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Ajay Kumar Yadav
Postgraduate Trainee,
Department of Case Taking
and Repertory, National
Institute of Homoeopathy,
Govt. of India, Block GE,
Sector 3, Salt Lake, Kolkata,
West Bengal, India

Monika
Postgraduate Trainee,
Department of Organon of
Medicine, Homoeopathic
Philosophy, Chronic Diseases
and Psychology, National
Institute of Homoeopathy,
Govt. of India, Block GE,
Sector 3, Salt Lake, Kolkata,
West Bengal, India

Corresponding Author:
Ajay Kumar Yadav
Postgraduate Trainee,
Department of Case Taking
and Repertory, National
Institute of Homoeopathy,
Govt. of India, Block GE,
Sector 3, Salt Lake, Kolkata,
West Bengal, India

Defective reaction

Ajay Kumar Yadav and Monika

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Abstract

When well-chosen therapies are found to be ineffective and improvement is discovered to have stopped, a defective reaction may occur. It is a condition that calls for specialised care and may be present in a case or manifest itself during therapy. Deficient reaction also goes by the synonyms decreased reaction and poor reaction. The importance of this topic arises in the Covid situation when many patients have suffered from the infection, and even after taking the whole case, the well-indicated remedy was not acting, so what could be the reason, why it was impossible for the well-selected remedy to act, so the answer is as the body reaction was very low to react, it could be because of any reason, either of the infection itself or the dosage of the medicine is not strong enough to produce desirable action or there are any other obstacles to cure.

Keywords: Defective reaction, homoeopathy, susceptibility

Introduction

Deficient reactions are signs of a disorder that requires specific attention and may be present in a case or become apparent during treatment. When progress halts and carefully designed treatments are ineffective, these situations are particularly prevalent in the treatment of chronic diseases^[1].

In Stedman's Medical dictionary 'Defective reaction' is mentioned as^[2],

Defective – to fail or to lack or imperfect.

Reaction – the response to a stimulus.

This means the response of the body to a stimulus will be imperfect or subnormal.

Defective Reaction – a part of the susceptibility^[1,3].

As per HA Robert, The response of the organism to both internal and external forces can be referred to as susceptibility. HA Roberts susceptibility is an expression of a vacuum in the individual. Childhood is the most contagious age due to the extreme susceptibility of the miasmatic influence. The degree of susceptibility changes between patients and within the same patient over time.

Susceptibility refers to an organism's general propensity for taking in impressions and its capacity to respond to stimuli. One of the primary characteristics of life is susceptibility.

The susceptibility state can be

- 1. Increased^[1, 3, 4]:** Increased state of Susceptibility is denoted by an abnormal, exaggerated, or heightened response to a stimulus with the development of disease, there will be an increasingly vital action. e.g., woman during pregnancy and after delivery, clinical states of atopy and allergy, etc.
- 2. Destroyed^[1,3,5]:** In this state destruction of susceptibility will occur, and the destruction may be complete or partial.

According to aphorism 10, complete eradication of sensitivity entails death or complete destruction of the body's response.

Partially destroyed susceptibility results in severe impairment, such as coma and suspended animation that renders the patient chronically disabled and incurable.

Suspended animation as mentioned in aphorism 67 footnote of Organ on of medicine, it is a state of obstruction of the normal healthy vital force occurring to previously healthy individuals, resulting in danger to life and imminent death e.g., asphyxia, lightning, suffocation, freezing, drowning, etc.

According to Hahnemann, in such circumstances, it is appropriate and admissible to stimulate the sensibility with a palliative measure. With this stimulation, the functioning of the vital organs again goes in its former healthy manner, as there is no disease to be removed, but merely an obstruction of the healthy vital force.

For e.g., Antidotes for sudden poisoning

- a. Alkalis for mineral acid,
- b. Hepar sulphuris for metallic poisons,
- c. Coffee, Camphora, and Ipecacuanha for poisoning by Opium.

3. Diminished / Defective / Morbid^[1, 3, 4]

Diminished susceptibility – it implies a negative or minus condition, a state of lowered resistance. Patients who linger after an acute sickness and do not restore their previous energy exhibit this behavior. Some of these individuals have symptoms of miasmatic effects that impede their speedy recovery. These patients do not exhibit any remedy's typical symptoms. Following a suitable Nosode, this unpleasant state significantly improves. Additionally, the chronic condition coming to a standstill suggests the same circumstance. It is seen in patients who drag on after an acute illness and do not regain their old vitality. Some of these patients give indications of miasmatic influences which come in the way of their prompt recovery. These patients do not give the characteristic indications of any remedy. This unsatisfactory state resolves considerably after an appropriate Nosode. The chronic case coming to a standstill also indicates the same situation.

Susceptibility can be diminished by forcibly using

A) Heterogeneous medication^[1, 5]: Stuart Close warns us that "many chemicals are administered medically in such forms, at such doses, via such processes, and upon such principles as to be markedly depressed or destructive of normal responsiveness" in *Genius of Homoeopathy*. Without considering nature's law, they are empirically imposed upon or into the suffering creature.

