

Imponderabilia in Homeopathic Practice

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Summary: Imponderabilia, medicines prepared from energy sources, were introduced in homeopathic pharmacology in the nineteenth century by Hahnemann with the magnets. In the twenty-first century various researches and observational studies in the realm of medicine and/or allied subjects have provided us abundant information on the influence of various forms of electromagnetic energy on human (and animal) health. Using this information as toxicological data, we can add some more drugs (after thorough drug provings) like Mobile, Computer and Television as newer imponderabilia.

Keywords: imponderabilia, electromagnetic field (EMF), potentized mobile radiation, potentized computer radiation, potentized television radiation

Introduction

During January 1992, the *Boston Globe* carried a news report that lawyers for a twenty-one-year-old woman from Connecticut who had a malignant brain tumor had filed the first widely recognized and authoritatively researched U.S. lawsuit charging that the tumor was the direct result of the patient's protracted exposure to the electromagnetic field (EMF) generated by the nearby power line.¹

In the year 2002, *Epidemiology*¹ published papers on the potential effects of EMF on miscarriages, childhood leukemia (EMF exposure in infant incubators), female breast cancers, and the effect of radiofrequency EMF exposure on brain and salivary gland cancers. In a 2003 issue of *Epidemiology*, Norwegian databases on residence, power lines and births were cleverly and efficiently integrated to assess the potential effects of EMF on birth defects, with some positive associations.¹¹

In spite of mounting evidence available through well documented studies, the scientific and medical fraternity at large is in a state of denial regarding the potential health hazards of the EMF.

Homeopathy, from its very inception, has enriched itself with toxicological data, which forms a major portion of Hahnemann's *Materia Medica Pura*. In fact, some of the most poisonous plants (*Aconitum napellus*, *Belladonna*, *Nuxvomica*, etc.) and snake venoms (*Lachesis*, *Naja*, *Vipera*, etc.) have found their most judicious application on the

homeopathic principles (Simili², Mono³ and Mini⁴). And, the phenomenon of potentization has drawn out exceptional therapeutic virtues in some of the most unconventional substances, viz. *Natrum muriaticum*, *Lac caninum*, *Medorrhinum*, etc.

Hahnemann also observed in the *Organon*, Aphorism 280 footnote that, "... even imponderable agencies can produce most violent effects upon man..."¹¹ And, with his deep insight and profound wisdom, he was yet again the torch-bearer for the introduction of imponderabilia in homeopathic practice by providing a precise description of the medicinal preparation from magnets⁵ in the *Materia Medica Pura*^{1V} and guidelines for individualized usage based on the pure (observed) pathogenic effects derived through drug provings.

The word imponderabilia is derived from imponderable, meaning having no weight, very light, something that cannot be measured quantitatively. In physics it is especially used for the various energies and forces. In homeopathy this word is used to describe the medicines/remedies that are derived from sources of energy, whether natural (*Magnetis*, *Luna*, *Sol*, *Electricitas*, etc) or artificial (*X-Ray*, *Electricity*, *Magnetis artificialis*, etc).

Dr. H.C. Allen described the symptomatology along with the mode of preparations of some other imponderabilia in his

1 Official Journal of the The International Society for Environmental Epidemiology, *Epidemiology* is a peer-reviewed scientific journal that publishes original research on the full spectrum of epidemiologic topics.

2 Law of Similars: Similia Similibus Curentur; i.e., Let Likes be treated by Likes
3 Law of Homeopathy: Use of a single remedy/medicinal agent at a time, just as it has been employed at the time of drug proving.
4 Law of Homeopathy: Use of Minimum possible medication, just enough to stimulate.
5 *Magnes*, *Magnetis Polus Australis* and *Magnetis Polus Arcticus*

Materia Medica of the Nosodes. Elizabeth Wright Hubbard has mentioned the sources of Imponderabilia drugs in her book *A Brief Study Course in Homeopathy*. Drs. C. Caspari, G.H.G. Jahr, J.H. Clarke, Samuel Swan, etc. have also described their symptoms.

Newer Imponderabilia Remedies

Some of the most common sources of EMF to which we all are subject are magnets, electricity, computer, mobile and television. The former two were potentized for remedial use a long while ago and are now an integral part of our armamentarium and have been used successfully many times⁶. In the twenty-first century we need to incorporate the newer, more pervasive and potent sources of EMF in the homeopathic materia medica. Besides conducting thorough drug provings (as has already been done with the mobile phone radiation), the researched information already available may be incorporated as symptomatology (toxicological data) of the respective drug.

