

A Collection of Cases

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Abstract: Dr. Wember presents cases of acute and chronic illnesses successfully treated with homeopathy, among them, cases of prostatitis, sinusitis, mood disorder, thyroglossal duct cyst, vocal nodules, failure to thrive, MRSA infection, urticaria, asthma, constipation, Herpes zoster neuralgia, eczema, Crohn's disease, drug withdrawal.

Keywords: prostatitis, sinusitis, mood disorder, thyroglossal duct cyst, vocal nodules, failure to thrive, MRSA infection, urticaria, asthma, constipation, Herpes zoster neuralgia, eczema, Crohn's disease, drug withdrawal; *Tarentula hispanica*, *Clematis erecta*, *Mycoplasma urealyticum*, *Staphysagria*, *Kali iodatum*, *Silicea*, *Collinsonia*, *Natrum muriaticum*, *Pyrogenium*, *Bacillinum*, *Calcarea carbonica*, *Blatta orientalis*, *Avena sativa*, cold liver oil.

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Another year has passed. It seems more like a few months than a whole year. Again I would like to share my Homeopathic experiences over the past year. I've practiced homeopathy for thirty-five years and continue to be amazed at its healing powers. Whether of acute, chronic, mental-emotional, or psychosomatic origin, there is but one healing principle – Similia Similibus Curentur or 'Let Likes Cure Likes.' From Hippocrates to Galen to Paracelsus to Hahnemann himself, and to all his followers, we see the healing 'miracles' in our daily medical practice. Especially in the severe cases of illness, I often ask, "...do you believe in miracles." Most people say yes. Why not start with a positive attitude? People often come to a homeopathic physician after having seen many allopathic doctors and having being subjected to many allopathic medications; yet they're still sick. They're somewhat dejected and have a sense of hopelessness. I prefer their homeopathic experience start with hope and positive expectation. The rest I leave to homeopathy.

This four year-old boy was sent by the pediatrician. He had always been a difficult child, with emotional lability, sudden mood changes and temper tantrums. His mother said he was frustrating and contrary. He awoke irritable and sighed a lot. He disliked being touched, hated his hair to be combed, and feared dogs. He wanted mother to be around, disliked company in general and had few friends. He loved swings, rocking and dancing. Dancing calmed him down. He was born with a large hemangioma on the right side of the face.

This was, indeed, a very difficult child in a three child family. I thought of *Belladonna*, with the irri-

tability, hating his hair to be combed and fear of dogs. However, this case lacked the fieriness of *Belladonna*. The fidgetiness, always wanting to be in motion, amelioration by motion (dancing calmed him down), aversion to being touched, and the purplish discoloration of the hemangioma called for *Tarentula hispanica*. One dose of a 1M potency was given and six weeks later the mother said there was a definite improvement. He was calmer and less moody, less afraid of dogs, having even petted one, brushing his hair more easily, and woke up in a better mood. The remedy seemed to last for six weeks before he began to revert to his earlier state. The next dose of 1M also lasted six weeks. The next dose, a 10M, has lasted two months to date.

A forty year-old man came to see me last year. He complained of chronic prostatitis of twelve years' duration. He suffered recurrent urinary tract symptoms of frequency, urgency, burning dysuria, with prostate pain and retrograde ejaculation, which often required six weeks of antibiotics. Further questioning brought out resentments from prior work and parental situations. I started with a dose of *Staphysagria* 10M. It had little effect. Three weeks later, at the next visit, he had acutely swollen and tender right submandibular glands. Tests by his allopathic doctor were negative for Streptococcus and Mononucleosis. This symptom led me to *Clematis*. Boericke says it is a remedy to think of "...in chronic gonorrheal and syphilitic patients." This patient's cultures were always negative for gonorrhea, though he presented as if he had a chronic sexually transmitted disease (STD). With its affinity for glands and right-sided facial symptoms I

gave *Clematis erecta* 30C. He had about a twenty to thirty percent improvement.

Then I gave a daily dose, for one week, of *Mycoplasma urealyticum* 30C. This is an sexually transmitted disease organism which frequently infects the prostate gland and is very difficult to culture. I have used it efficaciously in many 'prostate' patients. His symptoms immediately abated. Thereafter, at any hint of urinary symptoms, a dose of *Clematis erecta* would stop the progress.

This is a fifty year-old woman who related a two day history of pain and swelling in her larynx. She pointed to the outside of her throat. Indeed, on examination, the external throat, below the larynx was swollen and tender to touch. She said, on swallowing, she felt as if there was a golf ball in her throat. She felt exhausted and had a low grade fever of 99 degrees. She was very anxious, as if something terrible was going to happen. She had taken a dose of *Aconitum napellus*. There were no thyroid nodules, and I thought there might be some inflammation of the thyroid isthmus. I gave a dose of *Kali iodatum* 200C, one of a few remedies in Kent for thyroid swelling and soreness. The low grade fever was gone in two days. By the next day her energy returned and there was very little tenderness.

