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Dr. Priyanka Pal

PG Scholer, Department
Practice of Medicine, Sri-
Ganganagar homoeopathic
college, Hospital and Research
Institute, Sri-Ganganagar,
Rajasthan, India

Dr. Anil Aggarwal

Professor and H.O.D,
Department Practice of
Medicine, Sri-Ganganagar
homoeopathic college,
Hospital and Research
Institute, Sri-Ganganagar,
Rajasthan, India

Corresponding Author:

Dr. Priyanka Pal

PG Scholer, Department
Practice of Medicine, Sri-
Ganganagar homoeopathic
college, Hospital and Research
Institute, Sri-Ganganagar,
Rajasthan, India

Homoeopathic approach in Molluscum contagiosum

Priyanka Pal and Anil Aggarwal

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Abstract

Homoeopathy has best treatment of Molluscum Contagiosum. The Homoeopathic treatment is based on the root cause of the illness hence homeopathy brings cure rather than palliation or suppression of disease. Patient show multiple white dome shaped papules with central umbilication. Cheesy material can be oozed from the lesion which is caused by Molluscipox which is a pox virus. The lesions are seen on any part off the body. The homoeopathic treatment is prescribed on the basis of the chief complaint as well as on totality of symptoms and entire individualised constitution. Right path of treatment with good follow-up of patient helps in getting free from not only the existing molluscum contagiosum, but it also helps in removing the recurrence of this condition.

Keywords: Homoeopathic treatment, molluscum contagiosum, repertory, viral infection, constitutional medicine, umbilication, molluscipox, papules

Introduction

Definition

Molluscum Contagiosum is a common cutaneous viral infection. It is caused by infection of the Mollusci pox virus. The word Molluscum contagiosum extracted from the Latin word Molluscus which means Soft characterized by pea sized pearl like lesion which has minute central depression.

Aetiopathogenesis

Molluscum Contagiosum is caused by Molluscipox which is a pox virus. Molluscum Contagiosum virus can not been grown in established cell cultures, but virus from skin lesions has been propagated in human foreskin grafts.

Epidemiology

MCV infection occurs worldwide usually in humans. It is most commonly affecting the children.

Following types of MCV

MCV 1-Most commonest types found in 75-96% cases

MCV 2-mostly seen in adults and HIV patients

MCV 3 and MCV 4 Rarely subtypes

Prevalence 5-11%. Virus can be detected on the normal skin of people with molluscum and from object in their environment. Infection usually spread contact with infected persons and contaminated objects. In adults Lesions are produced by Sexual transmission which is found in genital area. It is not known whether epidermal injury is important for the establishment of infection.

Clinical features

1. The typical lesion of molluscum contagiosum are discrete, dome shaped, umbilicated waxy papules.
2. They may be skin coloured, pink or white.
3. A small central punctum frequently is visible.
4. If lesions are squeezed between the fingers, a cheesy or sebaceous-looking matter release from the hilum.
5. A lesion starts as a tiny papule and progresses to a size of 5-10mm in 6-12 weeks.
6. Lesion may appear vesicular because of a translucent quality.
7. The size may vary from 1 to 5mm, few lesions can occur as large as 10 to 15 mm called as giant molluscum or molluscum contagiosum giganteum.

8. Usually there is no itching or tenderness and no generalized symptoms.
9. Distribution of lesion depends upon the modes of infection, types of clothing worn and the climate lesions.
 - a) Temperate region-lesions most commonly seen in neck or trunk particularly around axilla
 - b) In tropics-Lesion are seen in limbs
 - c) In young adults-most commonly seen in anogenital area due to sexual transmission.
 - d) In healthy objects-lesions are seen in face, eyelids scalp and any parts of body.
10. After trauma, or spontaneously after several months, inflammatory changes result in suppuration, crusting and eventual destruction of the lesion.
11. The disease usually lasts for 6 to 9 months but occasionally persisting for as long as 4 years. Although individual lesions persist for only about 2 months.
12. Lesions usually resolute spontaneously by forming erythema, pus and crusting.
13. Eczematous dermatitis occurs around the molluscum in 10% of cases known as molluscum dermatitis.
14. In patient with chronic eczema or even atopic eczema, especially in areas of skin treated with glucocorticoids (local immune deficiency), hundreds of these mollusca contagiosa may develop: eczema molluscum.

Diagnosis

1. The diagnosis of molluscum contagiosum is usually established on the basis of clinical appearance alone.
2. Smears, made from the cheesy material expressed from the lesion is crushed between two slides and stained with Giemsa and Wright's stain show homogenous pear-shaped molluscum bodies.
3. Skin biopsy reveals Henderson-Paterson bodies, which occasionally is used for large or atypical lesions.
4. The distinctive umbilication can be seen more easily with a dermatoscope or after freezing.
5. Demonstrating poxvirions by electron microscopy.

Homoeopathic approach

Homoeopathy has wide scope in the treatment of Molluscum Contagiosum. Patient's Constitutional remedy includes the study of a person's nature of complaints, his likes and dislikes about food, his personality and mental attributes as well as his past and family history. The selection of the remedy is guided by the totality of symptoms. It helps to heal the disease from its roots.

