

# A Placenta Baby

By Claudia Demire



The placenta is the organ that attaches to the wall of the uterus during pregnancy, allowing nutrients and oxygen from the mother's blood circulation to pass into the developing baby via the umbilical cord. This case illustrates the 'mother' aspects of the potentised remedy made from human placenta

A young woman, aged 30, (hereafter referred to as 'G') first came for a consultation in 1998 because she had just come off the contraceptive pill, having been on it for five years. She had experienced no obvious side effects from taking it, but wanted to go back to natural cycles. At the time, pregnancy was not an issue. She responded well to treatment. Her menstrual cycles went back to normal quickly, and she was generally well. I saw her infrequently in 1998 and 1999.

In November 1999 she said that she and her husband very much wanted to start a family. They had been trying for six months with no success. The husband's sperm count was normal. She was worried; her moods were erratic and unstable. She had experienced two particularly bad periods with a lot of pain and heavy bleeding, which was unusual. Seeing pregnant women upset her. She said she wanted attention, and to be comforted and reassured, which was also unusual for her. I prescribed *Pulsatilla* 200c, and *Folliculinum* 6c to take at ovulation.

*Pulsatilla* 1M was prescribed in December when she reported another painful and heavy period. She had no further problems with her cycles. In March 2000 she phoned me to say she was pregnant. Unfortunately the foetus died *in utero* at eight weeks and she had to have a D&C in May. G did not contact me until two months after the D&C.

In November 2000, she came back for a consultation. She admitted that she was not coping and that she was still very upset about the miscarriage, feeling misunderstood and unsupported by her mother, whose attitude was, "get on with it". She felt very hurt and isolated. She also felt it was very unfair because she had always been the person everyone (including her mother) relied upon in her family. She felt badly let down. She had unpleasant dreams: of being chased, of struggling, of looking for someone and not finding them. She was also upset at hearing the news that one of her friends was pregnant; she felt angry and jealous. She cried a lot in the consulting

room whilst talking about all these issues. She also cried a lot at home. Her periods were regular but she had a lot of breast tenderness, which eased when the flow started. She was not hungry, had gone off meat and alcohol, and was mainly on a vegetarian diet.

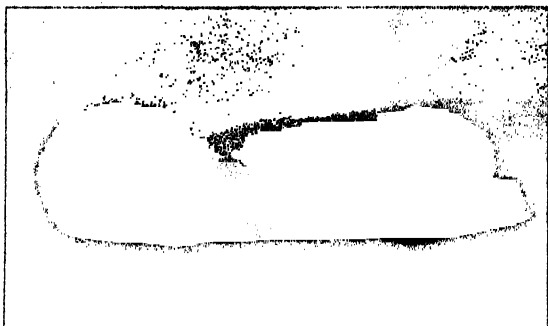
I felt that the miscarriage had reopened old wounds in G's life. She had never mentioned such feelings about her mother before and yet she spoke this time in very strong terms about this now. There was anger, resentment, and a deep feeling of isolation and of being misunderstood.

In the *Placenta Humanum (Welsh)* proving similar strong feelings around unresolved family issue were experienced by the provers in the second week of the proving.<sup>1</sup> My patient had also lost confidence in her self, and thought she would never be able to have a baby.

I prescribed *Placenta Humanum (Welsh)* 40, single dose, to take at the next ovulation. She phoned me three weeks later to say she was not well. In fact, she had had an almost immediate aggravation after taking the remedy. Her anger was gone but she now felt completely "flat" and indifferent; she felt disconnected. She did not feel affectionate, felt irritable when in company, and wanted to be on her own. She felt negative about everything. Yet she was not thinking about the miscarriage anymore and she was not concerned about past family issues. She was unable to cry but felt like crying. Her sleep pattern had also changed: she wanted to sleep all the time. She was going to bed very early and said she did not want to wake. She had a lot of breast tenderness, which did not ease when periods started.

Her reaction to the remedy was worrying because there was an aggravation and a change of symptoms, but no improvement. These symptoms of indifference, detachment and overwhelming sleepiness were experienced by a lot of the provers in the first week after taking the remedy. G had experienced these feelings for three weeks now, and there was no shift in her symptoms. At this stage G did not know which remedy she had been

given. I told her that I needed to do some research and would contact her in the next few days. I phoned Linda Gwillim, who had conducted the proving. After discussing the case with her, I decided to repeat the remedy.



In January 2001, I sent G a bottle of *Placenta* 40c, five drops to take in water. After one week there was no obvious change. I instructed her to take the drops again but to shake the bottle ten times before doing so. In the following few days, there was a quick succession of strong emotions: her anger and feelings of loneliness came back and then disappeared, and then all the symptoms rapidly improved.

In February 2001 she informed me she was pregnant. Only then did I tell her then that she had been given a remedy made from human placenta. She gave birth in September 2001.

In conclusion, this case raised two main issues for me. The first was: using a newly proven remedy, about which little is known... and then things start going wrong. I chose to persevere with *Placenta* because I was able to discuss the case with the original proving conductor, and I had my patient's support. Communication and trust were key factors. The second issue was potency and repetition of the remedy. *Placenta Humanum* (Welsh) was proven in the 40th potency, so this is the potency I used. The aggravation that followed indicated to me that the potency was not correct; however, changing the potency slightly by successing the remedy in water made all the difference.

#### References

<sup>1</sup> Proving of *Placenta humanum* (Welsh) 40, by Linda Gwillim-Society of Homeopaths Annual Conference, September 2000.



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