

Case of Bothrops Atox: Hereditary Cholesterolemia

Dr. Farokh Master

Abstract: A case of hereditary cholesterolemia, with recurrent carotid occlusion, vertigo with a sensation of falling to the side, venous stasis, fear of heart disease, and aggravation from coitus, which responded favorably to *Bothrops atrox* is presented. Materia medica of the remedy is presented.

Keywords: *Bothrops atrox*, hereditary cholesterolemia, recurrent carotid occlusion

This is the case of a 59 year-old man suffering from hereditary cholesterolemia. This is a rare disease, where the high cholesterol level has nothing to do with the diet. There is an increased level of low-density lipoprotein (LDL) and a low level of high-density lipoprotein (HDL) and an increased level of triglycerides and cholesterol. Due to this particular anomaly, the patient had a lot of cardiac problems, and he complained of angina pectoris. He also had problems with his vision, but the main problem was recurrent occlusion of the internal carotid artery. He was on cholesterol-reducing drugs, coronary artery dilators, aspirin, and vitamins. He was just recovering from his last episode of carotid artery occlusion in the hospital when I was asked to see him. What I gathered from the history was that with every attack of occlusion he suffered from mild reduction in the level of consciousness. His eyes were slightly deviated and in one of the episodes his speech was greatly affected.

When I tried to palpate the carotid artery from the angle of the jaw on the affected side, the pulsation was weak; cardiac auscultation revealed poorly conducted heart sounds. One clear-cut symptom that was evident was a mild disturbance of vision before every episode of occlusion. The high cholesterol level affected his blood supply in the circle of Willis, which produced a certain degree of cerebral ischemia affecting mainly the anterior and middle cerebral arterial territories. Doctors had warned him that any further episodes would

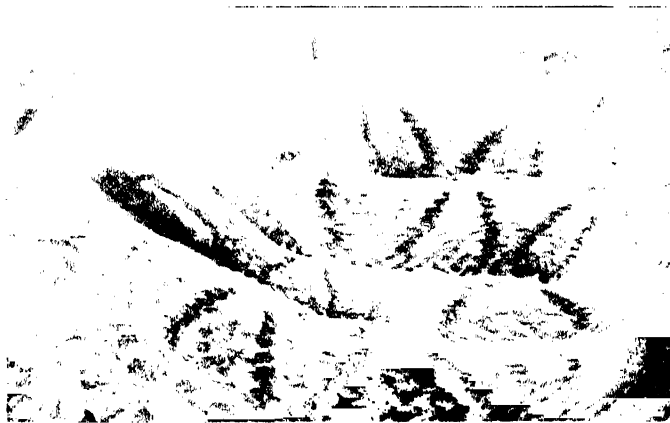
produce a definite, permanent, and severe neurological deficit; therefore he constantly lived with the fear of heart attack, stroke, and paralysis. He also complained of vertigo, which came whenever there was any nervous excitement or anxiety. The vertigo was sudden in onset, lasting for a fraction of a second with a sensation of falling to either the left or right side.

After every attack of carotid artery occlusion, it was strenuous for him to even talk, and his speech became slow. He had a choking sensation when sipping any carbonated drink. After sexual intercourse, he would develop weakness and prostration for a few days.

On examination I noticed venous stasis of his lower extremities.

He was an executive in a bank. At a very young age of 10, his father died and his mother brought him up single handedly. She did not have enough financial resources to support his education. It was really difficult for her to work, earn, run the house, look after her son, and save enough money for his education; so he was sent to a boarding school. Here he felt very lonely and forsaken for a long period of time. During college, he preferred to stay in a hostel as his mother was still working and there was no one to look after him.

When he finished his post-graduate studies, he took a job as a salesman in a multinational company. He was an ambitious, self-made man who came up in life due to hard work and sincerity. At the age of 35, he married a woman whom he loved very much. He could not



express his feelings and emotions easily, not even to his wife of seventeen years. He hid his feelings as if wearing a mask.

He still missed his childhood when he saw other children with their parents. This was due to loss of his family at an early age, first from the death of his father, then having to live away from home in a boarding school.

After considering the full totality, I took the following symptoms:

- Forsaken feeling.
- Ailments from single parent syndrome.
- Reserved, not showing true emotions, a sort of mask.
- Recurrent occlusion of internal carotid artery.
- Hereditary high cholesterol.
- Characteristic vertigo.
- Aggravation from coitus.
- Venous stasis in lower extremities.
- Speech slow.

Over several years, his doctor had gradually increased his dosage of anti-lipid and anti-cholesterol drugs. He exhibited abnormal liver function due to the side-effects of the anti-cholesterol drugs, Lopid 600 mg and Zevast 200 mg (atorvastatin). He was also taking Nicotinic acid, which helped increase levels of HDL and lower the levels of LDL.

After studying the case, I confirmed that he had many features of *Bothrops*, yet *Bothrops lanceolatus* did not help him. During that time, I was preparing for my seminar on snake remedies, and I came across a very nice article by Dr. H.A. Roberts on *Bothrops atrox*. I saw in this remedy a very strong fear of heart disease like that seen in *Gelsemium* and *Lachesis*. The reference to this remedy is found in the book *The Study of Remedies by Comparison* by Dr. H.A. Roberts (1941).

