

Homoeopathy - Hope for the Hopeless

ABSTRACT: *This case has been put in the student section, as students are always in doubt whether Homoeopathy really works, esp in difficult cases. In this case of acute pancreatitis, homoeopathy was given along with allopathy. Homoeopathy was started when allopathic treatment failed to relieve the patient as described in the following case history.*



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The patient is a female, 66 years old. During the last week of July 2007 she had an attack of gall-bladder colic. In the beginning some homoeopathic treatment was given which gave her some relief but the entire abdomen was tender. Even a little touch was unbearable. The pain was very severe and aggravated by any movement.

I have seen such a case for the first time in my forty years of practice. All the family members were worried and anxious. She was advised surgery. Surgeon on consultation advised immediate surgery and the family consented. Before surgery, the surgeon asked to get the ECG done, which revealed some changes. So the surgeon did not take the case saying that he did not have the facility for handling cardiac complications, he has no arrangement for cardiac support and suggested another surgeon's name.

But the family members consulted yet another surgeon who consented to undertake the surgery. The lady was operated on 2/8/2007. During the operation, in spite of the presence of a cardiologist, she got a heart attack. Now it became essential to keep her on a ventilator, to save her life, but it was not available in the hospital. So she had been taken to another hospital and luckily she was saved. (The hospital record about the surgery is not available). She was kept in ICU. In spite of the expensive treatment she

was given she did not feel any relief. She had continued with high fever and persistent vomiting even after all hospital efforts, for days. None of the surgeons, even suspected the involvement/affection of the Pancreas.

Ultrasound Report Dated 9/8/2007 (Annexure I) says:

IMPRESSION: – Post cholecystectomy ultrasound study reveals a heteroechoic collection in the left hypochondrium with mild bilateral pleural effusion.

USG Of 17/8/2007 says:

Renewed USG shows no change in the left abdominal collection. There is no evidence of any solid mass or collection in the right side.

The CT study of abdomen on ..17/8/2007 (Annexure II) threw more light on the problem:

IMPRESSION: – Post cholecystectomy CT findings are suggestive of acute pancreatitis with inflammatory hypodensity involving the small bowel mesentery and left pararenal space with an annular collection s/o pseudo cyst in the lesser sac region with mild small enlarged bowel distension.

(A COMMENT: Do not take as gospel all reports for abdomen often the CT is more to be used. See the difference between the USG & and CT study of the same date. But for Homoeopathy the personality of the disease elicited on the basis of Hahnemannian rules summarize correct

indications for the selection of curative medicine.).

Now I studied the case and found *Calcarea-arsenica* to be the remedy. I asked her husband to give the remedy along with the hospital treatment which had so far failed to relieve the lady of fever as well as of vomiting. I was of the opinion that the hospital treatment will not interfere with the dynamic doses of homoeopathic remedy. The husband agreed to give the homoeopathic medicine. And lo! The patient responded from the very first dose. The fever started ebbing and the vomiting improved.

WHEN USG WAS DONE ONE MONTH AFTER CT SCAN, ON 17/9/2007, it revealed: Acute Pancreatitis.

This shows that USG findings come later
The USG dated 28/10/2007 (*each and every USG was not thought necessary to be enclosed-Editor*)

IMPRESSION: Sonographic findings are suggestive of bulky heterogenous pancreas.

The USG dated 6/4/2008 (Annexure III)

IMPRESSION: The appearances are suggestive of a resolving acute pancreatitis.

The USG dated 4/5/2008 (Annexure IV)

IMPRESSION: Previous USG dated 6/4/2008 compared. Acute pancreatitis has resolved with no complications.

After she was shifted to the ward, on physical examination I found that there was a large (about the size of a cricket ball), hard and very tender lump in the epigastrium which very slowly started reducing. Gradually the allopathic medication was tapered off. Though it took long time but the patient is now almost normal This was still pretty good, as the prognosis had been bad). The lump at epigastrium has almost gone. Still it may take some more time to regain complete cure.

Lately she was given *Beryllium- metallicum* 30 single dose.

On the whole she has recovered to a great extent. Such results give encouragement to study the HMM deeply and rationally. But it is very risky to take such hopeless and extreme cases in hand by a homoeopathic practitioner and re-

quires great courage and deep faith in the basic laws of homoeopathy along with proper grasp of the pathogenesis of the homoeopathic remedies.

By presenting this case I do not intend to take whole credit, I wish to show that the homoeopathic medicines do act deeply even while the patient was given the allopathic treatment.

DISCUSSION: No doubt the Repertory is a valuable tool in diagnosing an indicated medicine for any case in hand. But the study of detailed MM is the basic tool and has no equals because there are some new remedies which do not appear in the Repertory but the new remedies are also important to cure some unique cases. I usually take the help of MM along with the help of the Repertory. When in the present case I searched for the condition Pancreatitis I found the pathogenesis of *Calcarea- arsenica* as given in our MM suitable for the case, since it is capable to cause Pancreatitis and even Cancer of the pancreas so I decided to use it in the present case. The MM says:

According to **Dr J H Clarke** -

- Pancreatic disease (cancer); with burning pain and albuminuria.
- Pains in heart region, burning and shooting, extending to arms and legs.
- Constriction of heart.
- Palpitation; with suffocation; synchronous with headache.

Dr C Hering: Cancer of pancreas, when there is burning pain.

Beryllium- metallicum -Materia Medica of New Homoeopathic Remedies by O. A. Julian:

- Acute inflammation of the gallbladder and biliary passages.
- Chronic cholecystitis, with or without stones.
- Fibrocystic disease of the pancreas.
- Chronic pancreatitis.

(Annexures are given in the following pages)

Annexure I

Annexure II

Annexure III

Annexure IV