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Individualized homoeopathic treatment of chronic arterial foot ulcer: A case report

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Abstract

Chronic lower leg ulceration is a fairly common adult condition that causes pain and social distress. The condition affects 1% of adults and 3.6% of those over 65. Leg ulcers are painful and have a negative impact on the quality of life of patients. Arterial pathologies can cause arterial ulcers, but the one important cause is arterial obstruction. Atherosclerotic obstruction usually occurs in the iliac, femoropopliteal, and the distal branches (Peroneal and tibial arteries).

The case was diagnosed using an arterial doppler of the right lower limb, which revealed an arterial block above the right common femoral artery at the aortic bifurcation, resulting in an ulcer. Vascular leg ulcers, venous ulcers, and diabetic ulcers were all ruled out as possibilities in this case. Silicea 0/1 to Silicea 0/4, 16 doses of each potency, twice a day, were given to the patient as constitutional homoeopathic medicine. The foot ulcer was completely healed after a one-month follow-up. This case study suggests homoeopathic treatment as a promising complementary or alternative therapy, emphasising the significance of repertorisation in individualised homoeopathic prescription.

Keywords: Chronic Arterial foot ulcer, quality of life, homoeopathy, case report

Introduction

Arterial (ischemic) ulcers are open sores that develop on the smaller side of arterioles and capillaries, typically on the outside of ankle, feet, toes, and heels. Arterial ulcers have a "punched out" appearance and a variety of symptoms, such as red, yellow, or black sores, hairless skin, leg pain, no bleeding, and a cool to the touch affected area due to insufficient blood circulation [1]. An arterial ulcer is one that develops as a result of insufficient blood supply to the affected area (ischaemia). Arterial ulcers, which are most common on the lower legs and feet, can be acute, recurring, or chronic. Ulcers can be caused by a combination of factors; 'mixed ulcers' account for approximately 15% of all leg ulcers [2]. Acute or chronic conditions such as trauma or thrombosis can impair arterial ulcers. Both acute and chronic arterial insufficiency can lead to lower extremity ulcers. Any level of the circulatory system, from large arteries to arterioles and capillaries, can experience arterial insufficiency. Leg ulcers are more frequent in patients with large vessel or mixed disease due to tissue ischemia [3, 4]. Arterial pathologies can cause arterial ulcers, but the one important cause is arterial obstruction [5]. Atherosclerotic obstruction usually occurs in the iliac, femoropopliteal, and the distal branches (peroneal and tibial arteries) [6]. In order to identify the underlying cause of a leg ulcer, a thorough patient history and examination are required. Capillary refill time, A Buerger test, and Ankle Brachial Pressure Index, Transcutaneous oximetry, are examples of bedside tests to diagnose Arterial ulcer [2].

Case proper

A 37-year-old male patient from Kalna, Burdwan, West Bengal, was admitted to the NIH Inpatient department on February 5, 2020. (IPD no -741688). with non-healing ulcer of the right foot. The ulcer was deep and round in shape, with a well-defined margin. six years ago, the patient began to experience pain in his right foot, gradually developing a small wound without bleeding and with blackness in the affected area.

History of Present Complaints

The onset was gradual, the duration was six years, ulcer was round in shape, chronic deep ulcer with well-defined wound margins, and there was a history of allopathic treatment without any noticeable improvement.

Past History: Allopathic medicine was used to treat jaundice at the age of 17 yrs.

Scabies in childhood treated by allopathic medicine.

Family History

Father Suffering from Diabetes Miletus Mother suffering from Respiratory complaints.

Mental General

Mildness Company desire Despair recovery Magnetized desire to be

Physical Generals

Appetite normal Thirstless Aversion milk Intolerance for fatty food Urine clear Thermal Reaction chilly Sleep adequate Perspiration odour sour Dream of daily activities

Totality of symptoms

Mildness
Company desire
Despair recovery
Magnetized desire to be
Aversion milk
Perspiration odour sour
Ulcer foot

Diagnosis: On February 5, 2020, the patient presented with an arterial doppler of the right lower limb, which had performed on February 14, 2014. According to the report, an arterial block above the right common femoral artery at the aortic bifurcation which leads to an ulcer.

