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Repertorial approach to benign neoplasm of breast

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Abstract

There are many cases of benign neoplasm treated successfully by homoeopathy till date. There are no doubts regarding the rich homoeopathic therapeutics available for the treatment of these tumours. But it is very important to identify the scope and limitation of homoeopathy in treating such cases along with the surgical intervention whenever needed.

Also it is essential to be well accustomed with our tools, i.e. repertories and their adaptability. Hence this study will focus mainly on the rubrics used for benign neoplasms of breast from various repertories and the way these rubrics are presented and arranged in different types of repertories. Also the objective of the study is to find the repertories more useful in cases of benign neoplasms of breast including the peculiar, rare and characteristic rubrics.

The repertories used were Phatak's Repertory, Murphy's Repertory, Kent's Repertory, BBCR and Knerr's Repertory.

Keywords: Homoeopathy, homoeopathic medicines, repertory, benign neoplasms, lumps, tumours, breast, mammae, fibroadenoma, Phatak's repertory, murphy's repertory, kent's repertory, BBCR, Knerr's repertory

Introduction

Homoeopathy being a holistic science more emphasis on individualization is always a priority especially in treatment of conditions like tumors both malignant and benign. After case taking and analysis of the symptoms depending on the case, physician selects suitable repertory for repertorising that particular case hence being familiar with various repertories makes the task easier ^[1].

There are many repertories classified based on various philosophies, principles, plan and constructions, adaptability etc., but all repertories can be grossly classified into three categories, namely,

Concordance repertories – which serve as reference books for compilation of other repertories, consist of symptoms in patients own language, arranged systematically and cannot be used for systemic repertorisation ^[2].

General repertories – these repertories consist of rubrics for all systems and body parts, can be used for systemic repertorisation, are based on philosophy and principles but do not contain direct rubrics of clinical terminologies and diagnosis ^[2].

Clinical repertories – these repertories are compiled based on clinical condition, consist of all the rubrics related to a particular disease and many clinical and diagnostic terms are used. These repertories are not only index to symptoms of materia medica but also include clinical experiences recorded and noted by the eminent homoeopaths worldwide ^[2].

But main purpose of each repertory is to get the group of similar remedies useful in treating a case.

Repertories from all three categories were studied for the rubrics and remedies of benign tumors/ neoplasms of breast.

Rubrics from different repertories are listed below:

Concise Repertory of Homoeopathic Materia Medica-Dr. Phatak S.R. ^[3]

1. Mammae: Hard, indurated: Menses, absent, with:
2. Mammae: Hard, indurated: Small and, colic, during:
3. Mammae: Nodes in:
4. Mammae: Nodes in: Black points on skin, with:
5. Mammae: Nodes in: Girls, puberty, before:
6. Mammae: Nodes in: Knots in axilla, with:

7. Mammae: Nodes in: Movable, tender, moving arms
Agg:
8. Mammae: Nodes in: Old:
9. Mammae: Nodes in: Painful, old fat men, in:
10. Mammae: Nodes in: Soft, tender:
11. Mammae: Nodes in: Touch Agg.:
12. Mammae: Nodes in: Walnut, like males in:
13. Growth, new tumours etc
14. Growth, new tumours etc.: Rapid:

Homoeopathic Medical Repertory- Robin Murphy ^[4]

