a learning difficulty ... I do not want to see my father or speak to him.

... My mother died of dementia in September. (tears in eyes and pink face but will not let herself cry, then smiles to hide the pain) ... I belittled the huge amount I did for my mother, and all the work of nursing her and arranging everything for the funeral, to decrease the guilt of the rest of the family ... they did nothing, yet I wanted to protect them from their feelings of guilt ... I feel so unappreciated ... I feel as if I am responsible for protecting my brothers and sisters from my father.

... I feel as if I am looking after everybody and no one is looking after me ... I feel hard done to and not cared for.

... Father told me I was wrong, always wrong. ... I was an embarrassment to my father ... I am afraid of him and I always think before I speak so as to not upset him. I was taught by my father not to show it if I was hurt and to consider the consequences of what I do or say so as to not upset him. As a mother I have always tried to be careful what I say to my children so that I don't hurt them.

... I dwell on it all so much ... I am torn between feelings of wanting to look after everyone, and feeling why should I ... yet I am still trying to anticipate everyone's needs. ... I care too much what others think of me." (laughter, with tears in her eyes.)

November 1999–December 2001

"I feel as if I am sinking ... not in control ... I have a tremendous need to help people, for them to be happy ... to appreciate me ... to think well of me ... I need to help people and I can't ... I have a metallic taste in my mouth.

... There is a deadness inside me ... I take hurts very easily to heart.

... I feel a peculiar sensation in my abdomen, almost like a pregnancy, like a limb moving, or like a limb

pushing its way out of my abdomen—on and off for about 2 hours each time.

... I had a dream—I felt as if I have done something wrong and I am going to be found out. I woke up wide awake with fear and could not get back to sleep.

... As a child, I was never shown whole-hearted unconditional love, especially not from my father, but not even from my mother. ... I want so much to not hurt or upset my children ... It is as if I need to anticipate what they want before they even know they want it—yet I resent it and feel torn and guilty because no one does that for me." (She is depressed but hides how she is feeling and how severely she is depressed behind a beautiful poignant smile.)

Consultation August 2002

(A big smile, yet fighting off the tears) "I am in a terrible state. I just fell apart and was admitted to hospital. I have had no response to maximum dose Prozac and now am on maximum dose Venlafaxine ... I realize that I have been denying that I have been depressed for years, and then I was fighting being depressed for years. I kept on telling myself I am too strong to be depressed ... I have been having counselling and psychotherapy and see the psychiatrist once a month.

... I feel hopeless. I can't fight it any more—all the fighting was futile—it does not help. ... I cannot even imagine ever going back to work again ...

... I have no worth except within my family—unless I am doing things for my family ... I cannot let anyone help me ... whatever I do is wrong ... I feel so guilty ... I am worthless ... I have no value in my self.

... I long to die ... I know my family could manage without me ... I am so tired ... I am barely surviving."

Diagnosis: Suicidal depression.

Analysis 2002

In this case the initial physical expression was eczema after prolonged anxiety about her children's health. There was a profound disappointment from the increasing failure of her marriage. The underlying sadness gradually became a severe depression. The emotional symptoms of sensation of having neglected her duty and lack of self-worth are present from the onset but deepen with time. There are marked symptoms of anxiety of conscience, remorse, self-reproach, despair, desire for death and suicidal thoughts leading to *Aurum metallicum* (see Graph 3).

Rubrics:

- Mind; ANXIETY; Conscience, of
- Mind; REPROACHES; Himself***
- Mind; DELUSIONS, imaginations; Neglected; duty, his**
- Mind; DESPAIR*
- Mind; SADNESS***