The swelling persisted, however, and she saw her allopathic doctor. He sent her to the ENT specialist who diagnosed a thyroglossal duct cyst. The prescription was antibiotics followed by surgery. The patient amicably refused and returned for further homeopathic treatment. I gave *Silica* 12C once a day and the cyst was gone in one week, without recurrence in the past eight months. *Silica* is a great remedy for cysts and fistulous tracts.

A mother brought in her two-and-one-half year-old son. He had a history of constipation since six months of age, ever since the third set of inoculations. At first he wouldn't go for four to five days at a time. The belly was swollen and hard, and the stools were hard, dark, dry, but well formed. The mother tried more fluids, prunes, probiotics, flaxseed, yogurt with fruit, vitamin C, and stopping gluten, all to no avail. He passed a lot of gas when the rectum was full, and he would scratch the rectum when the diapers were off. It would hurt when straining to stool. The pediatrician thought there probably was a fissure. I told the mother to use *Weleda Diaper Care* twice a day and before and after each stool. The combination of constipation in children; hard, dry painful stools, and itching rectum led to *Collinsonia*. I gave *Collinsonia* 30C to be used three times a day as needed. After four days the mother said, "The stools have been more frequent and less painful. He is not complaining anymore, even with no stool one day... he is now potty trained." We're now working on two year-old behavior.

A forty-five year-old woman came to see me on

the recommendation of her friend. She was a singer by avocation. She was having heartburn and hoarseness. Six months earlier she was diagnosed with vocal nodules and a polyp, and gastroesophageal reflux. She refused allopathic medications and was doing acupuncture and energy work, with some improvement. She had chronic sinus congestion and used a nasal irrigator, daily. Her history included three deaths in the family in the past year and some resentments about the family and not having enough money to fulfill her aspirations. I told her to forget about what was going on in her life at the present time. What is only 'what is,' not who she really was. I suggested that she concentrate on her aspirations, as if they had already been accomplished. I told her to watch the video, "The Secret," which is about positive expectations and self empowerment. I also gave her a weekly dose of *Natrum muriaticum* 10M. Six weeks later, she was fifty percent better. She said her ears would burn with each weekly dose of *Natrum muriaticum*. She was less anxious and sleeping better. Her voice was getting better. She was much happier. Six weeks later her digestion and congestion and voice were much improved. She is maintaining a more positive attitude in life.

This next woman came to see me with a painful case of Herpes zoster neuralgia. Six weeks earlier she had broken out with a shingles rash on the left side of her chest. Initially, she thought of a heart problem, but then the rash blossomed across the left breast and around the back and up into the neck behind the ear. Every movement of her torso was painful. The Neurologist gave Neurontin 100 mg three times a day and an antiviral medication. Three weeks later the Neurontin was upped to 300 mg three times a day. Two weeks later she came to see me. The skin across the upper chest area was still sore and sensitive to any touch, including that of any clothing she was wearing. There were many aspects to this case, including osteoarthritis, tinnitus and depression. Some of my favorite remedies in shingles are *Rhus toxicodendron*, *Arsenicum album*, *Mezereum* and *Ranunculus bulbosus*. However, there was something that stood out in this case. She related to me her sense of deep betrayal by her former husband. Now, that was many years ago. She had been happily remarried for a long time. I gave her *Staphysagria* 10M, once daily for one week. One month later, her pain was almost gone. She was no longer depressed, and she was ready to move on with some difficult decisions, with a much better attitude in her life.

This is the story of an 18 month-old male child. At three months he developed eczema. At five months he was treated for impetigo with antibiotics. At six months he began to fail to thrive. His weight was dropping off the weight charts and the pediatrician was becoming very concerned, so much so that he wanted the child seen by an endocrinologist. He had not been vacci-

nated and his developmental milestones were normal. He seemed quite normal on examination. He was taking iron for anemia. He was a very picky eater. He seemed to like salty things and disliked whole yogurt, but would eat no-fat yogurt. I told the mother to add cod liver oil and alfalfa to the diet. Boericke says, "... alfalfa favorably influences nutrition...by toning up the appetite...it acts as a fat producer..." I gave *Natrum muriaticum* 6x twice daily.

On the next visit, two months later, he was eating much better and had gained about twenty ounces. His eczema was also much better. About two weeks ago, four months after the first visit, he continued to gain weight and his eczema was almost gone. *Natrum muriaticum* is an emaciation remedy, especially in children. In this case, this fact plus the desire for salty things and the 'dislike of fatty things,' which I interpreted from the dislike of whole yogurt while liking non-fat yogurt, led to a corroboration of *Natrum muriaticum*.

This next case really illustrates the power of homeopathy in acute infectious diseases. A fifty year-old gentleman related this story. Two months earlier he had gone to the emergency room for what he thought was an abscess on his lower back. He had squeezed it, and it then continued to ooze pus. After waiting several hours, the nurse confirmed that it was an abscess. When the doctor finally arrived, he was quite upset and hospitalized the patient for three days of intravenous antibiotics. He was released on ten days of oral antibiotics. Everything seemed to heal.