1. Breasts-Tumors, breasts, growths, (see Cancer, Induration, Lumps, Nodules):
2. Breasts-Tumors, breasts, growths, Fibroid:
3. Breasts-Tumors, breasts, growths, Hard Left, in, painful:
4. Breasts-Tumors, breasts, growths, Hard Right, in, grew until milk was secreted:
5. Breasts-Tumors, breasts, growths, Hard, Nodular:
6. Breasts-Tumors, breasts, growths, Hard, Stony, nodulated, not attached to skin, movable and as large as a filbert, lancinating pains:
7. Breasts- Tumors, breasts, growths, Indurated:
8. Breasts-Tumors, breasts, growths, Injury, after:
9. Breasts-Tumors, breasts, growths, Menopause, period, in:
10. Breasts-Tumors, breasts, growths, Nipples: Left, under, large as hen's egg,
11. Breasts-Tumors, breasts, growths, Nipples: Right, in, hard, large as a hen's egg:
12. Breasts-Tumors, breasts, growths, Painless, in right:
13. Breasts-Tumors, breasts, growths, Skin, loose:
14. Breasts-Tumors, breasts, growths, Small, painless, near nipple:
15. Breasts-Tumors, breasts, growths, Uneven:
16. Breasts-Tumors, breasts, growths, Warm, perspiration and gastric complaints, with:
17. Breasts-Tumors, breasts, growths, Young, married woman, in a:
18. Cancer Breast, cancer: Fibroadenoma – Calcariafluorica (cross reference)

Repertory of Homoeopathic Materia Medica by J.T Kent ^[5]

1. Chest- Induration: Mammae: Abscess, after:
2. Chest- Induration: Mammae: cicatrices, in:
3. Chest- Induration: Mammae: Contusion, after:
4. Chest- Induration: Mammae: Menses, before:
5. Chest- Induration: Mammae: Nipples:
6. Chest- Nodules, sensitive - Mammae, in
7. Chest- Nodules, sensitive - Mammae, in right
8. Chest- Nodules, sensitive - Mammae, in - dry black points at tip
9. Chest- Nodules, sensitive - Mammae, in - menses, during
10. Chest- Nodules, sensitive - Mammae, in - pregnancy,

- during
11. Chest- Nodules, sensitive - Mammae, in - purple
12. Chest- Induration: Mammae: Right: CR - Chest- Nodules, sensitive - Mammae, in- right
13. Chest- Induration: Mammae: Left: CR - Chest- Nodules, sensitive - Mammae, in - left
14. Chest- Induration: Mammae: Menses, during: CR - Chest- Nodules, sensitive - Mammae, in - menses, during

Boenninghausen's Characteristics Materia Medica & Repertory-Dr. C.M. Boger ^[6]

1. Chest- Mammae: Nodes, induration:
2. Chest- Mammae: Nodes, induration: Blows or injuries after:

Repertory of Hering's Guiding Symptoms of our Materia Medicaby Calvin B Knerr ^[7]

1. Pregnancy, Parturition, Lactation- Mammae: Induration: Stony hardness:
2. Pregnancy, Parturition, Lactation- Mammae: Induration: Abscess of right mammary gland, after, remaining without change for two years:
3. Pregnancy, Parturition, Lactation- Mammae: Induration: Contusion, from, hard lump as large as a walnut on right side of nipple, of right, constant dull heavy pain, at night after spot has been irritated in any way, sharp and shooting pain:
4. Pregnancy, Parturition, Lactation- Mammae: Induration: Leucorrhoea or amenorrhoea, with:
5. Pregnancy, Parturition, Lactation- Mammae: Induration: Bluish red nodosities, size of a hazelnut, dry, black points at tips:
6. Pregnancy, Parturition, Lactation- Mammae: Induration: Caked, an early tendency to become:
7. Pregnancy, Parturition, Lactation- Mammae: Induration: Confinement, a few days after:
8. Pregnancy, Parturition, Lactation- Mammae: Induration: Lumps: Girls, in young, painful, affecting arm:
9. Pregnancy, Parturition, Lactation- Mammae: Tumors: Hard, nodular:
10. Pregnancy, Parturition, Lactation- Mammae: Tumors: Hard, stony, nodulated, not attached to skin, movable and as large as a filbert, lancinating pains:
11. Pregnancy, Parturition, Lactation- Mammae: Tumors: Hard, very, incompressible, knobby, immovable, lancinating pains:
12. Pregnancy, Parturition, Lactation-Nipples: Tumor, hard, in right, large as a hen's egg