	Totals	Aur.	Aur-m-n.	Aur-s.	Na-t-m.	Peis.	Si.	Aur-s.	Merc.	Psor.	Ign.	Solph.	Thu.j.	Med.	Lach.	Bell.	Alum.	Rhus-t.	Hgus.	Staph.	Caust.
ANXIETY: Conscience... (128)	128																				
REPROACHES: Himself (68)	68																				
DELUSIONS... (25)	25																				
Mind: DESPAIR (250)	250																				
Mind: SADNESS (720)	720																				
SADNESS: Suicidal... (31)	31																				
SUICIDAL disposition (173)	173																				
SUICIDAL disposition: ... (52)	52																				
Mind: DEATH: Desires (107)	107																				
CONFIDENCE: Want... (178)	178																				
REMORSE: General (92)	92																				
DELUSIONS... (7)	7																				
ERUPTIONS: Eczema (331)	331																				

Graph 4 Repertorisation of Case 3, May 2005. (MacRepertory Professional version 6.36, expert analysis settings using Complete 2005 Repertory of Van Zandvoort).

first dose of *Carcinosinum Co*) and increase potency to LM 8, LM 10, etc. each bottle used up.

(Observation: tears begin to run from her eyes and she does not say sorry. For the first time she just takes time to cry and is then better.)

Consultation August 2005

"...I went to Canada for a holiday. There were 5 of us sisters and nieces. I wouldn't have minded if the plane crashed and I died. but the holiday was lovely. ... I have been OK. My sister is very ill with breast cancer and I have been looking after her in Spain and will soon go back. I have been having cognitive therapy from another psychiatrist and it is good. I seem to be able to put things in perspective better. ... I am still tired and reluctant to get out of bed. ... Being with my sister and caring for her as a sister and a nurse (as much as she will let me - we are very similar) is good for both of us. I am going to spend a lot of time in Spain with her. ... When I take the drops I actually feel some effects for the first time ever." (Observation: "Mona Lisa" smiles still. Her eyes are greener. She looks more feminine and has a lovely tan. There is some eczema on her neck for the first time since 2002 and the onset of the suicidal depression.)

Consultation May 2006

(Observation: she has a tan, her eyes are green and she looks more feminine in a pretty blouse and flowing skirt and sits like a lady.)

"... I am spending more time in Spain than here looking after my sister. I still feel responsible for people and always put others first. I feel it is not possible yet to give to others without its being taken from me—it just drains me."

May–November 2006

After some 3-month gap in menses and hot flushes and night sweats which increased for 9 months I prescribed *Sepia officinalis* 12cH 1 pill b.d. She did not take the *Sepia* as she felt that the consultation would be enough and the flushes settled spontaneously. She continued *Aurum muriaticum natronatum* LM12, then LM14 and then LM16 and continued Amitriptyline 150 mg and Lamotrigine 100 mg.

In October 2006 her energy went down to "almost zero" and she felt very groggy and sedated during the day. I changed the potency of *Aur-m-n* to 200cH 2 drops daily but this had no effect after 6 weeks.

Consultation November 2006

When do you feel OK (or even a bit better) and what is the context?

- When nobody wants anything of me.
- When I am alone—especially when I am alone at home and no one is there.
- When I am alone in bed—I would just love to stay in bed all the time.
- When I am in bed dozing on and off—I could do that all day.
- When I am resting—exercise feels like something I ought to do and it does not make me feel better.

Why?

- When I am with people I feel judged.
- When I am with people I feel their expectations of me.

- When I am with people I feel I say the wrong things and that people will be cross/angry with me.
- My father taught me, forced me, to think before saying anything to think what effect it would have on him.
- When I say something to upset people I feel that it undoes any good that I have ever done before.

Comment

The context of amelioration and the reasons are still most consistent with the inner state of *Aur-m-n*. Yet she has very little energy and is sedated throughout the day. It is possible that her depression has lifted and that she is feeling the primary action of *Aur-m-n* plus the sedative effects of the psychotropic drugs. After prolonged discussion with the patient and Drs David Lilley and Maurizio Italiano I advised her to stop the *Aur-m-n* for a month and to decrease and stop her psychotropic medication under the supervision of her consultant psychiatrist. She stopped the *Aur-m-n* for 4 weeks and her inner state remained the same but she felt so heavily sedated. She then approached her psychiatrist who was delighted to supervise the cessation of her psychotropic drugs. I advised her to take *Aur-m-n* 200 cH daily for 5 days when beginning the drug reduction (10 drops from 200 cH stock bottle into 500 ml of mineral water in a 750 ml glass bottle, succuss 100 times before each dose, take a mouthful of this daily for 5 days). This posology was commended by Dr Italiano as the context of amelioration, and the reasons are still most consistent with the inner state of *Aur-m-n* and to facilitate the reduction of psychotropic drugs.