Homoeopathic treatment not only helps in getting rid of the existing Molluscum Contagiosum but it also helps in removing the tendency for this condition to recur. Also the method of healing of the molluscum is without the use of any surgical aids and hence it helps in preventing scarring and other such side-effects that can occur due to surgery. Molluscum is predominantly sycotic disease. So it requires an Anti-sycotic medicine to cure the case.

Homoeopathic therapeutics

Some homeopathic medicines found to be efficacious in cases of Molluscum contagiosum.

Belladonna

Fine complexion and delicate skin; dryness; bright redness; burning heat; throbbing pains; pains appear and disappear

suddenly wildly delirious, restless, sensitive, nervous; child jovial and entertaining when well but violent when sick. Red, inflamed molluscum. Burning of the skin, also felt by the hand and it continues to burn after touching the skin, as though a hot stove has been touched, very characteristic. Red, hot and shining redness of the skin, with dryness, and swelling of the parts.

Bromium

Hot patient; fatty, fair; great weakness and easily overheated then sweat profusely sensitive to drafts; glandular affinity, tremulous better by eating, quarrelsome and/or friendly, cheerful and fairly happy. Molluscum commonly appear on face, arms and shoulders. Sensation of something being alive in the skin. Worse warmth or warm, damp weather.

Calcarea Arsenicum

Chilly patient, anemic, tendency for epilepsy and nephritic conditions; infantile hepato-splenomegaly, restless, anxious and emotional child; dreads to be alone. Pearly eruptions. Vesicular, small and shiny in appearance.

Calcarea carbonica

Calcarea carbonica is an effective medicine for treating the molluscum contagiosum. These children are typically soft, over-fat, fair, chilly, and lethargic. Children with red face, flabby muscles, who sweat easily and take cold readily in consequence. Large heads and abdomens, fontanelles and sutures open; bones soft, develop very slowly. Curvature of bones, especially spine and long bones, extremities crooked, deformed; bone irregularly developed. Head sweats profusely while sleeping, wetting pillow far around. Profuse perspiration, mostly on back of head and neck, or chest and upper part of body. Difficult and delayed dentition with characteristic head sweats, and open fontanelles. During either sickness or convalescence, great longing for eggs; craves indigestible things; aversion to meat. Obstinacy; slight mental effort produces hot head. Averse to work or exertion. Apprehensive; Forgetful, confused, low-spirited. Warts on face and hands.

Carcinosinum

Carcinosinum is indicated if the mental and emotional symptoms indicate it. Nevertheless, some physical signs are often seen in this remedy: the Molluscum contagiosum.

Causticum

These are people who live with the feeling that they have a Damoclean sword hanging above their head. There has been a dramatic incident in their lives. For example, after a very difficult labor and birth, the infant is fearful, whimpering, and cries when others cry out of compassion, since misfortune has befallen them. Indeed, these children live in constant fear that new worries will materialize. They cannot go to bed alone at night, they fear the dark, and are often afraid of dogs. We often observe weakness of some kind. Frequently, warts will be present, often small, widely scattered warts of the molluscum contagiosum type, or larger warts near the edge of the fingernails.

Dulcamara

Chilly patient, with skin affections brought on or worse by exposure to cold, damp, rainy weather; restless and irritable.

- Ailments after taking bath in swimming pool.
- Humid eruptions on face, genitals, hands etc.
- Flat, pearly eruptions.
- Worse cold in general, damp, rainy weather

Medorrhinum

Here is a key constitutional remedy for the "sycotic" terrain denoted by Hahnemann. These individuals have a problem with time. They are constantly projecting into the future. "What comes next?" This question, which is constantly on their lips, ruins the present for them. In the family history there are cases of cancer and chronic rheumatism. Medorrhinum infants sleep flat on their stomach, rear in the air. They often have a red rash (erythema) on the buttocks. The children are sensitive to humidity. Their legs are constantly in motion while they are seated.

In the eyes, we find chronic conjunctivitis, with the lids stuck together in the mornings, and astigmatism. Amelioration at the seaside is a good symptom of this remedy. On the skin, we find a large number of small molluscum pendulum around the neck. "Time is money." Medorrhinum tries to control time. These individuals are constantly projecting their minds into the future, making them clairvoyant, which makes this a remedy for mediums who predict the future. On the other hand, lack of control, or anarchy, leads to skin tumors and cancer.

Natrum muraticum

Great emaciation; loosing flesh while living well; throat and neck of child emaciate rapidly during summer complaint. Great liability to take cold. Irritability, child cross when spoken to crying from slightest cause, gets into a passion about trifles, especially when consoled with. Children slow in learning to walk. Child will be slow in learning to speak. Small and underweight child. Warts on palms of hands.