Result

The rubrics from these 5 repertories related to benign neoplasm of breast were repertorised using RADAR and HOMPAT Zomeo softwares and following results were observed

| | bar-c. | chim. | iod. | puls. | ars-i. | aster. | calc-i. | calc-p. | dulc. | kali-m. | merc-i-f. | nit-ac. | phos. | plb. |
|--|--------|-------|------|-------|--------|--------|---------|---------|-------|---------|-----------|---------|-------|------|
| 1. M - Mammae - hard, indurated - menses, absent, with | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 2. M - Mammae - hard, indurated - nodes | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 3. M - Mammae - hard, indurated - small and, colic, during | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 4. M - Mammae - nodes, in - black points on skin, with | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 5. M - Mammae - nodes, in - girls puberty, before | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6. M - Mammae - nodes, in - knots in axilla, with | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| 7. M - Mammae - nodes, in - milk, secretion of, with | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8. M - Mammae - nodes, in - movable, tender, moving arms ... | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| 9. M - Mammae - nodes, in - old | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10. M - Mammae - nodes, in - painful, old fat men, in | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11. M - Mammae - nodes, in - soft, tender | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | | | |
| 12. M - Mammae - nodes, in - touch agg | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| 13. M - Mammae - nodes, in - walnut like, males in | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| 14. G - Growths new, tumours etc - rapid | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |

Fig 1: Repertorisation using Phatak's Repertory by Radar Opus [8]

All the 14 rubrics from Phatak's repertory for lump in mammae were repertorised and it was observed that no single remedy is covering more than 2 rubrics which

indicates that the rubrics in this repertory are very peculiar for a specific condition which were added by Dr. Phatak after clinically verifying them.

| | coni. | carb-an. | chim. | hydr. | thuy. | calc-p. | bell-p. | thyr. | ars-i. | cund. | kali-i. | lach. | phos. | am. | brom. |
|---|-------|----------|-------|-------|-------|---------|---------|-------|--------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-----|-------|
| 1. Breasts - TUMORS, breasts, growths - fibroid | 1 | | | | | | 3 | | | | | | 2 | | |
| 2. Breasts - TUMORS, breasts, growths - hard | 3 | 2 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3. Breasts - TUMORS, breasts, growths - hard - l... | 2 | | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | |
| 4. Breasts - TUMORS, breasts, growths - hard - ... | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 5. Breasts - TUMORS, breasts, growths - hard - ... | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6. Breasts - TUMORS, breasts, growths - hard - ... | 2 | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7. Breasts - TUMORS, breasts, growths - indurat... | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | 2 | | 2 | 2 | | | | |
| 8. Breasts - TUMORS, breasts, growths - injury, ... | 3 | | | | | 3 | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| 9. Breasts - TUMORS, breasts, growths - left | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 |
| 10. Breasts - TUMORS, breasts, growths - male, ... | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11. Breasts - TUMORS, breasts, growths - meno... | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12. Breasts - TUMORS, breasts, growths - milk, ... | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 13. Breasts - TUMORS, breasts, growths - nipple... | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14. Breasts - TUMORS, breasts, growths - skin, l... | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15. Breasts - TUMORS, breasts, growths - uneven | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16. Breasts - TUMORS, breasts, growths - walnu... | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 17. Breasts - TUMORS, breasts, growths - warm,... | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18. Breasts - TUMORS, breasts, growths - young... | | | 2 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 19. Cancer - BREAST, cancer - fibroadenoma | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Fig 2: Repertorisation using Murphy's Repertory by Radar Opus [8]

Many rubrics related to tumors of breast are found in this repertory. 17 direct rubrics along with large number of cross references were found. When all direct rubrics were

repertorised, Conium covered maximum number of rubrics for lump in breast followed by Carbo animalis.

