

Efficacy of Homoeopathy in Hepatitis B

More than 1.25 million Americans are chronically infected with the virus and as many as 5,000 die every year of a hepatitis-B related illness. Although no cure exists for hepatitis B, a vaccine can prevent the disease. Hepatitis B is one of the six currently identified strains of viral hepatitis- the others are A,C,D E and G. Each strain is unique, differing from the others in severity and in the way it spreads. Hepatitis B is a serious liver infection caused by the hepatitis B virus (HBV). In some, the infection becomes chronic leading to liver failure, liver cancer or cirrhosis-a condition that causes permanent scarring of the liver.

The hepatitis B virus is transmitted through the blood and body fluids of someone who is infected. Especially at risk in intravenous IV drug users who share needles or other paraphernalia, have unprotected sex with an infected partner or are born in or travel to parts of the world where hepatitis B is widespread. In addition, women with HBV can pass the infection to their babies during childbirth. However, most people infected as adults recover fully from hepatitis B even if symptoms are severe. Infants and children are more likely to develop a chronic infection.

Most infants and children with hepatitis B never develop signs and symptoms. The same is true for one third of adults. Signs and symptoms usually appear after four to six weeks incubation period. It can range from mild to severe infection with the following symptoms: Flu-like presentation, with malaise, fatigue, muscle pain and abdominal pain, especially around right hypochondrium;

lasting 3 to 10 days. This is followed (for 1 to 3 weeks or longer) by yellow discoloration of mucus membranes, abdominal pain, especially around right hypochondrium. Anorexia, nausea, fatigue, pale stools, dark urine and liver enlargement, but usually no fever.

Hepatitis B infection may be either acute, lasting less than six months or chronic, lasting six months or longer. If the disease is acute, immune system is able to clear the virus from the body, and recovery completes within few months. While immune system cannot fight off the virus, HBV infection may become lifelong, leading to serious illnesses such as cirrhosis and liver cancer.

Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg) is the outer surface of the virus. Positive for this antigen means it is infective to others. A negative test means not currently infected.

MANAGEMENT AND PROGNOSIS

The rate of progression of the disease is variable. In 20 per cent of cases, cirrhosis develops in 5 to 10 years but in the majority, the prognosis is good. In some series there has been a tendency for the inflammatory process to subside over several years, and in others, progression is very slow.

CASE: Mr R, aged 20y, presented with following complaints: Fever with pain in abdomen, constipation and dark urine in colour, Appetite: N, weakness + + +. ODP: Patient was admitted on 17/ 3/ 03 and took treatment at Govt Institute of Tropical Medicine, Hyderabad, with following investigations
17/3/ 03: Sr Bil: 17.70, **HbsAg: + ve**,
18/03/03: Sr Bil: 14, Sr Alk Phos: 416, SGOT: 530, Bil Salts: + ve, Bil Pigments : +ve,
Wt was 46 and on 20/03 /03 opted for discharge and Homoeopathic treatment.

TOTALITY OF SYMPTOMS

Pain, pressing, right hypochondrium



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Pain > Pressure

> Warm drinks

Warm drinks, desire

Stool constipated, hard, knotty lumpy

Urine dark color

Repertorisation was done with Complete Repertory by the Hompath-8 software.

The following were the results of Repertorisation:

Chelidonium 13/6, *Lycopodium* 12/5, *Sulphur* 8/5

20/03/03: *Chelidonium* 200c, 3 doses and *SL* for 7

Days was prescribed

27/03/03: Sr Bil was given, *SL*-7 days was repeated,

03/04/03: General condition was better. Pain in RHC reduced. Urine: yellow in morning. Stool: Pale in colour, Wt: 46 Kgs, *SL* 7 days was given.

10/4/03 No weakness, slight pain in RHC, Weight : 47 Kgs *Chelidonium* IM, 1 dose was given, *SL* – 7days.

16/04/03: Sr Bil was 2.24. General condition was good. *SL* 7 days given.

24/04/03: General condition was good. *SL* 7 days

07/05/03: Weight 47 Kgs, Pain RHC+, Appetite : less *Lycopodium* 200C, 1D was given, *SL* 15 days,

22/05/03: Sr Bil: 1.06 AND Hbs Ag: -ve

29/05/03: Pain occ. Appetite: less,

SL 15 days,

12/06/03: Sr Bil was 0.9. Weight: 48 kgs

DISCUSSION

HbsAg is the diagnostic criteria for Hepatitis B which is the serological and Virological marker. In acute condition there is also increase in serum Alkaline Phosphatase simultaneously. After 2 to 3 months HbsAg undergoes in to undetectable stage which can be as low as threshold levels and disappears from the blood. There it can develop antibody to HbsAg (anti HBS).

In the above case with our treatment the individual has developed immunity and general condition has been improved. According to homoeopathic law, the internal well being of the individual, which is the prime criteria will be taken as well being and as a curative finding.

Further investigation for HbsAg, which is a first marker, has been negative. Further study in the investigation to rule out viral replication such as HBeAg, HBV- DNA or DNA polymerase and Anti-HBe can be carried out to declare a patient free from the Hepatitis B. The investigations are very expensive and because of low economic status of patient further study cannot be conducted to rule out the case for positivity.

CONCLUSION

With homeopathic system we feel sure that the infectivity of the virus, has been controlled and enhanced the immunity levels in the individual, leading to improved general condition of the patient. Further study can be conducted on the large scale to prove the efficacy of the system, in curing and preventing Hepatitis B. Above case with laboratory reports before and after treatment greater is the example of Homoeopathy efficacy. However clinical trails in more number of cases are required for further confirmation and evaluation in Hepatitis B cases.

REFERENCES

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- 4) Harrison, principles of Internal Medicine, 17 Edition, Vo11,
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- 6) Park JE, text book of preventive Medicine- 16th Ed

Laboratory reports (enclosed above)

THEATRE RULE

At any event, the people whose seats are furthest from the aisle arrive last.