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A short review of Bromium and its clinical indications by different stalwarts

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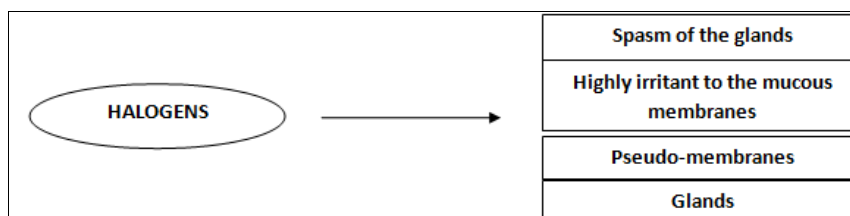
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Abstract

This article is an attempt to show the different angles of prescribing the halogen Bromium according to different stalwarts along with its sphere of actions.

Keywords: Bromium, clinical indications, glands, halogens

Introduction



As a group the halogens may be remembered by their action upon the larynx, bronchial tubes and on the mucous membranes in general.

They all cause constrictions of the glottis and are highly markable in chlorine.

In homoeopathy, medicines made from group of halogens have glandular diathesis and hence act mainly upon glands and also upon the mucous membranes. They are un-stable in free form so they are usually combined to remain stable and are found in combined state in nature like *Calcarea Iodatam*, *Calcarea Flouricum* etc. Hence their actions as free compound are difficult to recognize from compound forms. Halogens are the elements which belong to Group VII in the periodic table.

They consist of following 5 elements:

- Chlorine
- Bromine
- Iodine
- Fluorine
- Astatine

Bromium is one of the routine medicines. It is one of the medicines for the person who is new to homoeopathy will make use of Bromium for every known case of diphtheria, croups and laryngeal inflammation. Bromium has a remarkable effect when respiratory tract is invaded with the characteristics symptoms, especially in children with fair hair and skin, blue eyes, and rosy cheeks ^[1]. A number of respiratory symptoms of Bromium give a close resemblance to allergic respiratory complaints. Bromium constitution persons get ill after being heated which is one of the features of halogen group.

Sphere of Action and Pathogenesis

The principal action of Bromium is its tendency to cause indurations and enlargement of glands of the body.

Next to glands its chief action is on the respiratory tract and heart. It also acts on female and male genitals. It has tendency to infiltrate glands of our body causes hardness but at times suppurate.

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Empirical Use

Bromium has the capacity to cure the symptoms of goitre, enlarged and hardened glands, diphtheria, allergy, asthma, croup, larynx spasm, ovarian cyst, tumors and also orchitis.

Clinical Indications

1. Patricia. Le. Roux told about Bromine is that it forms a leading constituent in the mineral waters of Kreutzach and Wood hall ^[2]. It is a predominantly left-side medicine. It affects particularly the left side of internal head.
2. J.H. Clarke says Bromium is suited to blue-eyes, fair people especially thin, white, delicate skins, and children with very light hair and eyebrows (patients with dark hair are not excluded) ^[3], to scrofulous constitutions. The glands (thyroid, maxillary, testes, and parotid) are enlarged and indurated.
3. J.H. Clarke also says, Bromine is a strong anti-scorbutic. "Sailors get amelioration at the sea-side but aggravates when coming near the sea shore".
4. Hering has mentioned above symptom in double thick line which is as follows: Asthma of sailors ^[4], as soon as they "go ashore." Asthma < at night.
5. He has also mention about an obstinate goitre, not changed by Iodium in substance, disappeared after Bromium 30th, in water, twice daily for three months ^[4]. "*Drawing pain through left breast into left arm.*"
6. Nash thinks it is an important remedy in laryngeal affections, in scrofulous and tubercular affection of the glands. Bromium is known to act best on persons with "light blue eyes, golden hair, light eye-brows, fair, delicate skins, red cheeked scrofulous girls" ^[5].
7. In Bromine the pains are not characteristic, but with Conium and Carbo animalis they are lancinating, cutting or burning, more like cancer pains ^[5]. Sensation of cobweb in face. Fan-like motion of alae nasi. Hypertrophy of heart from gymnastics.
8. Allen has mentioned that it is valuable in Sailors suffer with asthma "on shore." Stony, hard, scrofulous or tuberculous swelling of glands, especially on lower jaw and throat (thyroid, sub maxillary, parotid, testes) ^[6].
9. Hypertrophy of heart from gymnastics in growing boys.
10. William Boericke has said that its most marked effects are seen in the respiratory symptoms, especially in larynx and trachea. It affects primarily scrofulous children with hypertrophy of glands. Blond type.
11. Enlarged parotid and goitre. Tendency to spasmodic attacks. Left-sided mumps ^[7]. Sense of suffocation; profuse sweats, excoriating discharges and great weakness.
12. Complaints from being over-heated. Tendency to infiltrate the glands which become hard and rarely suppurate.
13. In Bromium delusion that strange persons are looking over patient's shoulder and that she would see someone on turning is also found.
14. J.T. Kent has said that Bromium is one of the useful medicines but Bromium is so rarely indicated that most of the homoeopaths consider it as a useless medicine ^[8]. The reason being they do not take the symptoms of the case and prescribe according to individualizing method.
15. There is one underlying feature of the Bromium conditions, they are found especially in those individuals that are made sick from being heated.
16. When there is diphtheria epidemic and if the mother bundles up her baby and she overheat and keeps the baby in a hot room. The child is sensitive to being wrapped up so look out for complaints are worse from being wrapped up ^[8].
17. You are going to have Bromium diphtheria. It is indicated in complaints which come every night after a very hot summer day.
18. George Vithoulkas has said that it is suitable for swelling of the sub maxillary glands, left side, higher on the right side and hard underneath ^[9].
19. Bromium has symptoms such as emaciation, infiltration of glands, general weakness and perspiration. Therefore, we can consider it to be curative in tuberculosis and cancer and palliative in AIDS.
20. There is a premenstrual syndrome that is characteristic of Bromium. The patient complains of fullness in the head and chest, with difficult respiration and headache and an indescribable strange, ill-feeling all over, which makes her feel depressed or low-spirited ^[10]. Patient says, "I don't feel like as I usually do, but don't know why."
21. A.V. Lippe said that Bromium has a sensation of something being move under the skin, mainly in the arms and legs. Great watchfulness in the evening. Bromium patient has a lot of trouble sleeping at night. Constant dreaming in sleep. Jerking and starting whilst in sleep. When getting awake at night trembling and sensation as if she could not rise for weakness ^[11]. Fantasy and illusions when asleep. He perspires freely when exercising a little. Excellent for patients in very bad humor. Mostly symptoms are more felt when at rest and lying than when moving about.
22. E.A. Farrington has about Bromium is that it produces a rather peculiar effect on the sensorium, causing a sort of vertigo, which is worse from running water. Anything moving rapidly produces this vertigo.
23. Bromium is indicated in spasm of the glottis, sometimes called laryngismus stridulus ^[12].
24. Acc. To Richard Hughes chief credit of Bromium has been gained in the treatment of membranous croup of which there are numerous instances on record in which it affected a cure ^[13].
25. C.M. Boger in his repertory said about Bromium that, it is suitable to scrofulous blondes. Weak and easily overheated, then sweaty and sensitive to drafts ^[14]. Acrid, burning coryza. The face appears at one point of the nose.
26. Acc. To Frans Vermeulen Bromium has most marked effects on respiratory systems especially in trachea and larynx. It also has tendency to spasmodic attacks, infiltration of glands, glands become hard but seldom suppurate with left sided mumps ^[15].
27. He also said that it is suitable to patient who is weak and easily overheated, then sweaty and sensitive to drafts.
28. M.L. Tyler said with Bromium, deep forcible inspirations are necessary from time to time. He cannot inspire sufficiently. The glottis may close with a spasm. Bromium cannot stand dust or draughts.
29. He also said in Bromium the skin is first involved, with papules like acne ^[16]. If Bromium is introduced into a cut it become unhealthy looking, a green decay forms about it, with an offensive odour.