| | coni. | carb-an. | sil. | graph. | lac-c. | bry. | iod. | sulph. | phyt. | bell-p. | calc. | cham. |
|--|-------|----------|------|--------|--------|------|------|--------|-------|---------|-------|-------|
| 1. CHEST - NODULES, sensitive - Mammae, in | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | | 1 |
| 2. CHEST - NODULES, sensitive - Mammae, in - right | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| 3. CHEST - NODULES, sensitive - Mammae, in - dry black points at tip | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | |
| 4. CHEST - NODULES, sensitive - Mammae, in - menses, during | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5. CHEST - NODULES, sensitive - Mammae, in - pregnancy, during | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6. CHEST - NODULES, sensitive - Mammae, in - purple | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7. CHEST - INDURATION - Mammae | 39 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| 8. CHEST - INDURATION - Mammae - abscess, after | 2 | 2 | | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| 9. CHEST - INDURATION - Mammae - cicatrices, in | 1 | | | 3 | | | | | | | | |
| 10. CHEST - INDURATION - Mammae - contusion, after | 2 | 2 | | | | | | | 2 | | | |
| 11. CHEST - INDURATION - Mammae - left | 1 | | | 3 | | | | | | | | |
| 12. CHEST - INDURATION - Mammae - menses, - before | 3 | 2 | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| 13. CHEST - INDURATION - Mammae - menses, - during | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| 14. CHEST - INDURATION - Mammae - nipples | 5 | 2 | | | | 2 | | 1 | | | 2 | |

Fig 3: Repertorisation using Kent's Repertory by Radar Opus [8]

Kent’s repertory consist of eleven direct rubrics and three cross references and when all rubrics were repertorised together Conium covered 6 rubrics, while other remedies

like Graphitis, Carbo animalis, Silicea, Bryonia, Calcarea carb., Phytolaca, Lac- can covered only 3 or 4 rubrics⁸.

Fig 4: Repertorisation using BCCR by Radar Opus^[8]

Only 2 rubrics for nodes in breast are given in the section of ‘Chest’. Conium, Carboanimalis, Phytolacca and Silicea are

4 marks remedies for induration of breast in general.

| Remedy Name | Con | Phyt | Bry | Carb-an | Dulc | Hydr | Iod | Puls | Cact | Nux-v | Sulph |
|---|-----|------|-----|---------|------|------|-----|------|------|-------|-------|
| Totally | 6 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Symptoms Covered | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Kingdom | | | | | | | | | | | |
| [Knerr] [Pregnancy, Parturition, Lactation]Mammae:Induration:St... | | | 3 | | | | | | | | |
| [Knerr] [Pregnancy, Parturition, Lactation]Mammae:Induration:A... | 3 | | | | | | | | | | |
| [Knerr] [Pregnancy, Parturition, Lactation]Mammae:Induration:Bl... | | | | | | | 3 | | | | |
| [Knerr] [Pregnancy, Parturition, Lactation]Mammae:Induration:C... | | 3 | | | | | | | | | |
| [Knerr] [Pregnancy, Parturition, Lactation]Mammae:Induration:C... | 3 | | | | | | | | | | |
| [Knerr] [Pregnancy, Parturition, Lactation]Mammae:Induration:C... | | | | | | | | | | 2 | |
| [Knerr] [Pregnancy, Parturition, Lactation]Mammae:Induration:L... | | | | | 3 | | | | | | |
| [Knerr] [Pregnancy, Parturition, Lactation]Mammae:Induration:L... | | | | | | | | 3 | | | |
| [Knerr] [Pregnancy, Parturition, Lactation]Mammae:Tumors:Hard... | | | | 3 | | | | | | | |
| [Knerr] [Pregnancy, Parturition, Lactation]Mammae:Tumors:Hard... | | | | | | | | | | | 2 |
| [Knerr] [Pregnancy, Parturition, Lactation]Mammae:Tumors:Hard... | | | | | | | | | 2 | | |
| [Knerr] [Pregnancy, Parturition, Lactation]Mammae:Tumors:Hard... | | | | | | 3 | | | | | |
| [Knerr] [Pregnancy, Parturition, Lactation]Mammae:Tumors:Irrita... | | 2 | | | | | | | | | |