Mobile: Mobile phone radiations have been potentized and proving details can be obtained from the website <http://www.littlemiracle.freeuk.com>. Apart from this information there are numerous research papers providing conclusive correlative evidence of the morbid effects of mobile phone radiation. For example, a study in 2001 by French, *et. al.*, proposed the possible induction of abnormally high levels of stress proteins in cells due to chronic and frequent exposure to mobile phone radiation.⁵ Similarly another paper published in 2003 by David Weisbrot, *et. al.*, noted, "As found earlier with low frequency exposures, the non-thermal radiation from the GSM mobile phone increased numbers of offspring, elevated hsp70 levels, increased serum response element (SRE) DNA-binding and induced the phosphorylation of the nuclear transcription factor, ELK-1."⁶

Computer: In 1988, the French magazine *Le Point*⁷ published a report on the work of Dr. Marilyn Goldhaber from the Kaiser Permanente Institute of California. Her study followed 1,783 women for three years and observed a one hundred percent increase in miscarriages in women who spent more than twenty hours per week in front of a computer screen or television. The article added that these women's children had forty percent more genetic defects than the "normal" average of those who did not work in front of a Video Display Terminal (VDT). The cause of this distressing condition could be linked to the daily over-exposure to the pulsed electro-magnetic radiation (PEMR) generated by computer and television screens.⁸ Other untoward effect of excessive computer use, unrelated to PEMR, are com-

mon; eg, the constant staring at a screen and not moving for multiple hours can have negative effects on the eyes; also, from using the computer mouse for an extended period of time people can suffer carpal tunnel syndrome, which is the equivalent of pulling a muscle in your wrist; additionally, the lack of movement and the slouching posture can cause problems with one's lower back, gluteal region, and hamstrings. Lastly, any exposure to light stimuli, such as that from a computer screen, can make falling asleep immediately afterward much harder, since one's mind is still processing information.⁹

Television: Television screens emit low and very low frequency electromagnetic waves (radiofrequencies and light) and exposure to them may be associated with a decrease in 24-hour melatonin⁸ in children's urine. An observational study in schools of Cavriglia, Italy determined melatonin levels in 24-hour urines from 42 boys and 32 girls six to thirteen years of age after one week of watching television and after another week of abstaining from watching. In a gender- and-age-dependent fashion exposure to a television screen was associated with lower urinary melatonin concentrations, affecting particularly younger children at a pubertal stage when important changes in melatonin's time structure occur.⁸ Melatonin is known to help control the timing and release of female reproductive hormones. It helps determine when menstruation begins, the frequency and duration of menstrual cycles, and when menstruation ends (menopause). This is of great medical importance as this era is witnessing a greater number of girls reporting precocious puberty and women experiencing early menopause.

My experiences with some of the newer imponderabilia remedies

Professor L.M. Khan⁹, HOD Department of *Organon*, Homeopathic Philosophy and Psychology, at the National Institute of Homeopathy, Kolkata, India, first introduced me to these new imponderabilia remedies and also inspired me to study their morbid biological influences. He also provided me the potentized preparations of these medicines in 6, 12, 30 and 200 potencies prepared with pure rectified spirit (RS)

8 Melatonin is a hormone secreted by the pineal gland in the brain that helps regulate other hormones and maintains the body's circadian rhythm. Darkness stimulates the production of melatonin while light suppresses its activity. Exposure to excessive light in the evening or too little light during the day can disrupt the body's normal melatonin cycles. For example, jet lag, shift work, and poor vision can disrupt melatonin cycles. In addition, some experts claim that exposure to low-frequency electromagnetic fields (common in household appliances) may disrupt normal cycles and production of melatonin.

9 Prof. L. M. Khan MD (Hom) is a world renowned homeopathic physician and teacher par excellence. He is the author of *Wisdom of Nosodes*, *Wisdom of Sarcodes*, *Wisdom of Imponderabilia*, *Pleasure of Prescribing* and *Thuja Occidentalis* and has also written countless articles which have been published in various magazines/journals.

6 For example, the Homeopathic Physicians must have prevented countless cases of In-growing toe nail from the surgeon's knife with just a few doses of *Magnetis Polus Australis*: an advice given by Hahnemann in *Materia Medica Pura*.

7 A French weekly news magazine, founded in 1972.

as well as a mixture of rectified spirit and water (R+W). As per his directions, so far I have only prescribed RS potencies.

