

A Case of Terminal Metastatic Small Cell Cervical Cancer

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Abstract: A case of a woman with terminal, metastatic small cell cervical cancer, in hospice at the time her homeopathic treatment was initiated, is presented. Lacking characteristic symptoms enabling repertorization of the case, thematic analysis was employed. Themes of lack of confidence and self-worth, inadequacy, overwhelm, need for support, concern about what others think, coupled with themes of a lack of nurturance, caring and love in childhood, feeling completely alone to face danger and attack, insecurity, guilt and shame, punishment by chronic pain due to abandonment by God and family, coupled with physical generalities and food cravings led to the prescription of *Magnesia bromatum*, which was alternated with *Carcinosinum compositae*, according to the Ramakrishnan method of cancer treatment. Clinical response was profound and deeply curative.

Keywords: small cell cervical cancer; terminal, metastatic cancer; *Carcinosinum compositae*; *Magnesia bromatum*; thematic analysis; Ramakrishnan method of cancer treatment

A 53 year-old Caucasian female presented with terminal, metastatic, small cell cervical cancer, anxiety, depression, acne rosacea, anemia, sinusitis and recurrent urinary tract infections (UTIs).

She had been diagnosed with Stage IIIB cervical cancer, that stage being characterized by the cancer having spread to the pelvic wall and/or the tumor having become large enough to block the ureters. This blockage can cause hydronephrosis. Cancer cells may also have spread to lymph nodes in the pelvis. The five-year survival rate for this stage of cancer is 15 to 20 percent.

She underwent total hysterectomy, bilateral oophorectomy, appendectomy and resection of pelvic lymph node metastases; received 25 external radiation treatments and chemotherapy with cisplatin and etoposide. She had repeated hospitalizations for complications, including anemia, neutropenia and thrombocytopenia, severe abdominal cramping pains, excruciatingly painful flatulence, nausea, vomiting, radiation-induced colitis and cystitis, severe bladder spasms and recurrent UTIs.

She suffered a recurrence of the tumor enveloping the rectosigmoid colon that required partial colectomy and colostomy. She was then re-diagnosed stage IVB, transferred into hospice care by her oncologist, who signed a 'Do Not Resuscitate' notice. She was given a prognosis of less than 2.5 to 3 months to live.

Her chronic pain was very difficult to control; she was on high dose oral morphine, Dilaudid and Fentanyl patches.

Case History

June 10, 2008

MC (the patient): "I'm on an emotional rollercoaster." [She made a hand gesture (HG) of waves]

Dr: "Describe this please."

MC: "With my depression and 'A.D.D.' behavior I ran away from situations because I couldn't cope. I ran away from my family as soon as I could when I realized the definition of sociopath; I realized I didn't like my family. I felt rejection from trying to have loving relationships with them; my mom belittled me, tried to make me feel guilty for everything. They brought me down. I felt rejection and didn't trust my emotions because I was always told I was wrong. My mother, brothers and sisters were very manipulative, selfish, extremely critical and deceitful. I felt such intense rejection and abandonment from my family. I never measured up to any standards of my parents; I didn't do well in school; I just wanted to stay home and be a mom. Home to me is security; the only thing that I did right to them was marry a naval officer."

Dr: "Tell me more."

MC: "My feelings are easily hurt; I'm easily manipulated; I was so insecure myself that I was run over easily, taken advantage of. I felt suppressed and oppressed by my mom. My parents stayed in their narrow, little world. I tried to avoid being controlled, but whenever I was home, they'd pick me apart, making me feel

worthless. I was never enough in their eyes. I moved away instead of arguing; it was easier.

Dr: "Tell me more about yourself."

MC: "I married a sociopath (sighs deeply) - a controlling, manipulative, narcissistic, insecure man. I could never please him, like my family; he always put his career over our family. We divorced; I was devastated and again felt abandoned, rejected, frightened and alone with two children."

Dr: Tell about "abandoned"?