Fig 5: Repertorisation using Knerr’ Repertory by Hompath Zomeo^[9]

It was repertorised using Hompath Zomeo software as this repertory is not included in RADAR software. In Knerr’s repertory symptoms are more elaborated and clear form as they are recorded in patient’s words. Even though it is a concordance repertory 12 rubrics related to neoplasms of breast were found. Most of the rubrics contain hardly 1 or 2 remedies which are very peculiar.

Discussion

Most individualizing rubrics are found in Phatak’s Repertory. Few very peculiar rubrics, which are important during clinical practice and that represent the rarest conditions like –‘nodes in the mammae of male’^[10] or ‘fibroadenoma associated with skin changes^[11] are listed here. However ‘Mammae: Nodes in: Black points on skin, with:’ and ‘Mammae: Hard, indurated: Menses, absent, with:’ are found only in Phatak’s Repertory and Knerr’s repertory

In Mruphy’s repertory Cross references for ‘breast tumors’ are ‘Cancer’, ‘ Induration’, ‘ Lumps’ and ‘ Nodule’. However the main rubric for ‘Fibroadenoma’ is given as ‘Cancer Breast, cancer: Fibroadenoma’ with only Calcarea flour as the remedy. Other peculiar rubric found in this repertory are ‘Breast induration, miscarriage after’ and ‘Breast nodules weather, in cold, wet’.

‘Chest- Induration: Mammae’ is the main rubric in Kent’s Repertory, where as ‘Chest- Nodules, sensitive - Mammae,

in’ is cross reference. Only this repertory includes rubrics specifying the sides that is ‘right’ or ‘left’

Injury as the cause of fibroadenoma^[12] is covered by BCCR, Kent & Murphy under rubrics ‘Chest- Mammae: Nodes, induration: Blows or injuries after:’, ‘Chest-Induration: Mammae: Contusion, after:’ & ‘Breasts-Tumors, breasts, growths, Injury, after:’ respectively^[8]

The rubric for gaint fibroadenoma, described as ‘Pregnancy, Parturition, Lactation-Nipples: Tumor, hard, in right, large as a hen's egg’ is one of the rare rubrics but found in Knerr’s repertory. Few other rubric related to breast neoplasms are single remedy rubric.

Boericke’s Repertory has only one rubric in the section of female sexual system as Mammae: Tumours, nodosities even though it is a Clinical Repertory^[13]

Even Complete repertory (26 rubrics) and Synthesis repertory (24 rubrics) were studied. Most of the rubrics were similar to the rubrics found in all the above mentioned repertories except 1 or 2 rubrics. ‘Chest: nodules: mammae: vaccination after’, Chest: nodules: mammae: weaning, after’ and ‘Chest- nodules, sensitive- mammae- excitement aggravation:’ found in complete and synthesis repertory respectively, were peculiar rubrics in these repertories.

Conclusion

By studying the rubrics from various repertories for benign neoplasms of breast we can conclude that our repertories

cover almost all the symptoms and even the rarest, peculiar conditions representing these tumors. Hence the clinical repertories have their own scope and are very useful in such conditions when it is difficult to find the rubrics from general repertories.

Repertories most useful and which consist of good number of rubrics related to benign neoplasms of breast are Phatak's Repertory, Murphy's Repertory and Knerr's Repertory.

It can also be concluded that the most commonly found remedies for neoplasms were Conium, Phytolacca and Carboanimalis. Further evidence based clinical studies and research is the need of an hour to enrich our repertories with new remedies and equally important is the repeated clinical verification and confirmation of these commonly found remedies in different types of repertories.

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