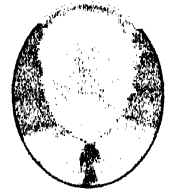


# A Case of Senile Dementia

**ABSTRACT:** A case where a clear cut picture of the remedy did not emerge and a lesser known remedy was used with astounding result, according to Hering's Law of cure.



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A 65 year old male patient came to me with the complaints of memory loss-so severe that he would forget the name of the person whom he is talking to! He would use wrong words while talking. It was very embarrassing and disturbed his day to day life.

### OTHER COMPLAINTS

Constipation since 25 yrs, after a surgery of Hemorrhoids. Takes purgatives daily since years. Insomnia for many years; could not sleep for more than 2 hours, at times no sleep the whole night-would sit on the sofa unable to lie down at all. Chest pain lying on left side.

### PAST HISTORY

Pulmonary Koch's at age of 15 yrs. Bypass surgery for Ischaemic heart disease 12 years ago. Even after CABG, had chest pain on exertion and lying on the left side. Had to rest after walking a short distance due to heaviness in his chest.

### PHYSICAL GENERALS

APPETITE: Normal. THIRST: Decreased, 4-5 gl /day. DESIRE: Sweets<sup>3</sup>, Ice-cream, Chilies, Fruits<sup>2</sup> AVERSION: Salty<sup>2</sup> PERSPIRATION: Normal, Blue stains under armpit. THERMALS: Tolerates heat more than cold, Fan needed only in summer, covering always needed, even in summer. Feet feel cold on the bare floor. : Sun: No complaints. Hence definitely Chilly<sup>3</sup>

SLEEP: Very less, (see CC), but even a small nap would ameliorate. DREAMS: Of brother FAMILY HISTORY: Mother: Asthma, Father: Died of pulmonary Koch's. PHYSICAL CONSTITUTION: Short, stocky.

LIFE SITUATION AND MENTALS: Patient is 2<sup>nd</sup> among 5 siblings. His father died when he was 12 years old. Since his father died at a young age and he was the second eldest, he had to take the responsibility of his family and started working at a very young age. Hard working; used to work for more than 12 hours a day. He had a paper bag manufacturing business in which he employed many people and was quite successful. He would sell his goods going door to door, on a bicycle, for more than 8/10 kms a day. He is not educated at all, as he left studies to work. He was never interested nor good in studies. His elder brother was in business, already in Mumbai, whom he joined. He used to work hard but his elder brother had habit of gambling and would spend all the money at horse races. He never complained about his brother's habit to others. He kept on helping him, even when it was affecting himself and family. He paid his debts even took care of the expense of marrying his brother's children. Later his family members forced him to stop giving money to his brother by removing him from the business. He kept on helping him even after that and says he will continue to help. He remembered brother fondly

and loves him much. He is a very sympathetic person and helps whoever asked for help including employees. He cannot see others in trouble nor other's sufferings. He is very communicative and likes to talk; very open and free in narrating history. It was observed that he smiled a lot during history taking and also in the follow-ups. Laughed a lot without any reason. Loquacious. His memory was deteriorating and became worse after he underwent coronary artery bypass graft. Made mistakes while writing and speaking. He had constant thoughts of his disease and also about his family. He likes to travel. His relatives told us that he was very mild now but he was a very angry person in his younger days. He liked children and he would play with them like a child.

### ANALYSIS OF THE CASE

First of all we need to understand the journey of disease in this patient. How this patient has traveled to his present stage of suffering senile dementia. This senile dementia is because of lack of blood supply to the brain. If you see the past history, there is a history of lack of blood supply to the coronary arteries and which led to Ischaemic heart disease → CABG-a graft was put in to relieve the patient. The disease expression in the body at the level of coronary arteries and heart is at the level of mesodermal organs. When this was suppressed and the disease was not allowed to express at this level then disease changed direction to affect blood vessels of the brain → ischaemia → finally causing senile dementia. This clearly indicates that it was suppression and the disease was progressing from less important organs to more important organs.

### UNDERSTANDING OF THE PATIENT

Now let us try to understand the patients, mental state and the characteristics:

1. The one important characteristic was the patient's unusually excessive love for brother. A love which harmed brother and patient. This falls under the category of misplaced

love.