As occurred in artificial chronic disease (aphorism 74-76), artificial chronic diseases are those that are created intentionally by the use of powerful drugs over an extended period of time in high and escalating dosages. Abuse of calomel, corrosive, mercury, silver nitrate, iodine ointment, opium, cinchona bark, quinine, foxglove, sulphur, sulphuric acid, and purgatives are only a few examples of substances that weaken the vital energy and may cause it to surrender.

B) Antitoxins and Antiseptics^[1, 3]: Professor James Ewing, of Cornell University Medical College, in a lecture upon immunity (1909) called the problem of the endotoxins. Because of the endotoxin released during the process of bacteriolysis brought on by the serum injections, he referred to serum therapy as "the stone wall of serum therapy," and he said that it may still fail to create passive immunity against different infections. He also gave the example of a patient who died despite receiving injections of millions of dead gonococci to treat gonococci septicemia. This is known as sterile death and occurs when cultures taken from the organs and tissues show that the bacteria have been eliminated but the animal still perishes.

Another method of reducing or eliminating natural vulnerability is the use of antiseptics during surgery or in

the treatment of disease.

C) Crude pathological products like animal Sera and Vaccines^[1]: Animal sera and vaccinations are examples of pathological, primitive vaccines that only impart a fictitious immunity by destroying or impairing normal susceptibility. It causes bodily degeneration, creates a diseased condition rather than a healthy one, and contaminates or poisons the entire organism.

D) Stimulants and Depressants like alcohol, brandy, etc^[1]: Action and reaction, as we all know, are equal and opposite, just as excitement and depression are. As a result, after receiving a stimulant, a person quickly reaches the point at which that stimulant's susceptibility is depleted.

E) Advanced pathology^[5, 6]: In Advanced pathology, the Vital force will be weak, and there will be a lack or absence of characteristic symptoms (striking, singular, uncommon, and peculiar) as mentioned in aphorism 153.

As seen in Kent's first observation for e.g., if a person is suffering from the last stage of liver Cirrhosis, and if the physician will prescribe deep acting antipsoric remedy then it will give prolonged aggravation with no relief to the patient, it will lead to the death of a patient.

F) Lack of vital organ^[6]: The patient does not improve beyond a certain stage due to a lack of a vital organ.

The patient is palliated in this case, the medicine works favourably, and the patient is not cured and never will be cured. As seen in Kent's seventh observation for e.g., If a person has only one kidney, and has any disease, then after administration of remedy the patient will feel ameliorated but up to a certain limit.

G) Substance abuse of^[4]: A patient who presents with odd symptoms that don't match any one medicine from the homoeopathic material medica exhibits the morbid form of susceptibility as a result of the repeated abuse that indiscriminate prescribers, both homoeopathic and non-homoeopathic, have piled on him. Experience suggests that Nux-vomica can help you satisfy this morbid predisposition and bring some order to the chaos by doing so.

H) If dose is not appropriate^[5]: In *Organon of Medicine*- suitability of medicine depends upon similarity of medicine homoeopathic treatment if the dosage of the remedy is not stronger than the natural disease, it will not act, as mentioned and size of dose.

Different stalwarts view

Samuel Hahnemann's^[5, 7].

From lesser writing in the chapter 'cure and prevention of the Asiatic cholera, Hahnemann has mentioned : -

It may be necessary to use material doses or low potencies of the prescribed drug in the early stages of some malignant and quickly fatal diseases, like cholera, when torpor or collapse indicate dangerously low vitality and inadequate response. The well-known treatment recommended by Hahnemann called for taking drops of the potent tincture of camphor every five or ten minutes. Later, after the reaction has been established and other remedies, corresponding to the symptoms of later stages of the disease come into view, higher potencies are required, and with that many thousands

of lives are saved.

In Organ on of Medicine, aphorism 183 footnote stated as: - In cases where the patient feels extremely ill despite having very vague symptoms (which, however, happens excessively infrequently in chronic but not infrequently in acute diseases), this state may be attributed more to the benumbed state of the nerves, which prevents the patient's pains and sufferings from being clearly perceived.

In such circumstances, Hahnemann advised using opium to relieve the internal sensibility's torpor, which in turn helped the disease's symptoms stand out more clearly.

Stuart Close ^[1]

In Genius of Homoeopathy chapter vii, Susceptibility, Reaction, and Immunity, Stuart close has mentioned Susceptibility is modified by pathological conditions – The ability of the organism to react, even to the prescribed treatment, may become so low in some terminal illnesses that only substantial doses can awaken it, such as in the latter stages of valvular heart disease.

Digitalis is the indicated remedy in valvular heart disease, but no effect is produced by any potency. A fresh infusion of Digitalis or tangibly administered doses of the pure tincture will have an effect on the patient and occasionally recover well from a condition that seemed incurable.

