

INFECTIVE HEPATITIS AND ITS PROPHYLAXIS.

DR.MRS.MALINI AMBADEKAR

D.H.M.S.

AMBAJOGAI.

Beed District in Maharashtra has created a world record by getting huge number of cases of infective hepatitis in the year 1990. You may not believe that almost 14000 people were affected by infective hepatitis in the district in one year. 458 patients succumbed to the disease in spite of commendable efforts by health authorities. The Civil hospital used to have almost 300 patents of hepatitis, hospitalised in its four wards with special medical personnel deputed from the state health services. Same was the case with other places in the district. Ambajogai also had many cases of infective hepatitis in the same year.

Fortunately, Ambajogai Municipal Council has an independent Homoeopathic Clinic. Municipal Homoeopathic Clinic undertook a special scheme for containing the epidemic of Infective Hepatitis. Prompt treatment of affected cases and prevention of this disease by the way of employing prophylactic medicines and public education regarding the diet and regimen was very much effective in controlling the disease. As a result of it the town had low incidence of this disease and no mortality occurred during the epidemic.

Municipal Homoeopathic Clinic undertook detailed study of the first few cases and found out that there was significant similarity in the manifestations of these cases of infective hepatitis. On the basis of the study of these initial cases, GENUS EPIDEMICUS was found. The manifestations varied according to the phase in which the patient approached for treatment.

The cases which came to clinic in first 3 to 4 days exhibited very identical symptomatology. They had indigestion with pain in abdomen and painful urging for stools. The stools used to be yellow, sticky with mucus and foul smelling. Tenderness in right hypochondrium with little hungry feeling and profuse perspiration. Merc sol 30 was most effective remedy in patients with this symptomatology.

The cases which came to clinic after 5 to 7 days of coming down with hepatitis, presented with characteristic picture. They had nausea, vomiting with pain in abdomen, yellow discoloration of skin and mucus surfaces and white stools. The patients had liver enlargement and tenderness. Profound lassitude with severe bodyache. CHELIDONIUM 30 was very much effective in these cases.

The cases which came to clinic after 8 to 10 days apparently, after receiving the treatment from other physicians, used to present the following picture. Vomiting of bile with retrosternal burning by cold water. Sharp stitching pain by lying on rt side. Loose motion without mucus. It was the peak of rainy season. Natrum sulf 30 was most effective drug for this phase.

Along with homoeopathic treatment, strict diet and regimen was advised. The patients were confined to bed with strict bed rest. Ample of carbohydrate [Glucose] was given along with the water. In some of the cases it had to be explained what exactly the bed rest means. This was essential in few cases who used to talk much in prolonged gossips with the visitors. This used to cause much exertion and fatigue in them. In cases with gross enlargement of liver, CHELIDONIUM Q & CARDUS MARIANUS Q were added as organ remedies. Almost all cases responded very well to this line of treatment. Accidentally we had a case with Australian Antigen test positive. The case was tested negative for the Australian Antigen within forty five days after the treatment. This is very unusual to achieve. Conventionally it takes almost six months to achieve this.

The team of this clinic visited Beed to study the situation. It was noted that many people from one family were affected by infective hepatitis. The clinic decided to use the curative remedies [GENUS EPIDEMICUS] as prophylactic remedies to immunise an affected

population. The three remedies - Merc sol, Chelidonium, Natrum sulf were the remedies selected as genus epidemicus in respective phases. Fortunately, all these remedies bear good relationship with each other. Hence it was decided to administer each of these remedies to the potential patient in the sequence mentioned above on the consecutive days. We have administered such prophylactic doses to almost 1150 persons who were apprehensive of getting infective hepatitis. To our surprise, not a single case came down with the disease.

How far it is rational to adopt this way of prophylactic medication is of course a matter of discussion. We do not know how to justify the use of these three remedies as the prophylactic medicines one after other without individualising the case, on the basis of Hahnemannian law of single remedy prescription. However, the treatment adopted during this epidemic has popularised homoeopathy to greater extent.

EDITOR'S COMMENT-

It is very gratifying to see the remarkable results of our remedies at Ambajogai as compared to cases at Beed. It is not possible to individualize & give a remedy prophylactically in each case, hence I think the sequential use of Merc sol, Chelidonium & Natrum Sulph on consecutive days was evidently of sound practical value.