2. The person was uneducated; nor had any interest in studying but is very hard working.
3. The patient laughed without any reason, indicating childish behaviour. This indicates the *Baryta* group which has this kind of misplaced emotions and anxieties because of its indiscretion.
4. Another aspect: He is very sympathetic and is ready to help people including his employees. Then we have the extreme love for children. These symptoms are characteristic of the *Phosphorous* element - very sympathetic, helpful, affectionate and especially has tremendous love for children.
5. And so the remedy has to cover all these aspects and it is not covered by *Baryta-carb*. Hence I thought of *Baryta-phos*. Actually this remedy is not proved much and neither is it mentioned in the complete repertory at all. Hence I was hesitant, as it would be a purely synthetic prescription. On looking up the remedy *Baryta-phos* in Jan Scholtens book: Homoeopathy and minerals, we find that these people favour the underdogs and the black sheep of the family. They are sympathetic towards mentally or physically handicapped and the under-privileged in the society especially their friends or brother. Now my remedy was confirmed and I gave *Baryta-phos* 200 -1 dose.

### FOLLOW-UP AFTER 1 MONTH

Sleep improved tremendously and started sleeping for almost 4 hours at night in the supine position. Normally he could sleep for only 2 hours with difficulty and only in sitting position. His constipation improved, the purgatives use became less. The biggest improvement was in his memory, which according to the patient, was 25% improvement. He started remembering the names of the people to whom he would be talking. He became more active. He started complaining about cramps and muscular pain in his lower extremities especially thighs. This

indicates that the disease which was at the level of the brain, was now being expressed at the level of the muscles (Mesodermal – connective tissue level) indicating that the disease was improving according to the Hering's law. The cure process is traveling in the right direction that is from the more important to less important organs, ie the brain (neuro-ectoderm to the mesoderm-connective tissue)

#### **FOLLOW -UP AFTER 2 MONTHS**

Further improvement seen in memory. Chest pain earlier on exertion. Now he got the pain only when he began to walk and it would subside after continuing to walk. His general condition was much better. He complained of increased frequency of urination with burning, urine passed drop by drop. On enquiry, he remembered that he had suffered from urinary tract infection in the past which was treated by antibiotics. Hence this was termed as return of old symptom. He was advised not to take any other medicine for it, was kept on SL.

#### **FOLLOW-UP AFTER 3 MONTHS**

The patient's further improvement stopped and he was the same during this month. But he **did not** deteriorate either. His cramping pains went down from thighs to calf muscles. This was a strong indication for repetition and another dose of *Baryta-phos 200* was given.

#### **FOLLOW-UP AFTER 6 MONTHS**

The patient steadily kept on improving and eventually was able to lead a normal life without many problems. His cramping pains totally stopped. His constipation has totally improved and he passes without any purgatives.

#### **FOLLOW -UP AFTER 1 YEAR**

Memory much better. He does not forget things as much as before. He can have a normal conversation with people without forgetting their name. His constipation zero. His chest pain is much better, he can sleep on the left side at night

without much pain. Sleeps for 4 hours. The cramps which he get after the remedy are less. No pains anywhere in the body.

#### **FOLLOW-UP AFTER 2 YEARS**

The patient is absolutely fine and is off any medication for last 6 months. All through his treatment only 2 doses of the remedy were given. He still visits me on and off infrequently for some minor ailments and I prescribe him only placebo and he becomes fine. His whole family visits me often for their complaints and I get the feedback from them about his health, they all are very happy with his progress.

#### **CONCLUSION**

This case teaches us that at times we need to take a different approach in prescribing when a clear cut image or a picture of a remedy does not emerge. Sometimes we need to consider the characteristic odd behaviour in the person which makes him different from others. Even if we prescribe a rare or lesser used remedy about which not much information is available in our literature written by our old masters, the cure should take place according to the Hering's law. Unless and until the Hering's law is seen in the follow-up, we cannot label the improvement as permanent and be sure that the remedy is the right similimum. Suppression can take place even after major surgeries, however important they are and necessary at that point of time. Hering's law should be interpreted according to origin of the organs and hierarchy of their development in the body. Knowledge of pathology is also important to understand the journey of disease and to understand the Hering's law in the terms of patho-physiology of diseases.

**In a Veterinarian's waiting room:**

**"Be back in 5 minutes. Sit! Stay!"**