Consultation 26 April 2007

"I took the last dose of Amitriptylline on 1st March and the last dose of Lamotrigine yesterday and I am feeling so much better. I have felt much more positive, less weary and have had much more energy since I stopped the Amitriptylline and my concentration and memory have improved since I reduced the Lamotrigine. I am very pleased and I am looking forward to taking nothing. I want to be OK.

... I don't feel drugged now, so I am not sleeping like a dead thing. I wake up through the night, sometimes after dreaming, or to go to the toilet or with a hot flush and it is OK. I listen to music for a while and go back to sleep. There are actually days when I feel like I used to feel many years ago. It is hard for me to just be, instead of adopting a role of nurse or mother—the caring responsible one—but I am beginning. ... I have filed for divorce—it has been long enough just separated, it is over—and I feel good about that. ... I realize that I need to live alone for a time and just live today. I have things in better perspective somehow ... The guilty it's all my fault and its all out of control feelings are still there but I

am now able to recognize and realize that I can allow the feeling to be and just step back from it.

... It was my 50th birthday the day I took my second last Amitriptylline dose. My daughters and my sister from Spain arranged a surprise party in a spa hotel and all four of us had a lovely girlic weekend together.

... Yes, the eczema is back and it is itchy but I just scratch it and the patches come and go by themselves.

... I got a chest infection while I was in Spain recently with my sister and I just took antibiotics like a normal person would and I was OK. ... I smoke while I am in Spain because I enjoy it and my sister smokes but I don't smoke when I am in Britain."

Observation: She is wearing a flowery silk blouse, well-cut trousers and long dangly earrings and has had her hair dyed and styled. She maintains open and prolonged eye contact without looking away or putting up her internal shutters. She is very 'present' in the consultation. She smiles in a genuine way and did not say sorry even once during the consultation. She looks happier and better than she did in her first consultation 11 years ago.

Comment

Her inner state remained consistent with *Aur-m-n* from the first consultation even though it took me a long time to recognize it. Two years of treatment with *Aur-m-n* (plus psychotropic drugs) were required to lift her depression which had resisted psychotropic drugs and ECT. She has not only managed to stop the psychotropic drugs without relapsing, but has made remarkable progress in understanding and accepting her internal state, and she has begun to find ways to live. She will require continued careful observation.

Case 4: Eczema and depression

"A" is a man, now aged 46, I treated him for a year from 1996 and again since May 2005. He has black hair and blue eyes.

Consultation October 1996

"I am a reporter, now freelance. ... I have had an eruption on my face around my nose and chin for a year. (Observation: eczematous eruption). ... I am conscious of it in my work. I feel it is disfiguring. It feels raw. ... I have been tired all the time since I had flu a year ago. I was unbalanced and giddy and aching all over and had stabbing pains in my ears and a sore throat. I couldn't swallow solids and wanted cold drinks in sips. I had 2 lots of antibiotics and then the eruption came out. ... I also have had a patch of eczema on my right foot and on my scalp at the hairline for years.

... I was chief reporter for a newspaper 6 years ago. My deputy had an affair with my wife. Our son was 2

when it started. We had to work in the same office for 3 years and I couldn't stand the guy and had a nervous breakdown. I was just consumed by anguish. ... I have a new partner now.

... I am intelligent but seem to be ruled by my emotions. I feel tremendous anger. I behave in a civilised manner but I feel I have been used and feel that I have been treated like shit on someone's shoe and all because I was afraid of losing my son.