MC: "Sorrow; emptiness; what's wrong with me?; what am I not doing right?; lack of fulfillment, security and joy; being alone in the world (tears well up); a weakness for wanting to be loved; not being able to stand on my own two feet; not being able to take care of myself." (openly weeping, asks for tissues)

Dr: "Tell a little more."

MC: "I feel weak, useless, not worthy, not being worthy of this planet, and being able to contribute to society and my children."

Dr: "Describe 'not worthy'."

MC: "Not a hard worker. If I'm not accomplished or have not been successful in life, then it's hard to accept what's been given to me, like I didn't feel I deserved it (weepy). After my divorce and before I remarried, I knew I couldn't handle the pressure and guilt of raising my children, never being able to give them enough because their father wasn't there. I felt overwhelmed by everyday life, paying bills, doing it all myself with very little help from family or church. It was overwhelming and frightening to do it all alone. I wasn't sure if I was doing it right, raising my kids right, not giving them the security - that was the biggest thing!"

Dr: "Please continue."

MC: "I wanted it too! I knew what that felt like, the anxiety, uncertainty and insecurity of day-to-day life; never having enough money; the threat of my ex-husband taking me back to court over child support. I had big issues over money; it felt like a lack of security - money was security."

Dr: "Tell about 'pressure and guilt.'"

MC: "Making right decisions for my children (deep sighing); not being able to have my marriage work, so that my kids wouldn't be afraid to be with me in New Orleans. I had lots of anxiety and depression there; there were lots of robberies in New Orleans. I felt vulnerable beyond belief!" (excited HGs)

Dr: "Vulnerable?"

MC: "Robbers were so bold and brazen; they would

steal the radio right out of your car in front of your house. There were drive-by shootings and murders in the neighborhood; it was very scary and I was desperate to get out of New Orleans, away from my parents' family. It all boils down to feeling insecure, a deep lack of security - it felt like chaos, evil, people trying to hurt or kill you and your children. I felt angry from the lack of control, because there was no way to defend myself; I felt that there was no one willing to defend me, no one to take care of me! (weeping, flushed face) There's evil and danger out there and no one to help me! I felt a tremendous amount of guilt for putting my children in harm's way!" (HG's)

Dr: "Guilt?"

MC: "I have a very low self-esteem. I was very promiscuous when I was young, trying to get someone to love me, but I felt worse; the emptiness got worse. I felt self-loathing and lots of shame and guilt absolutely! (HG's) I imagined that I'd always be alone; when I was young, I couldn't see life beyond the age of 20. I was frightened when I turned 20; I felt my life was a blank sheet, darkness; I didn't know what to do with my life. I only wanted a marriage and family, to be a mom and housewife, to find someone who wanted me and would be satisfied with me, to give me a feeling of security - someone wanting to take care of me! (weeping)

Dr: "Describe 'take care of me.'"

MC: "Home, food, shelter, clothes - the basics; wanting someone to make me happy, make me feel better about myself, to help me feel worthy, help me find direction in life."

Dr: "Describe your biggest fears."

MC: "Being in poverty, not having enough money to take care of basic needs; being in pain, a big issue because of the cancer; being alone with that pain. I felt so alone with my cancer pain; there was a darkness, blackness that I couldn't shake off. I didn't feel God's spirit; I felt abandoned by God! (weeping) I turned it into me leaving God, and I felt so guilty that I left Him; I felt my soul was empty, not strong enough to handle the pain. I felt that a piece of my soul was gone; God allowed me to feel the pain.

Dr: "Other fears?"

MC: "Robbers; being raped, but it never happened; snakes - I can't even look at a snake in a magazine; I freak out! I'm also afraid of mice and rats; I scream and jump. Claustrophobic - panicked in MRI; heights - vertigo when looking down; dark; monsters are going to hurt me; of evil - evil permeates everything in New Orleans; I don't want to ever go back there! I felt the very negative presence everywhere in that city; so much violence, robbery, murder; I felt very insecure,

could not defend myself!

