



International Journal of Homoeopathic Sciences

E-ISSN: 2616-4493
P-ISSN: 2616-4485
www.homoeopathicjournal.com
IJHS 2025; 9(2): 172-175
Received: 18-02-2025
Accepted: 19-03-2025

Dr. Rachana Shetty
PG Scholar, MD Part 1,
Department of Repertory,
Bharatesh Homoeopathic
Medical College and Hospital,
Belagavi, Karnataka, India

Dr. Pradeepkumar A. Patil
H.O.D, Professor and PG
Guide, Department of
Repertory, Bharatesh
Homoeopathic Medical College
and Hospital, Belagavi,
Karnataka, India

Homoeopathic approach in the management of stage III breast cancer with fungating ulcers: A single case report

Rachana Shetty and Pradeepkumar A. Patil

DOI: <https://www.doi.org/10.33545/26164485.2025.v9.i2.C.1494>

Abstract

A case of 90-year-old female who was diagnosed with stage III breast cancer and fungating ulcers presented with severe blood oozing from the affected breast, offensive odor, severe pain, and loss of appetite. Homoeopathic treatment was initiated using synthesis repertory and according to the totality of the case *Asteria rubens* 30C followed by 200C was prescribed, which led to some improvement in symptoms such as pain, oozing, and appetite. However, the patient's condition worsened, and after reanalysing the case *Carbo animalis* 200C was prescribed. The patient eventually expired. This case demonstrates the application of homoeopathic principles in managing symptoms in advanced breast cancer case.

Aim and Objective: The main aim of this case was to reduce the patient's pain, as she presented with excruciating pain, oozing, and a foul smell from the affected breast.

Result: Even though the patient was brought to us at a very later stage of her suffering following the administration of *Asteria rubens* 30 and 200C, the patient showed positive response, with reduced oozing and foul smell from the ulcers, improved appetite, and increased responsiveness. And main importantly the pain had also decreased. However, the patient's condition deteriorated suddenly, necessitating a change in remedy to *Carbo animalis* 200C. The patient's condition further continued to decline leading to the death of the patient.

Keywords: Breast cancer, stage III, fungating ulcers, *asteria rubens*, *carbo animalis*, synthesis mobile repertory

Introduction

Breast cancer presents as one of the major global health challenges, with complex pathogenesis and clinical manifestations that poses significant impediments in order to provide effective treatment and prevention of the disease^[3]. Fungating or ulcerating breast wounds are a rare condition which occurs in advanced cases of breast cancer^[2] which severely affects the patient's daily life^[5]. That causes severe torment to the patient owing to uncontrollable hemorrhage, recurring infections, foul smell, chronic pain, and aesthetic concerns^[2] which could occur as a result of delay in the diagnosis of breast cancer^[2]. Where in these delays may be attributed to the patients as there could be psychological unwillingness to accept their condition, low socioeconomic status, social isolation, or old age^[2].

Risk factors^[3]

1. Nulliparity/no breast feeding
2. Genetic predisposition
3. Habits (cigarette/ alcohol)
4. Exposure to estrogen
5. Late menopause
6. Obesity

Influencing factors^[3]

1. Tumor stemness
2. Cell senescence
3. Programmed cell death
4. Anti/Pro tumor immunity
5. Tumor metabolism

Corresponding Author:
Dr. Pradeepkumar A. Patil
H.O.D, Professor and PG
Guide, Department of
Repertory, Bharatesh
Homoeopathic Medical College
and Hospital, Belagavi,
Karnataka, India

A case report

A 90-year-old female patient came to the casualty of Bharatesh Homoeopathic medical college and hospital on 12/08/2024, who was a diagnosed case of stage III breast cancer with fungating ulcer, who was semi-conscious and in severe pain and offensive discharge from the affected left breast.

Location	Sensation	Modality	Concomitant.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chest, Mammae left side. Chest, cancer, Mammae, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burning type of pain. Severe aching pain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aggravation by lying on the left side and on pressure Ameliorations by warm water compression 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offensive odor Bleeding. Loss of appetite Generalised weakness

Treatment history

She has not taken any medications for her breast affection

Details of chief complaints

- Onset**

Started as a small lump 9 months ago on left breast, grew progressively and occupied left breast.

- Appearance**

Breast looks, blackish, hard to touch (figure1)
Offensive bloody discharge

- Pain**

Unbearable excruciating pain aggravated since one week with burning sensation.