... I am a twin. My twin brother is mentally handicapped. He has a mental age of 2 and lives with my parents. ... I am aware that I feel guilty because I am OK. It has been very hard to leave him, but after my son was born something seemed to shift inside me and I felt whole again.

... I usually get a sore throat every year in January and get a bit depressed. I hate being enclosed and am better since I started going to Tenerife for a holiday and playing tennis in January.

... I had a left varicocele when I was 17 and have had 2 operations and then got recurrent epididymo-orchitis afterwards and have had a lot of antibiotics for that.

... My other brother committed suicide in 1992—he threw himself under a truck. ... I felt betrayed, abandoned and out of control. I burst into tears and cried for a whole hour with a friend and then went to bed and cried for days. ... There is a lot of cancer on my father's side: 2 of his brothers and his sister.

... I am better in a cool room and feel too hot over 21 degrees. I prefer a coal fire in a cold house and am worse from hot stuffy air and much better outside in the open air and always drive with the windows open.

... I have had Hay Fever for 2 years worse in April and May when the trees flower. ... I love thunderstorms—I get excited and energized and go outside to feel the drama and spectacle. ... My energy seems to seep away if I sit in the sun but I am OK playing tennis. ... I am a night person—my energy shoots up in the evening and night after a slump from 3–6 p.m. and I have more energy at the sea. ... I feel wobbly if I don't eat regularly and tend to snack. I love fish and spicy things with rice and vegetables.

... I think I am too sympathetic to others—I feel put upon by friends because I can't say no to them. ... I am absolutely terrified of heights especially cliffs, because I want to throw myself off to stop the terrible fear of falling. I am also scared of spiders. ... I get anxiety before public speaking and for 24 hours before I feel churning inside and can't eat or speak. ... I am easy to hurt emotionally and I will dwell on it for ages and hold grudges. ... I am very sensitive to reprimands and I feel rage if I am unjustly accused of something. ... I was always defending and sticking up for my twin Ian and was very sensitive to others' cruelty towards him. ... I weep like a girl at sappy films and feel better afterwards and I am easily moved to tears by other people's pain. ... My written work has to be perfect."

Summary 1996–1997

Carcinosinum (Burnett) 200 cH 1 dose, then 1 MK 1 dose the next day.

All his symptoms cleared. The skin flared a little and then healed completely. His anticipatory anxiety resolved and he even did a live radio show. His energy became normal. The improvement lasted a year and then began to fade but he again responded very quickly to *Carcinosinum* (Burnett) 200 cH 1 dose then 1 MK 1 dose the next day then 10 MK the third day and was given a bottle of 10 MK drops to use occasionally when required.

Consultation May 2005

"The eczema on my face has returned in the last 3 months and the drops don't help. ... I have changed jobs and am a self-employed public relations consultant with some very demanding clients.

... My parents are both in their 80s and are struggling to look after my twin brother Ian. My father is being investigated and might have prostate cancer. My mother has had cancer treatment and a hip replacement. The time is coming when I will have to make provision to look after Ian. ... I grew up always protecting Ian. My fists did the talking if he was insulted or bullied, but the thought of having to look after him full time is too much. ... I have become down and depressed again. It is hard to get up in the morning and hard to motivate myself.

... Last year I had some indigestion and they found *Helicobacter pylori* on endoscopy and I had 2 lots of antibiotics. Then I had a bad ear infection which did not respond to another 2 lots of antibiotics so I was put on erythromycin which gave me diarrhoea for 2 months. I couldn't eat and lost 2 stone—I was like a skeleton.

... I am homosexual. I split up with my boyfriend after nearly 10 years and have felt very isolated and down for a year. ... I wrapped my heart up in steel after he left me because I couldn't love like that and lose again. ... I have been having casual sex and using sex as a weapon since, but my heart isn't in it. ... I went on holiday to USA and was hit by a thunderbolt love—my heart just thawed and the barriers went, but it was just a holiday romance and had to end. ... I feel that if I start crying then I will never stop. ... It has all taken its toll. I am fed up taking on other's problems. I want to be myself and I think I deserve that. I want to live and be at peace with myself and be free of the suicidal thoughts."