"I always worried about what people thought of me; I didn't want anyone to dislike me. I try to avoid conflicts at all costs. I'm not sure of my arguments; I get too emotional. It's hard to be rational, again not trusting my feelings (deep sigh); this stems from not wanting to anger or hurt people no matter how much they anger or hurt me. When I feel angry, I stuff it inside, make light of it.

Dr: "Anger people?"

MC: "They won't like me, will reject me, abandon me. I'll be all alone!

Dr: "Tell more about this."

MC: "As a child there was lots of tension and anxiety in the family and lots of guilt!" (HGs).

Dr: "Guilt?"

MC: "I was brought up in the Catholic Church. I could never live up to these standards; there was lots of shame around sexuality. I was not supposed to hold hands with boys; it wasn't considered nice."

Dr: "What dreams do you have?"

MC: "Of monsters chasing me, but I always wake up before they catch me, with heart racing and pounding, very frightened. I've had these since a kid, and still even into adulthood. Also, about robbers, people with guns breaking into house, coming after me, going to hurt me; I wake up screaming. Nightmares about toxic floods, burning me, hurting me."

Energy: very low since diagnosis of cancer; worse since chemotherapy and surgery.

Sleep: poor; hard to fall asleep due to racing thoughts and worries.

Weather: very much worse hot humid; ameliorated by cool ocean breezes.

Foods: Strong desire for sweets, especially chocolate, Molé sauce (spicy chocolate sauce), chocolate chips. Averse: bitter greens, arugula, kale, collards (since childhood).

Labwork: Hgb 10.2; Hct 29.5; RBC 3.34, nl RBC indices (consistent with anemia of chronic disease)

Case Analysis

Reportorial analysis was not helpful due to the fact that there has not yet been a proving performed of the simillimum in this case, coupled with the lack of characteristic symptoms and corresponding clinical rubrics. The only symptom recorded in the Zandvoort's *Millennium Repertory in ReferenceWorks* is 'Food and drinks: chocolate: desires.' Therefore, thematic analysis was utilized.

Core issues are structure, function, relationship, conflict – these are consistent with a mineral/salt remedy.

Themes of identity, value, self-worth, lack of nurturing, caring and love, abandonment, aloneness – all very important themes in this case – coincide with the Natrum series.

Stage or column 2 has themes of overwhelm, lack of confidence, inadequacy, need for support, concern about what others think - the stage of development that best describes this patient.

Stage 2 of the Natrum series is *Magnesium*. Furthermore, themes of abandonment, fear of loss and pain, pacificism versus aggression strongly suggest *Magnesia*.

Themes of home, family, safety, security, protection, money, duty, control, being observed, being criticized, failure, and guilt are consistent with the Kali series - these were additional themes in this case.

Themes of having been let down by the family, feeling confined, and need to escape are consistent with the Halides (e.g., Fluorine, Chlorine, Bromine, Iodine, Arsenic)

Themes of feeling completely alone to face danger and attack, insecurity, guilt and shame, punishment by chronic pain due to abandonment by God, worse hot humid weather, better cool sea air, strong craving for sweets, and especially chocolate, are consistent with *Bromatum*.

Prescription: *Magnesium bromatum* 200C (Quinn) and *Carcinosinum-co.* 200C (Quinn), in weekly alternation per the Ramakrishnan protocol. (See "A Homeopathic Approach to Cancer" by Dr. A.U. Ramakrishnan and Catherine R. Coulter. Quality Medical Publishing: St. Louis, MO. 2001.)

Also given nutritional support with the 'Cessation of Abnormal Cell Growth and Metastasis' protocol, consisting of a number of nutraceutical and botanical agents; e.g., PolyMVA, trans-resveratrol, ellagic acid, epigallocatechin gallate, polyphenols and d-calcium glucarate, arabinogalactans, green tea extract, curcumin, indole-carbinols, isothiocyanates, sulforaphane glucosinolates, nattokinase, etc. This protocol is designed to provide whole body detoxification and enhanced cellular metabolism, along with stimulation of immune defenses against the cancer and/or opportunistic infections via augmented Natural Killer T-cell function, inhibition of cancer cell energy production, blockade of tumor angiogenesis and promotion of cancer cell apoptosis.

