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A review of concept of drug relationship in homoeopathy

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Abstract

In this universe everything is inter-connected, this is also true in case of homoeopathic remedies. Therapeutic actions of homoeopathic remedies are related to each other in many ways. Generally the homoeopathic physician aims at finding the similimum for treating patients. But the relationships of remedies should also be kept in mind before prescribing any medicine. In this article we will discuss the concept of drug relationship as per different stalwarts of homoeopathy, i.e. how different remedies are related to each other along with their different types and with a few examples. Books related to the subject in homoeopathic literature were perused for this article.

Keywords: Complementary, antidote, inimical, intermediate, cognates, collateral

1. Introduction

Different authors described the concept of relationship of remedies more or less in a similar way. It was the outcome of their extensive hard work, careful observations and experiences. Boenninghausen gives much emphasis on this topic. In his pocket book he says "Each remedy partakes to some extent of the attributes of every other remedy. It would hardly be possible to select two remedies so different from each other that they would not touch at same point ^[1]. Samuel Hahnemann also mentions examples of relationship of remedies in his books.

2. Samuel Hahnemann

Complementary relationship: In chronic diseases it is necessary to complement the remedy. For this he says "The first two miasmata, which cause by far the smaller part of the chronic diseases, the venereal chancre-disease (syphilis) and the figwart-disease (sycosis), with their sequelae, we will treat first, in order that we may have a free path to the therapeutics of the immeasurably greater number of the various chronic diseases which spring from Psora ^[1]. Intermediate remedy ^[2] In cases of sudden onset of mental diseases (§ 221-e.g., aconite, belladonna, stramonium, hyoscyamus, mercury, etc.) and the treatment of non-febrile intermittent diseases (§ 234- a potentized solution of cinchona bark) he gave examples of intermediate remedy.

Antidote § 249 "Every medicine prescribed for a case of disease which, in the course of its action, produces new and troublesome symptoms not appertaining to the disease to be cured, is not capable of effecting real improvement, and cannot be considered as homoeopathically selected; it must, therefore, either, if the aggravation be considerable, be first partially neutralized as soon as possible by an antidote before giving the next remedy chosen more accurately according to similarity of action; or if the troublesome symptoms be not very violent, the next remedy must be given immediately, in order to take the place of the improperly selected one."³

2.1 Von Boenninghausen

In the earlier editions of the Pocket Book he refers to this chapter as Concordance of Remedies but Allen returns to the earlier and more easily comprehended title for this chapter i.e. Relationships of remedies.

In the original preface of the book he says; "This seven and the last section presents the results of the comparative action of the various remedies mentioned in the work; firstly in regard to the preceding sections noted with corresponding numbers and finally under the figure VII according to each particular remedy, everywhere with reference to their value in rank, indicated in the same manner as in the preceding sections."

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“This concordance has been of the extreme importance, not only for the recognition of the genius of the remedy but also for testing and making sure of its choice and for judging of the sequence of the various remedies especially in chronic diseases.” He further said that it is made easier for beginners [3].

2.2 This section has following subsections

1. Mind
2. Localities
3. Sensation
4. Glands
5. Bones
6. Skin
7. Sleep and Dreams
8. Blood, Circulation and Fever
9. Aggravations; Time and Circumstances
10. Other remedies (Represents a general relationship of the remedies in the unclassified symptom groups, to the remedy under consideration)
11. Antidotes
12. Injurious

2.3 Gibson Miller

Gibson Miller introduced table of relationship of remedies along with Boenninghausen's concept of sides of the body. The heading of each column is as

1. Remedy
2. Complements
3. Remedies that follow well
4. Inimicals
5. Antidotes
6. Duration [4].

2.4 James Tyler Kent

1. **Chronic remedy:** In managing a chronic sickness the remedy that conforms to an acute experience of the illness is worth knowing, as very often its chronic may be just the one that conforms to its symptoms. (e.g.: 1. Calcarea is the natural chronic of Belladonna and Rhus tox, 2. Natrum mur is the chronic of Apis & Ignatia)
2. **Complementary:** Complement the former and this is always a change of remedy. ” When Pulsatilla-Silicea [5].
3. **Cognates:** A medicine always leads to one of its own cognates, and they are closely related to each other, like Sepia and Nux Vomica. Then there are series of remedies, as, for instance, Sulphur, Calcarea and Lycopodium.
4. **Antidote:** The new symptoms combining with the old ones must be antidote with second remedy and this must correspond more particularly to the new than to the old [6].