Bothrops atrox covered this patient's fear of cardiac illness and paralysis, nervous vertigo with a tendency to fall, and aggravation from coitus. It is also a very good remedy for recurrent thrombosis, especially in the large vessels. It does not cover the speech element that was present.

The patient had all the symptoms of *Bothrops* in general, as well as other snake features, including: forsaken feeling, industriousness, and ambition to come up on his own, even though he did not have many resources.

Consequently, I shifted my prescription to *Bothrops atrox*. This was the first case ever in which I prescribed *Bothrops atrox*, in 1991. It was difficult for me to procure the remedy, but Smith Nigel from Austria was able to supply it.

I administered *Bothrops atrox* 30C daily in the five cup method for fifteen days and then repeated the lipid profile. For the very first time, the LDL levels decreased.

I continued the same treatment for another forty-five

days and observed an approximately eighty to ninety percent improvement in the symptomatology.

I then reduced the dose of Zevast to 10 mg each day and kept him under observation. Instead of a daily dose of *Bothrops atrox* 30C, I now administered it every third day and kept him under regular observation; monitoring blood pressure and lipid levels.

After six months I reduced the dose of Zevast to 10 mg on alternate days. In one year, I reduced the Zevast to 5 mg on alternate days. Within two years, I completely stopped the Zevast. He was now only on Lopid 600 mg once a day.

In two years, he had no recurrence of any episode of carotid artery occlusion. The cholesterol and LDL remained within normal range and HDL levels ranged from 75 to 80mg/dl. I advised a CT scan to check for neurological deficit, and everything was normal. Digital subtraction angiography of the internal and external carotid artery system showed no new formation of thrombi.

After seeing these results, the patient was given *Bothrops atrox* 30C only once a month for three to four months. He was advised to check his lipid levels every six months and to report any change in symptomatology.

***Bothrops atrox*: Remedy Notes**

Mind

- Ailments from mental shock.
- Anxiety from fright.
- Fear that the heart will stop beating unless constantly moving about. (*Bothrops alternatus* also).
- Sadness from pain.

Head

- Pain in the head aggravated in open air.
- Headache in the right side of occiput.
- Pain increases suddenly.

Nose

- Epistaxis in the morning on rising.
- Epistaxis with amenorrhea.
- Epistaxis instead of menses or after suppressed menses.

Face

- Distended veins of the face.

Mouth

- Furry tongue.
- Thick slurred speech. Tongue feels thick.

Throat

- Throat feels thick.

Stomach

Anxiety felt in the stomach extending to the head.

Abdomen

Trembling felt in the abdomen.
Abdomen is sensitive to clothing.

Rectum:

Diarrhea after midnight.
Flatus during diarrhea.

Bladder

Urge for urination is absent.
Urging to urinate after urination.

Female genitalia:

Menses too frequent, every 2 or 3 days.
Pale and watery menses.

Cough

Cough with affections of the heart.

Chest

Complaints of the heart with numbness of the upper limbs.
Oppression of the chest aggravated lying on left side.
Pain in the region of the heart after midnight, between 4-6 am.
Pressing pain in the heart aggravated by deep inspiration, talking and motion.
Pain in the heart extending to left axilla.
Chest feels too small.

Back:

Stitching pain in the lumbar region aggravated by standing and breathing.

Extremities

Awkwardness of the lower limbs, falls while walking.
Stumbles while walking, ascending and descending stairs.
Paleness and blueness of hands and fingers.
Cold and clammy perspiration of the hands and palms.
Trembling of the palms.

Sleep

Wakens from sleep due to heart symptoms.
Wakens from sleep due to pain.

Dreams

Of sick people and disease.

Perspiration

Perspiration on affected, painful and covered parts.
Offensive, putrid odor of perspiration.
Warm perspiration.

Skin

Painful cicatrices of skin.
Ecchymotic lesions of skin.

Generals:

Hemorrhage of non-coagulable blood. Hemophilia.
Wounds bleed freely.
Hypotension.
Necrosis.
Paralysis of muscles.
Raising affected limbs aggravates.
Lying in a horizontal position ameliorates.
External trembling with perspiration.
Twitching of muscles.
Weakness from pain.
Hot weather aggravates.
Rising from sitting aggravates.
Shock after injuries.

In addition to the above *Bothrops atrox* often proves effective for the following:

Motor and sensory aphasia
Sequelae of post-cerebrovascular accidents
Pseudobulbar palsy
Multi-infarct dementia

About the author: Dr. Farokh Master received his homeopathic and medical training at Bombay Homœopathic Medical College and M.P.K.H. Medical College, Jaipur. He has written over 50 books in English, some of which have been translated into Italian, French, German, Russian, Japanese, Hungarian, and Polish. After conducting provings of six snake venoms, he is presently studying for a Ph.D. from Mumbai University, and writing his dissertation on Palliation in Advanced Cancer. ❧