Follow Metabolic Typing Diet.

Return in two months or as needed.

Phone call - July 8, 2008

Colonoscopy revealed cervical cancer metastases with bowel obstruction two weeks prior; she proceeded to abdominal surgery, which found cancer entwined around sigmoid colon, also involving pelvic wall, in-

vading blood vessels and nerves and pressing against the bladder. The surgeon told her it was unresectable, incurable and she was given less than 2.5 to 3 months to live. She underwent partial colectomy with permanent colostomy.

Phone call - August 13, 2008

She called to share that she was healing very well postoperatively; her recurrent urinary tract infections had cleared up. She was taking the homeopathic medicines and support protocol as directed and refused to do any more chemotherapy.

September 2, 2008

"I'm feeling great! No pain, healing well postoperatively; the surgeon said that nothing more could be done. She was given until Christmas to live maybe. "But I don't believe it! I'm trying to wean off the Fentanyl patches."

Assessment: Appears to be responding to regimen.

Plan: Continue *Magnesium bromatum* 200C and *Carcinosinum-co.* 200C per Ramakrishnan protocol.

'Cessation of Abnormal Cell Growth and Metastasis' protocol continued.

Follow Metabolic Typing Diet

Return in two months or as needed.

December 10, 2008

"I'm doing fabulously! I can go up and down stairs all day; I can walk over a mile; I feel the chemo is out of my body now. I don't feel as cold as I used to and tolerate cold better, have a good appetite, no vaginal discharge, and no pain medications are needed any more - I totally weaned myself off Fentanyl patches and morphine to the hospice nurses' surprise. Emotionally, I am doing very well - I deal with family crises much better; I get over them. I have a better support system; now I'm helping other people.

"My husband and everybody say I 'glow' and are amazed at how healthy I look!"

Acne rosacea is gone now; sinusitis were generally much improved; no congestion; no UTIs.

Energy and sleep were good.

"I was supposed to be dead by now. I'm so grateful; I feel so blessed! According to my oncologist, I have no signs of advancing cancer. I'm examined every week by the hospice nurses and they're floored! They've never seen a hospice patient wean themselves off narcotic drugs and start recovering. I no longer need the IV port."

Assessment: Making good progress

Prescription: Continue *Magnesium bromatum* 200C and *Carcinosinum-co.* 200C per Ramakrishnan protocol

Continue 'Cessation of Abnormal Cell Growth and Metastasis' protocol.

Follow Metabolic Typing Diet.

Re-evaluate in two months or as needed.

January 4, 2009

"I was very anxious about anticipating PET scan report; it revealed that tumor is now only about 1 cm. It was 5-6 cm at time of surgery.

"My oncologist signed me out of hospice care and told me there was no reason to stay in it since I was still alive when I was supposed to be dead. My doctor said he didn't know what to do with me; he was very uncomfortable with what I've been doing and doesn't want to monitor me anymore.

"I have lots of energy now; the stoma site is very healthy. I'm cleansing."

Assessment: Continues to make good progress.

Plan: Continue same remedies and treatment protocols. Re-evaluate in 3-4 months or as needed.

April 24, 2009

"Other than a little fatigue, I'm feeling fine. I was able to eat a steak recently for first time in a long time and since then I've felt much better. My new oncologist is amazed at how well I'm doing and told me to keep on doing whatever I'm doing, but he never asks about what I'm doing that's helping me.

"People are amazed that my stage 4 terminal cancer is healing without chemotherapy, radiotherapy and surgery for a long time. I want to write a book!

"My energy is much better since I first started the regimen, sometimes a little less with family stresses, but my mood is generally good. Also, I'm sleeping well, though still using Ativan most nights.

Labwork: No evidence of anemia; CEA and CA-125 are normal.