I have had the opportunity of prescribing potentized *Mobile* radiation and *Computer* radiation (individually) in various medical conditions, viz. ankylosing spondylitis, myofascial pain syndrome, cervical spondylosis, acne vulgaris, seborrhoea, psoriasis, vitiligo, anxiety neurosis, uncontrolled primary hypertension, erectile dysfunction, etc. In most of the cases these remedies have been prescribed after failure of a well-proved remedy or in the absence of clear-cut indications for one.

Case 1: Ankylosing Spondylitis with Acne vulgaris

A 29 year-old male, diagnosed case of ankylosing spondylitis (HLA B27 +ve, X-Ray-b/l sacroiliitis) consulted for severe acne vulgaris (especially marked on face) in October 2007. Being a tax consultant by profession, his work was entirely on computer for 12-14 hours, six days a week for the last twelve years. *Argentum nitricum* and *Aesculus hippocastanum* in LM potencies had provided only temporary relief in both the conditions. *Computer* 12 RS and later 30 RS through olfaction for a few days cured him of acne completely and brought his ankylosing spondylitis into remission. His ESR (erythrocyte sedimentation rate) also came down from 85 to 15 in a span of three months. He has been followed to date and received very occasional doses of *Computer* 30 R.S. (olfaction) in the last three years. His acne never came back and he has not had any relapse of ankylosing spondylitis.

Case 2: Erectile dysfunction

A 37 year-old graphic designer consulted for erectile dysfunction. He worked on the computer up to fifteen hours a day for nearly the last twenty years, the last eight of which he also regularly used a laptop. A thorough case history did not elicit clear-cut indications of any homeopathic remedy. He was thus prescribed *Computer* 12 RS twice a day for seven days. His complaints resolved within a month's time.

Case 3: Vitiligo

A 36 year-old male, builder by profession, consulted for vitiligo on the hands, forearms, legs and feet, and left-sided sciatica. The general physical examination also revealed a blood pressure of 150/100 mm Hg. He was prescribed *Causticum* on the basis of over-exertion in his lifestyle with a very sympathetic attitude, which brought down his blood pressure to normal and cured his sciatica, but had no effect on his vitiligo. Since his work required him to be on the phone up to sixteen hours a day, he was prescribed *Mobile* 12 RS twice a day for seven days, followed by placebo. Repigmentation was visible in a few lesions on the forearms within a month. He is still being followed without repetition of the medicine.

Case 4: Myofascial pain syndrome

A 47 year-old housewife consulted for pains in both

shoulders and arms. An X-ray of the cervical spine showed straightening of the curvature due to muscular spasm. Numerous sessions of physiotherapy had provided little relief. She was taking three to four analgesics every day. Her daughter pointed out her love for soap operas on television. The television in her room was switched on throughout the day. She was prescribed *Television* 12 RS, one pill dissolved in 100 ml of water, with directions to take one teaspoon every morning until she felt better. She reported, after finishing the entire bottle, that by the time her bottle was half empty her complaints were halved as well, but thereafter the improvement stopped. She had, however, finished the remaining medicine in anticipation of further recovery. A few more doses of *Television* 30 RS have nearly removed her sufferings, and she now leads a pain-free (and analgesic free) life.

Conclusion

Homeopathy provides the best analogue (answer) to quantum physics¹⁰ in the realm of medicine with its usage of ultra-micro-dilutions and imponderabilia as therapeutic remedies. There is clearly a need for thorough drug provings of these prevalent sources of EMF and subsequent inclusion in our *materia medica*. In this humanistic endeavor it is appropriate to remember the following lines by *William Gilbert in De Magnete*¹¹

“In the discovery of secret things and in the investigation of hidden causes, stronger reasons are obtained from sure experiments and demonstrated arguments than from probable conjectures and the opinions of philosophical speculators....”

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¹⁰ Quantum physics is the study of the behavior of matter and energy at the molecular, atomic, nuclear, and even smaller microscopic levels. In the realm of quantum physics, observing something actually influences the physical processes taking place. Light waves act like particles and particles act like waves (called wave particle duality). Matter can go from one spot to another without moving through the intervening space (called quantum tunnelling).

¹¹ William Gilbert (1544-1603), Physician to Queen Elizabeth I, wrote his classic text *De Magnete* in 1600 (15), describing hundreds of detailed experiments on electricity and terrestrial magnetism and debunking many quack medicinal uses of the magnet.

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