Repertorisation [7]

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		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
		6	6	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3
		13	13	12	15	12	10	8	7	6	9	9	8	6	6	5	7	7	6	6	6
▼ 2. Clipboard 2	X																				
▶ 1. MIND - MILDNESS	(60) 1	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	1	1	2	2		1		1	3		2	2	2
2. MIND - COMPANY, - desire for	(58) 1	2		2	3	3	2	2	3	1	3		1		2	1					1
3. MIND - DESPAIR - recovery	(24) 1	3	1	2	3			1	1	1			2		1			2	2		
 4. MIND - MAGNETIZED, desires to be 	(5) 1	3	3			3								1							
▶ 5. STOMACH - AVERSION to - milk	(30) 1	2	2	2		2	2	2				2	2	3	1		2				
▶ 6. PERSPIRATION - ODOR, - sour	(48) 1	1	3	3	3		1	1	1	1	3	3	3		2	2	2	3	2	3	3
7. EXTREMITIES - ULCERS - Foot	(32) 1		1	1	3	2	2		1	2	1	2		1		1		2		1	

Fig 1: Repertorisation sheet

Result: This case was repertorized using Kent's Repertory ^[8] and the software RADAR OPUS 3.1.5. The repertorial result was analysed, giving more priority to mental symptoms as well as physical general symptoms than specific symptoms for medicine selection. According to repertorization, the most indicated remedy was Silicea.

Prescription: After considering the totality of symptoms and analysis of reportorial result Silicea 0/1, 0/2, 16 doses of each potency were prescribed in 100 ml of aqua dist, BD for 16 days. The potency was gradually increased up to Silicea 0/4 with progressive improvement in foot ulcer.

Time line: The patient was admitted to the NIH Inpatient department on February 5, 2020 with a chronic foot ulcer and improvement was seen on March 7, 2020.



Fig 2: Foot ulcer: before treatment



Fig 3: Foot ulcer after treatment

Discussion: A 37-year-old male patient from Kalna, Burdwan, West Bengal, was admitted to the NIH Inpatient department on February 5, 2020. (IPD no -741688). with non-healing ulcer of the right foot for the past six years. Arterial doppler of right lower limb indicates that an arterial block above the right common femoral artery at the bifurcation of the aorta. The ulcer was a deep, rounded shape with a well-defined margin. A small wound slowly begins to open up, sometimes with pain but never with bleeding, and the affected area turns black. Individualised homoeopathic medicine, Silicea 0/1 to Silicea 0/4, 16 doses of each potency, twice a day, were administered to the patient on the basis of the totality of symptoms by using Kent's repertory. After one month from the initial visit, a follow-up photo revealed that the foot ulcer was completely

healed. Chronic arterial foot ulcers seemed to respond well to individualised homoeopathic medicine using Kent's repertory. The medicine was given in fifty millesimal potencies. One of the main limitations of this case study was that only a visual photograph of ulcer was used to show the comparison of result before and after the treatment. The information in this case report may also be useful for planning future case series development. Additionally, it supports the idea that the pathological entity may be altered by constitutional homoeopathic treatment. In this case report, homoeopathic treatment is recommended as a promising complementary or alternative therapy.

Conclusion

A 37-year-old male patient from Kalna, Burdwan, was admitted to the NIH Inpatient department with complaints of non-healing ulcer of the right foot for the past six years. Considering the totality of symptoms, patients was treated with individualised homoeopathic medicine Silicea 0/1 to Silicea 0/4, 16 doses of each potency, twice a day. After one month from the initial visit, a follow-up photo revealed that the foot ulcer was completely healed. In this case report, homoeopathic treatment is recommended as a promising complementary or alternative therapy, emphasising the significance of repertorisation in individualised homoeopathic prescription.

Conflict of Interest

Not available

Financial Support

Not available

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