30. Bromium has “blind, intensely painful varices,” with the black stools ^[17].
31. One of the most marked general indications for Bromium is its tendency to spasms or spasmodic attacks of various sorts. This is specially noticed in symptoms occurring in the throat and larynx ^[18].
32. O'Connor J. T. told about Bromium is that it is found together with iodine in the ash of sea weed, varec; it exists also in sponges and many marine animals. It is prepared from the mother liquor of sea water or saline springs ^[19].
33. Bromium is recommended by Black against the malignant forms. Great weakness and lassitude after all other symptoms have passed off, and also a characteristic one of Diphtheritis ^[20].
34. Asthenic croup with extreme congestion and swelling of the air passages, so that the child breaths with great difficulty, throws his head back, grasps at the throat, and evinces anxiety. Affection of upper part of the air tubes, dry croupy cough like that of a sheep, grating and tickling ^[21].
35. Hepatization of lower lobes, right lung mostly affected; sensation of constriction impedes respiration with dry tickling cough; loose cough night and day, but no expectoration. Nose feels as if all the hair had been pulled out, edges very sore ^[22]. In the bronchi, the effect begins and rises to the larynx.
36. Bromium has been recommended for hypertrophy occurring in young and growing subjects. It has cutting pains running upwards in heart disease, violent palpitation when walking ^[23].
37. Rawness in mouth and throat. Deposit aggravates on left side, begins in or over larynx and progresses upward. Profuse, thin colorless serum flows from left nostril ^[24].
38. Bromium is well adapted to affections which begin in the bronchi and travel up to the larynx, the focal centre of the action of Bromium. The more marked action of Bromium is upon the right lung in general, and the apices of the left lung in particular ^[25].
39. Anatomically Bromium is more suitable for swelling and hypertrophy of the mucous membrane. Also it has croupy, dry, rough, barking or whistling cough ^[26].
40. Rawness round about the nostrils. A Bromium patient is one that is likely to have a flushed face, especially those subject to acute conditions ^[27]. “Flushed face”. Hot blooded.
41. Epistaxis, with relief of chest and eye symptoms. Wetting haemorrhoides with saliva relieves pain, while cold or warm water aggravates ^[28].
42. Cough is excited by tickling in larynx, scraping and rawness in larynx, deep inspiration, sharp stitches in right side of chest, especially when walking rapidly. Hepatization of lower lobes in pneumonia ^[29].

Conclusion

Dr. H.A. Robert in his “the principles and Art of Cure by Homoeopathy” in chapter XI, has said that almost every case that comes to the attention of the physician presents two distinct phases or parts ^[30]. One part is concerned about the symptoms which the patient complains, those which are most annoying to him and most outstanding in his recognition. Second part is regarding those symptoms which he does not recognize as a symptom or which he does not

consider as having any relationship to the case. We must give due weight to the chief symptoms but in prescribing we must consider the totality of symptoms and in order to do we must give more weight to the second part i.e., peculiar characteristics signs and symptoms of the case which will manifest the individuality of the patient clearly.

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