Silicea

Umbilicated eruptions with offensive pus. Itching only in daytime and evening. Extremely chilly patient; profuse, offensive discharges, glandular affinity, large head and distended abdomen, weak ankles, open fontanelles and sutures; slow in learning to walk, constipation, stool being partly expelled recedes back again, all symptoms worse by cold except stomach complaints, children are obstinate, head strong, cry when spoken kindly to, nervous, apprehensive, oversensitive, irritable and fearful.

- Tuberculous spots on skin of light red color.
- Eruptions heal with difficulty and suppurate easily.

Sulphur

Molluscum in a child, body and limbs covered with soft, round, smooth, apparently painless tumours with broad base. At first of the colour of the skin, then assuming a bluish, and finally a purple or pinkish hue found on puncture to contain a semi-fluid, sebaceous matter. These tumours vary in size from that of a large bean to a filbert, and were found in all stages of development at the same time, about eighty in number. After Sulphur, no new tumours formed, and the old shrivelled up, without discharging.

Thuja occidentalis

It is a remedy for molluscum for Chilly patient; dark, fleshy children with greasy face; dark hair and unhealthy Skin, looks dirty with brownish spots; perspiration on uncovered

parts, smells sweetish and strong; complaints worse damp, humid weather; lazy.

- Eruptions only on covered parts
- Umbilical form of eruptions

Tuberculinum

It has a good role in establishing cure if given as intercurrent.

Repertorial approach

- Boericke W-Pocket manual of homoeopathic materia medica with Indian medicine and repertory Chapter: Skin

Rubric: Molluscum

Remedies: Brom.; Bry.; Calc. ars.; Calc. C.; kali. Iod.

Lyc.; Merc. S.; Nat. m.; Sil.; Sul.; Teucr.

Murphy R-Homoeopathic medical repertory

Chapter: Diseases

Rubric: Molluscum contagiosum

Remedies: Brom. bry. calc. Calc-ar. kali-i. lyc. merc. merc-sul. Nat-m., Sil. sulph. teucr. Thuj.

Clarke JH-A clinical repertory to the dictionary of materia medica

Chapter: Clinical

Rubric: Molluscum

Remedy: Sul.

Subrubric: Molluscum Contagiosum

Remedies: Calc., Sil.

Van zandvoort R-Complete repertory

Chapter: Skin

Rubric: Eruptions

Subrubric: molluscum

Remedies: brom. bry. calc. calc-ar. kali-i. lyc. merc. nat-m. sil. sulfa. sulph. teucr. thuj.

Sub-subrubric: contagiosum; molluscum

Remedies: BROM. bry. calc. CALC-AR. carc. germmet. jug-c. kali-i. lepr. lyc. merc. nat-m. sacch-a. silSULPH. teucr. THUJ.

Lilienthal S-Homoeopathic therapeutics

Chapter: MOLLUSCUM

Remedies: Kali iod., Lyc., Sil., Thuj

Schroyens F-Synthesis Repertorium Homeopathicum Syntheticum. 9.1

Chapter: Skin

Rubric: Eruptions

Subrubric: Contagiosum molluscum

Fibrosus mollescum

Remedies: Brom. bry. calc. Calc-ar. kali-i. lyc. merc-scy. nat-m. Sil. sulph. teucr. vac.

Sub-subrubric: contagiosum; molluscum

Remedies: calc. carc. kali-i. lyc. sil. sulf. Thuj

Van zandvoort R-Repertoriumuniversale III

Chapter: Skin

Rubric: Phenomena

Subrubric: Eruptions

Sub-sub-rubric: molluscum

Remedies: brom. bry. calc. calc-ar. germ-met. kali-i. lyc.

merc. nat-m. sil. sulfa. sulph. teucr. thuj. Sub-sub-sub-rubric: contagiosum Remedies: BROM. bry. calc. CALC-AR. carc. germmet. jug-c. kali-i. lepr. lyc. merc. nat-m. sacch-a. sil. SULPH. teucr. THUJ.

Abbreviations

(MCV) Molluscum Contagiosum Virus, (HIV) Human immunodeficiency virus, (AIDS) Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome, (DRC) Democratic Republic of the Congo

Conclusion

Molluscum Contagiosum is a common cutaneous viral infection in children. It is caused by infection with a DNA virus of the Molluscipox virus genus. It is a benign but none the less frequently troublesome viral infection that generally affects young children. The typical lesion of Molluscum Contagiosum are discrete, dome shaped, umbilicated waxy papules. They may be skin coloured, pink or white. A small central punctum frequently is visible. Usually there is no itching or tenderness and no generalized symptoms. Lesions can occur anywhere on the body, but mostly on face, eyelids, neck, chest, axillae, sides of trunk, fold areas of extremities, and genitalia in children. This study has been conducted on the patient's with Molluscum Contagiosum disease to assess the effectiveness of constitutional approach in the treatment of Molluscum Contagiosum and to analyze group of remedies effective in the treatment of Molluscum Contagiosum in pediatric age group. For making a homoeopathic totality of symptoms the mental symptoms are very important. The mind is the most crucial level for the human being. The mind of a person is the true essence of individual. So understanding the mind of the patient clearly is very important.

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