Analysis

The initial excellent response to *Carcinosinum* suggests that he requires a medicine of the cancer miasm. There are similarities to *Staphisagria* in his suppression of anger, rage, disappointed love, wounded honour. The profound depression with suicidal thoughts, experience treating Cases 1–3, recent

Total Rubrics Family	Aur-m-n.	Net-m.	Carb.	Aur-s.	Ign.	Phos.	Aur.	Prot.	Med.	Sep.	Calc.	Ph-ac.	Staph.	Stram.	Niges.	LSO	Caus.t.	Arg-n.	Lyc.	Sulph.
LOV disappointment... (33)																				
LOVE disappointment... (5)																				
FORSAKEN feeling (172)																				
DELUSIONS... (24)																				
REMORSE: General (92)																				
Mind: GRIEF (132)																				
AIR: Open: amel. (415)																				
THUNDERSTORM: Amel. (8)																				
DWELLS on: Events... (89)																				
AIR: Seashore air: amel. (40)																				
SYMPATHETIC... (95)																				
Mind: FEAR: High places (31)																				
FEAR: Animals of... (21)																				

Graph 5 Repertorisation of Case 4, May 2005, using 1996 symptoms. (MacRepertory Professional version 6.36, expert analysis settings using Complete 2005 Repertory of Van Zandvoort).

advances in repertory structure and content in Van Zandvoort's Complete 2005 Repertory led to *Aurum muriaticum natronatum* even when only using rubrics appropriate to the first consultation (see Graph 5). The multiple courses of antibiotics and severe reaction to erythromycin might imply a shift in his bowel flora which may act as an obstacle to healing and indicates a bowel nosode.

Rubrics:

- Mind: LOVE disappointment, unhappy, agg. (33)***
- Mind: LOVE disappointment, unhappy, agg.; Grief, with silent (5)**
- Mind: FORSAKEN feeling (172)**
- Mind: DELUSIONS, imaginations; Neglected; he is, she is (24)**
- Mind: REMORSE; General (92)***
- Mind: GRIEF (132)**
- Generalities: AIR: Open: amel. (415)*
- Mind: THUNDERSTORM; Amel. (8)*
- Mind: DWELLS on; Events, past disagreeable (89)**
- Generalities: AIR: Seashore air; amel. (40)*
- Mind: SYMPATHETIC, compassionate (95)**
- Mind: FEAR: High places (31)***
- Mind: FEAR: Animals, of; spiders, of (21)**
- Mind: SENSITIVE, oversensitive: General; reprimands, criticism, reproaches, to (42)**
- Mind: RAGE, fury (188)*
- Mind: FASTIDIOUS (75)*
- Skin: ERUPTIONS; Eczema (331)*.

Homeopathic treatment

Polybowel nosode 30cH 3 doses 12h apart, wait 2 weeks and then begin *Aurum muriaticum natronatum* LM4 drops daily.

Consultation June 2005

"I feel easier and better inside. There was no effect from the pills but the change began with the first dose of drops. I still have some rash on the left side of my nose but the rest has gone. I feel more in control and not so emotional. I am more relaxed. I have let go of the things that I have not control over and feel that I have the situation with my parents in better perspective. ... I have energy for the things I want to do. ... I am accepting how I am and am not beating myself up about it. ... I had 2 close friends die of cancer 4 years ago and somehow I am allowing myself to grieve about them properly now."

He has a 90% improvement on a visual analogue scale.

Homeopathic treatment and outcome

Continue *Aurum muriaticum natronatum* LM4 2 drops daily until well. He telephoned 6 weeks later to report that his depression was completely cleared.

Comments

Polybowel nosode was chosen because it is not yet clear which of the standard bowel nosodes are related to *Aur-m-n*. A 90% improvement on a visual analogue scale at 6 weeks reveals the gentle power of the Q/LM 4 potency.

