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Sequel of dermatological suppression

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Abstract

This work correlates the age-old homoeopathic concept that dermatological manifestation of diseases when suppressed by any type of medicine or only the removal of its dermatological manifestations without curing internal disease led to development of numerous varieties of severe diseases. Now a days development of allopathic system of medicine also has significant literature to explain the link between immunity and skin diseases, which further support the old age homoeopathic theory of suppression.

Keywords: Skin diseases, suppression, internal diseases, Homoeopathic remedies

1. Introduction

“Health is not mainly an issue of doctors, social services, and hospital. It is an issue of social justice”

According to W.H.O -“Health is state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely an absence of disease or infirmity.” Many more may be cited, viz. spiritual, emotional, vocational, and political dimensions.

According to oxford dictionary- “Disease is a condition of the body or some part or organ of the body in which its functions are disrupted or deranged and from ecological point of view disease is defined as a maladjustment of human organism to the environment”^[1].

Holistic concept of health and disease

Holistic model recognizes the strength of social, economic, political, and environmental influence of health. It has been variously described as a unified or multidimensional process involving the well-being of the whole person in the context of his environment. This view corresponds to the view held by the ancients that health implies a sound mind, in a sound body, in a sound family, in a sound environment. The emphasis is on the promotion and protection of health^[1].

Immunity

A person is said to be immune when he possesses “specific protective antibodies or cellular immunity as a result of previous infection or immunization or is so condition by such previous experience as to respond adequately to prevent infection and clinical illness following exposure to a specific infectious agent.

The factors which suppress immunity are malnutrition, thermal injury (heat or cold), alcoholism, radiation, certain hereditary or acquired defects and certain drugs etc.^[2]

The word suppression is derived from the Latin word “Supprimere” which means to press down forcibly so suppression is the process of forcibly removing the present disease manifestations by any means other than fixed principles at the cost of new suffering^[4]. Skin being the largest organ in human body, presents with many diseases on it. In fact, skin reflect of what is happening under the skin, or inside the body. Most of the internal systems and organs in the body when get affected or diseased, they show their effects in the form of skin diseases, in various forms and vice versa.

Even stress can impair the immunity of a person which makes host susceptible to various skin infection and whose suppression with external application like steroid impairs the immune system’s ability to respond to homoeopathic remedies which will lead to development or exacerbation of various systemic diseases^[4].

Different stalwarts of homoeopathy affirms that homoeopathic suppression could be possible, and some of them maintain that it could be more serious than the allopathic suppression even Hahnemann stated in Aphorism 276 – “*or this reason, a medicine, even though it may be homoeopathically suited to the case of disease,*

does harm in every dose that is too large, the more harm the larger the dose, and by the magnitude of the dose and in strong doses' it does more harm the greater its homoeopathicity and the higher the potency selected, and it does much more injury than any equally large dose of a medicine that is un homoeopathic, and in no respect adapted to the morbid state (allopathic)"^[5].

During Hahnemannian time disease were known by few names with no classification. The medical practice was in extremely in chaotic condition and was superstitious. The disease was considered as work of evil forces and method like local application such as itch ointments, salves, medicated lotion, mineral bath, application of cold and heat, leeching, vene section, and crude drugs were persistently used internally^[3]. Thus, removal of local expression of the disease only gave the miasm an opportunity to become centralized upon some organs of the body and the internal diseases increased with progress of time.

Hahnemann noticed that suffering of the organism was relieved when the patient broke out with an eruption or when any external manifestation of the disease is presented like skin eruption, catarrhal discharge, haemorrhoids etc.^[8] He also analysed reason behind frequent recurrence of the symptoms in patient suffering from chronic disease. He observed the close association of these symptoms with the disease of itch, gonorrhoea, and syphilis. He named these presentations as three miasmas i.e., psora, sycosis and syphilis respectively and He postulated that all chronic miasms were due to suppression of these diseases^[7].

Relation of Suppression with Temperament by Hahnemann

Hahnemann also explained the relation of suppression with temperament. He quoted Ludwig Christian Junker's observation, in young people of sanguine temperament, the suppression of itch is followed by phthisis, and with persons in general who are of sanguine temperament it is followed by piles, haemorrhoids colic and renal gravel; with persons of sanguino- choleric temperament by swelling of inguinal glands, stiffening of joints and malignant ulcers; with fat persons by suffocating catarrh and mucus consumption. Phlegmatic persons with such suppression suffered chiefly from dropsy, the menses were delayed, and when the itch was driven away during their flow, they were changed into monthly haemoptysis. Person with melancholy were sometimes made insane by such repression, if they were pregnant their foetus was killed. Sometimes the suppression of the itch caused sterility, lack of milk in nursing women, and menses disappeared prematurely, in older women the uterus became ulcerated, attended with burning pain with cancer of womb^[9].

