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A case of acute dacrocystitis with abscess and orbital cellulitis: An ophthalmic emergency

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Abstract

This Case demonstrates the Homeopathic Management of Ophthalmic Emergency related to Naso-Lacrimal sac and Duct drainage system. There is Higher Risk of complication due to spread of infection to the Orbit and surrounding Tissues. Integrated knowledge of Ophthalmology paves way for Individualistic Homeopathic Remedy Selection and its application through Clinical Training. This case demonstrates the Concept of Pathology, Pathogenesis and Tissue affection, which enables us to understand the Disease Totality according to Boger's method of Prescribing.

Keywords: Dacryocystitis, abscess, emergency, boger's and apis mellifica

Introduction

Dacryocystitis term is derived from the greek word DAKRYON (TEAR), CYSTA (SAC) AND –ITIS (INFLAMMATION). It is an infection or inflammation of the Naso lacrimal sac, usually because of blockage of the Naso-lacrimal duct. Dacryocystitis can be acute or chronic and congenital or acquired. Homeopathic management comprises of the treatment of the infection and avoiding any form complications.

Causation

It is commonly caused by Naso lacrimal duct blockage occurring due to several reasons like: Strictures or scarring due to previous infections. Any extra growth like polypi or strictures like hypertrophied inferior turbinate bone, extreme deviation of the septum. The blockage can also occur in Punctum, Canaliculi.

On the basis of its severity and duration it is classified as:

- 1. Acute episode of Dacryocystitis or because of infection from neighbouring structures like Sinusitis, Dental Abscess, Infected Bone.
- 2. Acute Exacerbation of Chronic Dacryocystitis.
- 3. Chronic Dacryocystitis.

Clinical Case Presentation

40 yrs Female presented with Swelling and redness over Left eye since 5 days. Patient reported to the hospital OPD and was later admitted in the hospital IPD. Peri-orbital Swelling mainly involving Left Lower Eyelid over the medial aspect.

CLINICAL APPEARANCE



Fig 1 and 2: Left Dacryocystitis. (Before treatment)

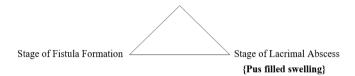
Table 1: Clinical Case Presentation

Location	Sensation	Modalities	Concomitant
Left eye Left side of head since 2 weeks	Pricking pain ³⁺ EPIPHORA (Excess of watering due to improper tear drainage)	>cold application ³⁺ >draft of air ²⁺ > Open Air ²⁺ <sour and="" food<="" sweet="" td=""><td></td></sour>	

Clinical Diagnosis: Acute Exacerbation of Chronic Dacryocystitis.

Pathological Understanding in the cases of Dacryocystitis. Acute Dacryocystitis passes through 3 stages-

Stage of Cellulitis {Swelling, Redness, Pain, Heat and Fever}



Homeopathic understanding: Acute Exacerbation of Chronic individual Dynamic Disease with Characteristic symptoms.

Prognosis and Complications

About 60 percent of initial attacks of Dacryocystitis will recur. The most common complication is Orbital Cellulitis, Corneal Ulceration, Secondary Glaucoma, Lid abscess, Osteomyelitis of lachrymal bone, optic neuritis, proptosis, motility abnormalities and Cavernous Sinus Thrombosis.

Treatment Strategy

a. Conventional line of treatment: The main stays of

- treatment are oral antibiotics, warm compresses, and relief of Naso- Lacrimal duct obstruction by Dacryo Cystorhinostomy.
- b. Homeopathic line of treatment: It is important to understand the disease phenomenon, the stage of disease and define the role of homeopathy in curing this patient. Currently patient is in the Stage of Cellulitis and Stage of Lachrymal Abscess. Remedy selection based on the totality formation and correct method of administration will cure the disease.

Susceptibility

High Susceptibility due to following reasons:

- 1. Fully developed symptoms
- 2. Structurally reversible disease
- 3. Fast pace of Disease
- 4. Characteristic symptoms including modalities

Physical Generals

- Appetite- decreased since the pain started
- Thirst- Increased for Cold water +
- Thermals- Hot patient 2+
- Mental symptom: want someone with her, cannot stay alone 3+

Table 1: Examination Findings

General	Local		
Pulse- 90/min	Left Eye: Tenderness+		
BP- 130/70 mm Hg	Swelling+		
Temp- 98	Redness+		
Tongue- clean and moist	Punctum with Pus point, Sticky Watery discharge at the Eyelids and Eyelids not opening completely.		

Investigations: CBC – WBC 13500 (Rest normal), Blood Sugars within Normal Range.

Totality of Symptoms: "Bogers Concept of Totality Construction"

• Inflammation Lacrimal Sac.