Materia medica of *Aurum muriaticum natronatum*

A salt of gold, sodium and chlorine, chemical formula $AuCl_3NaCl(2H_2O)$, introduced by Hale and

Burnett in treatment of scirrhus carcinoma of uterus and breast. The symptom picture embraces the themes and polarities of *Aurum metallicum* with depression and suicidal ideation plus the *Natrum* and *Muriaticum* themes delineated by Scholten² and others. The *Natrum* themes—sensitive, vulnerable, alone and lonely, impulsive, withdrawn and closed, holding on, silent, grief and depression—are strong. It contains four chloride ions per molecule. The *Muriaticum* themes—mother/child relationship, care and nurturing, broken relationship, self-pity, attention seeking, sadness, alone and antisocial—are very strong.

Mind

There are ailments from

- Being forsaken, neglected and rejected
- Reprimands, insults, humiliation and scorn
- Deceived friendship and wounded honour
- Grief, especially death of mother or spouse
- Disappointment and especially disappointed romantic love
- Anger which is suppressed with silent grief
- Unusual responsibility as a child.

The sensations as if can become delusions

- Forsaken and abandoned
- Neglected, deserted and insulted
- Lost the affection of friends
- Has done wrong and is guilty
- Everything that he does is wrong and cannot succeed
- Has neglected his duty and is full of remorse
- Is worthless and unfit for the world.

There is anxiety of conscience, for others, anticipating an engagement, when a time is set, about future, about health. There are fears of being forsaken (again), opinion of others, something will happen, failure, to begin a new venture, cancer, death and crowds.

The development of pathology on the emotional level follows a pattern. It begins with a feeling of being deeply wounded, forsaken and abandoned followed by suppression of emotions of sadness, disappointment, grief and anger. These are often very good, well-behaved children who learn to earn love by achieving. They are given too much responsibility when too young. They lose touch with their emotions except self-pity yet retain their sensitivity to new emotional wounds. Sadness with silent grief then emerges. They become so sad yet cannot weep, or rarely weep when alone, or feel if they start to weep they will never be able to stop. Consolation by this stage causes great aggravation because it is too late. Grief from disappointed romantic love then forms that last straw and they develop physical or emotional pathology. They are impulsive and fall in love easily, often with someone inappropriate and stay despite everything.

They dwell on past hurts and humiliations and eventually come to hate those who have hurt them and feel violent anger with remorse. Next they loathe their life and desire to die but continue to smile and laugh to hide the pain and sadness. Depression with suicidal thoughts and disposition emerges and persists.

General symptoms

Trembling from strong emotions; food desires and aversions similar to *Nat-m*: sweets, chocolate, salt, farinaceous, milk and fish; aggravation or amelioration from sea air and sea bathing.

Pathology

Cancer and stony-hard benign tumours of uterus and breast, fibromyoma of uterus, auto-immune diseases, chronic inflammation of joints, bones, tendons, glands, thyroid, liver, spleen and tonsils.

Associated remedies

Aurum metallicum, *Natrum muriaticum*, *Aurum muriaticum*, *Ignatia amara*, *Carcinosinum* (Burnett) and *Staphisagria*. Wulfsberg has highlighted another 12 associated remedies.³

Prescribing heuristic for *Aurum muriaticum natronatum*

- Like *Aurum metallicum* and *Natrum muriaticum* combined
- Large, hard fibroids of uterus
- Hard tumours of uterus or breast plus thyroid disease
- Ailments from disappointed romantic love
- Depression with desire for death and suicidal ideation
- Symptoms/keynotes of several polychrests.

Conclusion

Aurum muriaticum natronatum appears to be an important homeopathic medicine which is probably under-prescribed in clinical practice—the six associated remedies above often being given instead. The author has attempted to show a journey in understanding of the medicine through his struggle to comprehend four patients living with deep and complex physical and emotional pathology—this is distilled in the heuristic above but lives in the words and experience of the patients.

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