The same treatment was continued.

May 12, 2009

She developed Herpes zoster suddenly last week over her face in front of the left ear down to left corner of mouth; it also involved the scalp, left lip and tongue. Cefadroxil, Tramadol and Zoforax cream weren't helping. She steadily improved over the course of three weeks on a nutraceutical protocol for shingles, with no residual pain.

July 15, 2009

Repeat PET scan on July 13th, 2009, showed no evidence of cancer at all. Her energy was 85% better and could walk two miles a day. Her mood was good, and her sleep was fine off Ativan. Overall she felt fantastic. The same treatment was continued.

February 10, 2010

Her PAP smear in November 2009 was normal. Ultrasound of the abdomen done on October 30, 2009,

was also clear - no evidence of tumors or ascites anymore.

"I'm human again. Some depression was getting to me, but I figured out what happened. I needed some beef; within about one hour of eating a hamburger, a switch went off and I felt happy again. I needed the protein, but couldn't eat any meat without nausea for a long time, now I digest it just fine - of course, I only eat organic, free range beef.

"I still don't like exercise, but I walk two miles three times a week and am starting yoga. My energy is even better when I exercise more.

"Sleep is good; I'm having strange, recurring dreams of being in other places, trying to get back home; there's more security at home."

Security? "Safety, stability, a good life, simple, content at home." (all issues of Magnesia)

Her mood was generally fine, especially when eating beef; no depression.

Examination by her oncologist about 1 month ago showed no tumors or ascites.

The same treatment was continued.

May 4, 2010

"Early this spring, I felt confident enough to start planning and planting my garden for the future!

Alone, I was able to plant and mulch over four dozen shrubs, shoveling compost into a large wheelbarrow and hauling it across our property of two acres. I was able to lift 25-40 pound bags of rock and mulch.

And, I could sometimes walk two miles a day! It was such a transformation in such a short period. I amazed myself!"

"I am better than new! I have 125% more energy than this time last year.

The greatest happiness, the most joy, is experiencing life with my family. There is much good and the bad, I just do not fret over so much. I have confidence, and faith that everything will turn out for the best.

It is easy to forgive others and as you said to me at our last visit, I can forgive myself.

I sense that I am becoming the best of me!"

"Emotionally, I have such an inner peace, a sense of

well being that I have never before experienced. I have almost a constant joy about life.

I do not dwell on the past, and I am thankful, so very thankful, that I can look to the future.

For the last two years, I would wake up 'assessing' my body, wondering if the aches and pains were due to the cancer returning, but I'm over that!!!

My mind is on life, moving forward and helping others with this disease."

Summation to this point

This now 54 year-old woman with terminal, stage IVB, metastatic, small cell cervical cancer, who was given less than 2.5 to 3 months to live, having failed aggressive, toxic, conventional cancer therapies, is currently alive and well without any objective evidence of malignant disease, to the surprise and chagrin of her allopathic oncologists.

The Integrative CAM (Complementary Alternative Medicine) therapy that was utilized consisted of her homeopathic constitutional simillimum alternating with a specific cancer nosode via the Ramakrishnan dosing method, as well as nutritional supportive care.

About the author: Dr. Mitch Fleisher is a double board-certified family physician specializing in classical homeopathy, nutritional and botanical medicine, chelation and bio-oxidative therapy with over twenty-five years experience practicing the gentler art and science of integrative medicine in Nellysford, Virginia. Dr. Fleisher has served as an active member of the clinical faculty of the National Center for Homeopathy, and an Assistant Clinical Professor and Clinical Instructor for the University of Virginia Health Sciences Center and at the Medical College of Virginia, where he has taught homeopathy in the introductory complementary medicine programs. Dr. Fleisher is the author of 'Alternative DrMCare Natural Medical Self-Care Protocols' designed to help people help themselves with natural therapies. He may be reached via www.alternativemedcare.com or contacted at (434) 361-1896 for more information about his Integrative CAM approach to cancer care. 