- Pricking pain > cold application
- Pricking pain > draft of air
- Hot Patient
- Sensitive to Pain
- Company desire, Alone when aggravation.

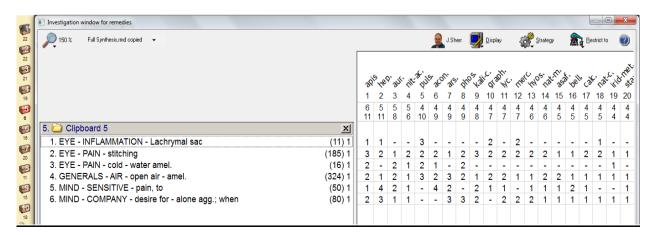


Fig 3: Reportorisation (Radar 10.5)

Drug differentiation

1) Apis mellifica 2) Rhus toxicodendron 3) Hepar sulphur 4) Silicea

 Table 2: Remedy Differentiation

Apis	Rhus Tox	Hepar Sulp	Silicea
Generalities: Well known effects of a bee sting, burning, stinging, smarting, prickling, lancinating pain, with excessive swelling. Acts on cellular tissue esp. of eyes, throat, ovaries, causing oedema of skin mucus membranes.	Generalities: This remedy is an irritating an irritating agent to the SKIN esp. of face, scalp, genitals, affects the fibrous tissue, ligaments and joints causing rheumatic symptoms, it is an infective agent producing typhoid like fever.	Generalities: It affects the Nerves making the patient Oversensitive to all impressions, to cold, to pain, touch, noise, odours, to draught of air, slightest pain causes fainting.	Generalities: It produces defective nutrition esp. in children, due to imperfect assimiliation. Affects the nerves, increasing their susceptibility causing neurasthetic stats and exaggerated reflexes. GLANDS are enlarged.
<pre><heat <touch,="" bath,="" bed.="" drinks,="" even="" fire,="" hair="" hot="" of="" room,="" weather,="">COOL AIR, cool bathing >uncovering >motion</heat></pre>	<pre><exposure <uncovering="" affected="" air="" cold,="" draft="" of="" part="" to="" wet,="">heat >warm wrapping</exposure></pre>	<pre><winter <cold="" <part="" becoming<="" draft="" td="" wind-=""><td><pre><cold <change="" <light="" <nervous="" air,="" draft="" excitement="" of="" uncovering="" weather="">warm-wraps, to head >summer</cold></pre></td></winter></pre>	<pre><cold <change="" <light="" <nervous="" air,="" draft="" excitement="" of="" uncovering="" weather="">warm-wraps, to head >summer</cold></pre>
Eyes: Puffy, lids or conjunctiva red, edematous like waterbags, red. Hot lacrimation. Staphyloma of cornea. Squint. Redness and Puffy eye. Photophobia.	Eyes: Pain behind eyes, <motion Eyelids stiff. Profuse gush of hot tears on opening lids. Orbital cellulitis. Affection of inner surface of the eyelids. GLANDS are swollen, hot and painful, induarted suppurating.</motion 	Eyes: Ulcer on cornea or maculae. Degeneration of retina, from looking at an eclipse. Objects appear red and too large. Feild of vision one half.	Eyes: Affection of canthi in the region of tear ducts, swelling of lacrimal fistula, stricture of lacrimal duct. Opacity of cornea after small pox. Cataract in office workers after suppressed foot sweat.
It acts on Cellular Tissues like eyes, face, ovaries, etc. bee- sting, burning, stinging, smarting, prickling pain. Symptoms develop rapidly. Puffed UP, various parts are swollen, becomes edematous and of a shiny, red, rosy color.	Pains Are Tearing, Shooting, Stitching <at mucous<br="" night.="">membrane are acrid, rusty red, like meat water, musty, causing eruptions.</at>	Oversensitive to all impressions- to cold, pain, touch, draught of air etc. Connective Tissue producing Tendency To Suppuration, is very marked. Glands inflamed, swell and suppurate. Sticking like sharp splinters.	Stubborn suppurative processes, fistulous opening, abscesses. Slow incomplete inflammation of glands, cellular tissue and skin, then induration.
Thermals: Hot	Thermals: Chilly	Thermals: Chilly	Thermals: Chilly

Remedy Selection: Apis mellifica $200 - 1^{st}$ dilution every 15 mins.