2.5 Repertory of Hering's Guiding Symptoms of Our Materia Medica By Calvin B. Knerr, M. D.

1. **Antidotes:** To the effects of massive and molecular doses; chemical antidotes in poisoning; to the lasting or chronic effects super induced by the drug.
2. **Collateral:** Side relations (congeners) belonging to the same or allied botanical family or chemical group.

3. **Compatible:** Drugs following well.
4. **Complementary:** Supplying the part of another drug.
5. **Inimical:** Drugs disagreeing, incompatible, do not follow well.
6. **Similar:** Drugs suggested for comparison by reason of their similarity; usually compatible, unless too similar, like Nux vomica and Ignatia [7].

2.6 E. A. Farrington

1. **Family relation:** From the similarity in their origin. For instance, the halogens, Chlorine, Iodine, Bromine and Fluorine, have many similitudes, because they belong to one family.
2. **Concordant:** Similar drugs with dissimilar origin. Drugs which hold a concordant relation may follow each other well.
3. **Complement:** The drug that completes the cure which the other begins, but unable to effect. Such a relation exists between Belladonna and Calcarea.
4. **Antidote:** E.g. Nux vomica, Coffea,
5. **Inimical:** Certain drugs, although resembling each other apparently, will not follow one another with any satisfaction. They seem to mix up the case. Such drugs are China and Psorinum, Apis and Rhus, Phosphorus and Causticum, and Silicea and Mercury [8].

2.7 John Henry Clarke

1. **Complementary** When this relationship is very close the two related remedies are said to be complementary to one another, as is the case with Iodine and Lycopodium.
2. **Inimical** some remedies have a very injurious effect on each other's action when one is given immediately after the other. E.g. Calcarea-Bryonia
3. **Antidote-Remedies** that able to control the over-action of any remedy administered [9].

2.8 C.M. Boger

In the part two

1. Complementary.
2. Related and

In the part three

1. Complementary Remedies
2. Antagonist Remedies—Equivalent to inimical remedies [10].

2.9 Elizabeth Wright

1. Complementary

- a) Plain Complementary related to symptomatology e.g. Ars-Phos
- b) Acute complements of chronic remedies or chronic complements of acute remedies
E.g. an acute Bell. throat to prevent recurrence and finish off the case, may need the chronic complement Calcarea; or a chronic Natrum mur. case may develop an acute cold which will call for its acute complement, Bryonia.
- c) Remedies in series Calc.-Lyc.-Sulph.
2. **Incompatible:** they must not follow each other without an intervening remedy or considerable time. Eg Acon-Acet. ac
3. **Remedy analogues:** Ignatia is the vegetable analogue of Natrum mur.; and Phytolacca of Mercury

- 4. Botanical relationship:** Loganiaceae; Brucea, Curare, Gels, Hoang nan, Ign, Nux, Spig, Upas ^[11].

3. Conclusion

In homoeopathy the knowledge of drug relationship is of utmost importance, especially in second prescription. When patient comes in the next visit, it helps the physician to determine whether the complementary medicine or inimical or antidotes or cognates or placebo should be given. Knowledge of relationship of remedies gives an edge to the physician as compared to a physician who does not know this. And it also helps in studying the Homoeopathic materia medica in a comparative manner. It may be concluded that simply knowing the therapeutic action of remedy is not enough, how they are interrelated, is also important for better results.

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