- Mentals**

Curses a lot
Quarrelsome
Like to be alone
and she is not close to anyone, not even her own children,

Family history

2nd son died at the age 62 years (1 year ago) due to CA Stomach

Personal history

Diet - Veg
Appetite - Reduced since 1 week, before that she ate well
Desire - Oily - fried (bhaji) - chocolate (lemon candy) ++ (anything lemon flavor)
Aversion - Brinjal
Ear-hearing-reduced - complete loss of hearing since three months
Tongue - White coated
Thirst - Reduce
Teeth - Dentures
Extremities- Pain in upper extremities left shoulder
Pain in lower extremities left leg
Perspiration - Generalised
Urine - Dark yellow
Sleep - Disturbed due to pain
Sleeping position - Left side (affected area)
Required covering when sleeping

OBG h/o: G6P6 L6A0

Details of chief complaints

Patient came in a semi-conscious condition, with diagnosis of stage III breast cancer, with fungating ulcer with severe blood oozing out of her left breast, which was offensive in nature, associated with pain and loss of appetite since 2 days.

-M - Died- 2yrs ago- due to Covid

-M -died 1yr ago- CA stomach -diagnosed at last stage

-M

-M

-F

-F

Alive and healthy

Clinical findings**On examination****Inspection**

Left breast had increased twice the size, nipple everted, blackish appearance, cauliflower like growth on the right medial quadrant of the left breast, blood oozing out from the affected part.

Palpation

On palpation the breast mass felt hard and was painful to the patient.

Lab investigation

No investigations were done; as she was a pre- diagnosed case of stage III breast cancer with fungating ulcers

Diagnosis

Stage III breast cancer with fungating ulcers



Fig 1: Stage III breast cancer with fungating ulcers

Selection of the symptoms

- Indifference
- Cancer of the breast
- Offensive discharge from the breast
- Induration of the left breast
- Burning type of pain
- Tip of the affected mammae looks black and dry.

Repertory selected

Synthesis repertory (mobile app) ^[6]

Reportorial totality

- Mind - Indifference.
- Chest - Cancer - Mammae - accompanied by pain burning pains
- Chest - Induration - Mammae - left
- Chest - Induration - Mammae - accompanied by cancer of mammae
- Chest - Nodules, sensitive - Mammae - points at tip; dry black

MIND			
1 MIND - INDIFFERENCE			✕
CHEST			
2 CHEST - CANCER - Mammae - accompanied by - discharge - offensive			✕
3 CHEST - CANCER - Mammae - accompanied by - pain - burning pains			✕
4 CHEST - INDURATION - Mammae - left			✕
5 CHEST - INDURATION - Mammae - accompanied by - cancer of mammae			✕
6 CHEST - NODULES, sensitive - Mammae - points at tip; dry black			✕
Remedies	ΣSym	ΣDeg	Symptoms
aster.	3	4	1, 3, 4
carb-an.	3	4	1, 2, 3
con.	2	6	1, 4
sil.	2	5	1, 4
kali-chl.	2	4	1, 4
calc.	2	3	1, 4

Fig 2: Reportorial chart

Remedy selection: Asteria rubens 30C (2doses) on 12/08/2024.

Reason for selection of the remedy ^[4]

As mentioned in Boericke materia medica, for:

1. **Asteria rubens:** Breasts swollen, indurated, Cancer mammae even in ulcerative stage. Left breast feels as if

pulled inward, ulcers, with fetid ichor. And aggravation is on the left side ^[4].

2. **Carbo anamalis:** In carbon group all the remedies have putrid discharges and exhalations. And they also act on the skin, causing interigo and excoriations, glandular enlargements, burning, rawness, darting in breast; painful indurations in breast. Which is worse after loss of vital fluids ^[4].