APIS MELLIFICA Eyes.-Lids swollen, red, adematous, everted, inflamed; burn (The Honey-Bee) Acts on cellular tissues causing ædema of skin and mucous and sting. Conjunctiva bright red, puffy. Lachrymation hot. membranes. The very characteristic effects of the sting of the bee furnish unerring indications for its employment in disease. Swelling Photophobia. Sudden piercing pains. Pain around orbits. or puffing up of various parts, adema, red rosy hue, stinging pains, soreness, intolerance of heat, and slightest touch, and Serous exudation, adema, and sharp pains. Suppurative inflamafternoon aggravation are some of the general guiding symptoms. Erysipelatous inflammations, dropsical effusions and anasarca, acute, inflammation of kidneys, and other parenmation of eyes. Keratitis with intense chemosis of ocular conchymatous tissues are characteristic pathological states corresponding to Apis. Apis acts especially on outer parts, skin, junctiva. Staphyloma of cornea following suppurative inflamcoatings of inner organs, serous membranes. It produces serous inflammation with effusion, membranes of brain, heart, pleuritic effusion, etc. Extreme sensitiveness to touch and general soreness is marked. Constricted sensations. Separation of mation. Styes, also prevents their recurrence.

Fig 4, 5: Boericke's Materia Medica

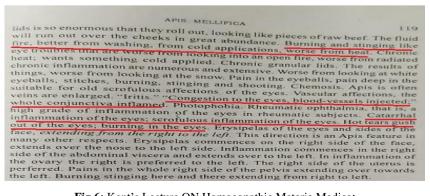


Fig 6: Kent's Lecture ON Homoeopathic Materia Medica:

APIS MELLIFICA

GENERALITIES: The well-known effects of a bee-sting; burning, stinging, smarting, prickling, lancinating pain, with excessive swelling are the leading symptoms for the selection of this remedy. It acts on Cellular Tissue, esp. of eyes, face, throat, ovaries, causing edema of skin and mucous membranes. In the Serous Membranes of

effusion. Various parts are swing color. The burning edematous and of a shire, red, east debility, as if he had is like hot needles. The shire, red, east debility, as if he had is like hot needles, and the like down. Symptoms develor normally. The pains are sudden that extort cries, develor normally. The pains are sudden that extort cries, something to the like of brain, Addomen, ovaries, bladder, sess is marked, of brain, Addomen, ovaries, bladder, sess is marked, of brain, Addomen, ovaries, bladder, sessentation of construction. Sensation of sin body. Great something to more fide the session of the brain, and twitching. One half of the body twitches, the other lame or paralyzed. Neuralgia of lips, tongue, gums. Great twitching, One half of the body twitches, the other lame or paralyzed. Neuralgia of lips, tongue, gums. Great prostration even to faintness. Infections. Ill effects of grief, fright, rage, jealousy, hearing bad news, mental prostration even to faintness. Infections. Ill effects of grief, fright, rage, jealousy, hearing bad news, mental speaking, suppressed oruption. Ringht side is affected more sever diseases.

WORSE: Hax of room, of weather, of fire, hot drinks, bath, bed. Tauch, even of hair. Pressure. The steep, Lying down. Suppressed cruption, 4 p.m.

ache. ROLLING OF THE HEAD from side to side in hydrocephalus; boring of the head backward in pillow in meningitis. Fontanelles sunken. Painful hair. Musty head sweat. Inability to hold the head in meningitis Head feels swollen. Hair fall out; bald spots.

EYES: Puffy; lids or conjunctiva red; edematous, like waterbags, red. Hot lacrimation. Eyes brilliant. Burning, stinging, shooting pain. Staphyloma of cornea Bag-like swelling under eyes. Photophobia, yet covering intolerable. Blindness, > stool. Squint. Myopia. Puff or red about eyes. Cannot look fixedly at any object; or cannot read in artificial light. Cornea opaque. Styes—prevents their recurrence. Perforating corneal ulcer.

Fig 7, 8 9: Phatak's Homeopathic Materia Medica

Follow Up: A. Day 1: Apis Mellifica 200 first dilution every 15 minutes



Fig 10, 11: Left Dacrocystitis & Abscess

B. Day 2: Apis Mellifica 200 first dilution every 15 minutes.



Cellulitis resolved, Redness decreased, patient was able to open Left eye completely



Fig 12: After 48 hrs of treatment.

C. Follow up after 10 days of Treatment



Fig 13: Resolution of Dacryocystitis and Abscess

D. Follow up after 20 days of Treatment



Fig 14: Complete resolution of left Dacryocystitis and Abscess.
(After Treatment)

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Case Learning: This case helps us to understand the relevance of Ophthalmological Examination and about the Stage of Disease. The Knowledge of Disease Pathology becomes Very Important Criteria to select the case suitable for Homeopathic line of Treatment which means - "Disease and Homeopathic Medicinal Correlation". When we are treating such cases, we should be aware about its prognosis "Knowledge of Disease progress and prognosis".

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