Even he also mentioned in his book "The Chronic Diseases" about an Athenian of Island of Melos who was afflicted when he drove out his severe eruption of Itch by bathing in warm sulphur bath and died. A.C Celsus of Hahnemannian era had several ointments and salves some of which consists of sulphur mixed with Tar, while others contain compounds of copper and other substances and these he prescribed for expulsion of itch. Most of the modern ancient physicians used external sulphur remedies for removal of eruption which give rise to more severe ailments like dropsy^[10].

Some people are born great, and some peoples greatness is thrust upon them, similarly some are born with psora and

some people psora is thrust for e.g. An infant a few days old is often brought with infantile eczema on the cheeks with flushed face and pink appearance of the skin, here the child is born with psora. In these cases, one will always obtain a history of suppressed skin disease in one of the parents or both. As such, a careful family history should always be obtained in these cases^[11].

Kent's View on Suppression

Kent describes suppressions in following words, there are many patients who have had rheumatism in the hand and feet and other joints, who have been rubbed and stimulated with lotion and strong liniments, until the rheumatism of extremities has disappeared to a great extent then cardiac symptoms are likely to occur^[12].

Roberts's View on Suppression

Not only Hahnemann but also the latter Homoeopaths like H.A Robert and Kent has given their concept on suppressions. For e.g., Robert explained suppression of a diarrhoea will often produce constipation then fever and tendency to delirium. While talking about suppressive property of opium and its derivative he says that suppression of a simple cough with opium might lead to pneumonic coughs. He also stated that removal of end products of the disease without prior constitutional treatment based on the law of similar is also a form of suppressive therapy^[13].

"No Single Symptom, No Matter How Strong Rare and Peculiar Can Strong without the Support of Well Taken Case and the Likeness of Whole Patient of the Remedy"-
H.A Roberts

J.H Allen View on Suppression with a Case

Peripheral expressions of skin diseases and its external manifestations occur through nerve transmission. It takes place from within and transferred outwardly as a relief process. This is nature's provisional safety valve. When we suppress any local disease, we overcome the biological law, or we destroyed it and we are the enemies of biologics or physiological law. This is a secret of all suppressions we have deflected if not destroyed nature's eliminative process.

This great truth cannot be better illustrated than by giving few cases to demonstrate the fact.

A case of J.H Allen which describes about a patient, Mr. L of age 53 with history of a tibial ulcer that he has been combating locally all his life with all kinds of ointments and local washes. Suddenly it healed under the use of a mercurial ointment and within a year interstitial Bright disease developed which has gradually grown worse, and now he is a complete invalid^[8].

Case 1

Miss XY of age 28 of Greater Noida visited to the POPD of Malakpur who came for the treatment of haemorrhoid. Mentally she was extremely emotional excessive irritable and cry by slightest cause which aggravates by consolation. Her stool was usually constipated and when her past history was taken it was found that she had complain of acne vulgaris for few months then for which she used some allopathic ointment after which she got relieved and within a year haemorrhoids were developed. After full case taking, repertorization was done and Individualized Homoeopathic medicine Natrum Mur 30 was given to the patient.

Case 2

Mr. AB of age 45 visited to the POPD of Malakpur for the treatment of asthma when his full case taking was done, he was found with recurrent attacks of breathlessness with wet cough which aggravates by cold weather and better by warm and he was extremely restless and anxious. On auscultation wheezing was marked. In his past history he was diagnosed with urticaria for which he had taken steroid for external application by which he got relief in urticaria and after six months he developed breathlessness then after repertorization arsenic album 200 was given.

M.L Dhawale's View on Suppression

According to M.L Dhawale when manifestations are suppressed by various procedures then energy cannot be destroyed; it can only be transformed, and its manifestations changed so manifestations on the surface i.e., skin eruptions like eczema gets replaced by frightening attacks of asthma; the annoying foul foot sweats by neuralgic headaches; the chronic ear discharge by facial neuralgia; the leucorrhoea discharge by abdominal pain and arthritis^[14].

Conclusion

This article titled '*Sequel of Dermatological Suppression*' reveals about the adverse effects of external application of skin manifestation and even different stalwarts of homoeopathy have given their views on dermatological suppression in their philosophies.

Skin being the largest organ in human body which cover and protect the internal organs from harmful organisms and effects of the environment. Its manifestations are reflection of internal systemic diseases so, it should be treated constitutionally to find out the exact cause of skin manifestation rather than suppressing it by local means can lead to more severe systemic problems.

Homoeopathic system of medicine is based on the natural law of cure '*Similia Similibus Curentur*', so when the skin symptoms appear in chronic internal diseases after the administration of the similimum then it is a sign of cure which takes place from centre to periphery as stated by Herring law of cure and at this time just leave body to act itself to get complete cure instead of applying any external application.

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Conflict of interest

None declared.

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