Follow up

Date	Complaints	Prescription
13/08/2024 11.00 AM 13/08/2024 4.00 PM	Oozing present, foul smell present, opens her eye in response to verbal communication. Opens her eye in response to verbal communication, pain persistent	Asteria rubens 30C (t.i.d) PL
14/08/2024 11.00 AM 14/08/2024 4.00 PM	Patient asked for water, ate half idli, oozing reduced compared to before. No new developments	Asteria rubens 30C (t.i.d) PL
15/08/2024 11.00 AM 15/08/2024 4.00 PM	Pain was better, patient was conscious, but had difficulty in speaking. Patient asked for food. ate well	Asteria rubens 30C (t.i.d) Patient took only 2 doses PL
16/08/2024 10.00 AM 16/08/2024 4.00 PM	Patient demanded for dosa ate half dosa responded to us by hand gestures. Pain had reduced around 30%, patient was responding to questions asked	Asteria rubens 30C (t.i.d) PL
17/08/2024 11.00 AM 17/08/2024 4.00 PM	No oozing seen on the dressing, foul smell reduced, appetite better, asked us in sign language, about our breakfast. Pain reduced, and no foul smell from the wound.	Asteria rubens 30C (t.i.d) Patient took only one dose
18/08/2024 9.00 AM 18/08/2024 4.00 PM	Sudden deteriorating was noted, patient was drowsy and had not eaten anything Complaints persistent, no improvement.	Asteria rubens 200C (t.i.d)
19/08/2024 11.00 AM 19/08/2024 4.00 PM	Patient was semi-conscious, not responding to verbal communication, difficulty in breathing, and severe oozing of blood from the breast. No improvement	Carbo animalis 200C (2 doses)

20/08/2024 11.00 AM 20/08/2024 4.00 PM	Semi-conscious, no response to verbal communication. No improvement	Carbo animalis 200C (2 doses)
21/08/2024 11.00 AM 21/08/2024 4.00 PM	Still semi-conscious, opens eye on calling her out No improvement	Carbo animalis 200C (2 doses)
22/08/2024	Patient expired at 11.20 a.m.	

Conclusion

The main aim of this case was to reduce the pain, as the patient was brought to us with excruciating pain, oozing and foul smell from the affected breast, as she had come in the later stages of her suffering, an attempt was made to ease her sufferings with homoeopathic remedies *Asteria rubens* and *Carbo animalis*, (*carbo animalis* was prescribed as there was sudden deterioration in her health with severe bleeding from the breast and difficulty in breathing). The aim was achieved as the pain had reduced by almost 30-40% and the oozing and foul smell was better too, as in this case the pathology was advanced and irreversible our objective was to palliate the suffering by reliving the pain therefore a remedy was selected only on the basis of few prominent symptom of the case. The patient's clinical course under homoeopathic treatment was marked by an initial period of improvement followed by a decline of the patient, even though she was brought to us with no hopes that she would survive for another day, with exclusive Homoeopathic treatment, she lived for another few days and died in peace.

Creative Commons (CC) License

This is an open access journal, and articles are distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0) License, which allows others to remix, tweak, and build upon the work non-commercially, as long as appropriate credit is given and the new creations are licensed under the identical terms.

References

1. Mehrotra R, Yadav K. Breast cancer in India: present scenario and the challenges ahead. *World J Clin Oncol*. 2022 Mar 24;13(3):209-218. Available from: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8966510/>
2. Zagardo V, Mandara H, Ferini G. Therapeutic strategies for fungating and ulcerating breast cancers: a systematic review and narrative synthesis. *Breast*. 2024 Dec 1;103870. Available from: [https://www.thebreastonline.com/article/S0960-9776\(24\)00201-7/fulltext](https://www.thebreastonline.com/article/S0960-9776(24)00201-7/fulltext)
3. Xiong X, Zheng LW, Ding Y, Chen YF, Cai YW, Wang LP, *et al*. Breast cancer: Pathogenesis and treatments. *Signal Transduct Target Ther*. 2025 Feb 19 [cited 2025 Feb 19];10(1). Available from: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41392-024-02108-4>
4. Boericke W. Homoeopathic materia medica. Homeoint.org, 2024. Available from: <http://www.homeoint.org/books/boericmm/>
5. Abdallah A, Abdelwahab K, Awny S, Zuhdy M, Hamdy O, Atallah K, *et al*. Fungating and ulcerating breast cancer: wound closure algorithm, complications, and survival trends. *Indian J Surg Oncol*. 2023;14(1):93-105. Available from: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s13193-022-01602-x>
6. RadarOpus. The Synthesis App. Radaropus.com; 2015 [cited 2025 Apr 22]. Available from: <https://www.radaropus.com/products/apps/synthesis-app>

How to Cite This Article

Shetty R and Patil PA. Homoeopathic approach in the management of stage III breast cancer with fungating ulcers: A single case report. *International Journal of Homoeopathic Sciences*. 2025;9(2):172-175.