One month later, he was given penicillin for a dental procedure. That same night he felt a pimple arise again on his lower back. The abscess had been enlarging ever since. When I examined the patient, there was a six inch soft flocculent area on the lower back expanding upwards. It was surrounded by a four inch darker red area with multiple pus vents. I wanted to send him back to the hospital. He was actually afraid of doctors and wanted my help. I told him I would treat him, but he would have to be in close contact with me to monitor the progress. If he wasn't starting to improve in three days, I would recommend he return to the hospital. I had him apply gauze pads soaked in my 'infection' remedy twice each day. I started him on *Pyrogenium* 200c, and a remedy I made from the pus in a 4X potency. When he called in three days, he was already improving. One month later, the skin was normal except for a few excoriated spots where he had scratched because it still itched. Everything healed, and then he had another dental procedure requiring one week of Amoxicillin. On finishing the Amoxicillin, three pimples again broke out on his back. Luckily, he started the remedy and soaks and everything healed once again. It is now well over three months later and he remains well.

Recently, a mother brought her six year-old daughter

to see me with the following history: she was well until one and one-half years ago when she started preschool. Since then she had had otitis three times, bronchitis three times and pneumonia. Her adenoids were removed. She had increasing asthmatic episodes to the point where she was nebulized at least once per week. She was on Pulmicort, Nasonex, Singulaire and albuterol nebulizers. She was a quiet child with a *Calcarea carbonica* constitution: phlegmatic and sweaty at night and during naps. I gave a dose of *Calcarea carbonica* 1M, followed by *Bacillinum* 200C weekly. There is no remedy better than *Bacillinum* to bolster the respiratory system. I told the mother to allergy-proof the house and gave her *Blatta orientalis* for any acute asthmatic symptoms that might arise. One month later she was off all daily allopathic medications. She needed the nebulizer only once. One month after that she was symptom free.

A fifty year-old woman came to see me with a history of chronic Crohn's disease, asthma and recurrent sinusitis and bronchitis. The main reason for her visit, at this time, was for insomnia. She had been weaning off of Klonopin for the preceding six months. After stopping altogether one month ago she had been unable to sleep. She couldn't get to sleep for hours and woke at 3 a.m., unable to get back to sleep. Sleeping pills only helped a little. She was on several medications, including immunosuppressants for her Crohn's disease. Since she was on powerful drugs, I decided to go lightly on homeopathic remedies and use diet and herbs to begin with. I suggested she refrain from eating wheat due to the Crohn's disease. I suggested Kava Kava, a very calming herb, at bedtime (it actually attaches to the benzodiazepam - Valium - receptors in the brain and can be helpful for this type of drug withdrawal). I also put her on *Avena sativa* tincture drops. This is also very calming and useful in drug withdrawal. I learned this from Dr. Henry Williams. One week later, I received a phone message that this woman had been to the emergency room two days earlier, and she wanted to talk to me. Naturally, my mind ruminated on whether what I prescribed for her had made her sick. I was not able to reach her until later that day, when she told me she had had severe abdominal cramps across the upper abdomen and spent twelve hours in the emergency room. There a sonogram revealed gallstones. She was sent home with pain medications and told to see her primary care physician. The pain was gone by the next morning. Just before hanging up on the conversation, I asked her how she was feeling in general. She said the gas and bloating from the Crohn's disease was almost gone; her sleep was great! She still had daytime anxiety; so I adjusted the times of taking the herbs, and she did even better. We're now working on a constitutional homeopathic basis for her other chronic diseases.

Six weeks ago, a patient returned for her second vis-

it. This is what she said: "...I'm doing great...I sleep so much better...I'm much more relaxed...I'm more at ease...It's amazing how much better I feel..." She came in one month earlier with complaints of panic attacks, anxiety and palpitations. This was a young, Type A, highly stressed woman. One year earlier she had sudden chest tightness with difficult breathing and heart pounding. The emergency room diagnosed panic attack. Her regular MD prescribed Xanax. The palpitations persisted and the cardiologist prescribed beta blockers and calcium channel blockers for some hypertension. She then developed gastroesophageal reflux with esophagitis and was put on acid blockers which didn't seem to help. One month later, prior to her first visit, she was put on Zoloft and taken off Xanax. One week later, she developed sudden chest pain and tight-

ness with anxiety and difficult sleep. That's when she came to see me. I suggested Kava Kava at bedtime. I put her on a daytime tincture remedy of *Eschscholtzia*, the California poppy. It's a very calming plant. I had her start fish oil capsules and gave her one dose of *Argentum nitricum* 10M. The effect of the treatment was as described above.

About the Author: David Wember, MD, DHT, practices classical homeopathy in Rockville, Maryland and Arlington, Virginia. He is current President of the Pennsylvania Homeopathic Medical Society, past-President of the NCH, and past-Dean of the NCH Summer School. AHT