Dr. Pierre Schmidt ^[8]

Dr. Pierre Schmidt says, regarding aphorism 183, when we have given a remedy and the result is not brilliant, instead of starting immediately a whole lot of drugs, we should question our patient again, complete our examination and we often see that the remedy will manifest itself without difficulty. In addition, §183 raises the question of lack of reaction.

Here it is well to differentiate between two categories of reaction

1. Hahnemann suggests opium in this instance if there are lack of reactions since, as is well known, opium paralyzes and inhibits all types of reactions, including muscular, sphinteroid, and neurological.
2. When too many drugs have produced a state of hypersensitivity and the remedy fails, we have to think about phosphoric acid and above all teucrium.

Arthur Hill Grimmer ^[9]

1. It is difficult to know where to start because there are so many factors that can obstruct the homoeopathic remedy's effectiveness. Camphor compounds, synthetic menthol compounds found in mothballs and numerous rubs, ointments, and inhalants like Vick's vapors rub, are perhaps the most significant antidotes to homoeopathic drugs.
2. A whiff from clothing reeking of the foul smell of moth balls has stopped many homoeopathic action in its tracks because they not only counteract the therapeutic activity of remedies but also have a depressant impact on the body's life forces..

What to do in such cases

1-Boenninghausen mentions a few drugs that can be used in this state ^[1]

1. Carbo vegetabilis
2. Laurocerasus

3. Moschus
4. Opium
5. Sulphur

2. Role of intercurrent remedies ^[1, 4]

A well-indicated constitutional remedy may occasionally become ineffective in a chronic condition, preventing the patient from advancing. In light of the situation, a thorough examination of the symptomatology and the circumstances surrounding its emergence is warranted. Analysis from a miasmatic perspective may reveal the specific miasm that is causing this block, and a proper anti-miasmatic cure will help to remove it and re-establish the sensitivity to the constitutional medicine.

Intercurrent remedies are given for the

1. Purpose of removing any acute disease in the treatment of chronic diseases.
2. Accelerating the mode of cure.
3. Removing any hindrances called a miasmatic block.
4. The nosodes- Psorinum, Syphilinum, Medorrhinum, and Tuberculinum, are also to be remembered in this condition where the latent diseases represented by these medicines are present, as shown by the existent symptoms or by the history and previous symptoms of the case.

Sometimes a single dose of the requisite nosode in a somewhat high potency will resolve a case by bringing symptoms into focus, allowing the necessary cure to be chosen.

When the patient does not respond to carefully chosen treatments, nor to treatments for concurrent reactions, delivered in a potentized form and modest doses, turn to the crude medicine and raise the dose until a reaction.

Rubrics for defective reaction

Kents Repertory ^[10]

Generalities - irritability, lack.

Generalities - reaction, lack.

Boger boenninghausen's characteristics & repertory ^[11]

Sensations & complaints in general- irritability, lack of physical Sensations & complaints in general- reaction; poor.

Boenninghausen's therapeutic pocket book ^[12]

Sensations- irritability, physical, lack.

Boericke repertory ^[13]

Nervous system – deficient reaction.

Synthesis repertory ^[14]

Generals - reaction, lack.

Generals - irritability, physical, lack.

Synoptic key ^[15]

Generalities; reaction, poor.

Phatak repertory ^[16]

Reaction, lack of, poor.

Medicines that can be use in cases of defective reaction

The following mentioned medicines could be beneficial when administered on the basis of symptoms similarities : -

Aloe socotrine: An excellent remedy to aid in re-establishing physiological equilibrium after much dosing, where disease and drug symptoms are much mixed^[13].

Capsicum annuum: Phlegmatic diathesis; lack of reactive force, especially with fat people, easily exhausted; indolent dreads any kind of exercise^[17].

Carbo vegetabilis: Want of susceptibility to well-selected remedies. Persons who have never fully recovered from the exhausting effects of some previous illness; asthma dates from measles or pertussis of childhood; indigestion from drunkard debauch; bad effects of long ago injury; has never recovered from effects of typhoid^[17].

Causticum: Patient improves for a time, then comes to a standstill^[17].

Medorrhinum: For the constitutional effects of maltreated and suppressed gonorrhea, when the best-selected remedy fails to relieve or permanently improve^[17].

Nux vomica: It is frequently the first remedy indicated after much dosing, establishing a sort of equilibrium of forces and counteracting chronic effects^[13].

Opium: Want of susceptibility to remedies; lack of vital reaction, the well-chosen remedy makes no impression^[17].

Psorinum: In chronic cases when well-selected remedies fail to relieve or permanently improve. Lack of reaction after severe acute diseases. Appetite will not return^[17].

Sulphur: When carefully selected remedies fail to produce a favorable effect, especially in acute diseases, it frequently serves to rouse the reactive powers of the system; clears up the case^[17].

Teucrium Marium Varum: When the great number of drugs administered has produced a state of hypersensitivity, with the result that no remedy, even if it is indicated, acts. Specific action on the nose and rectum^[8].

Tuberculinum: When with a family history of tubercular affections, the best-selected remedy fails to relieve or permanently improve, without reference to the name of the disease^[17].

Valeriana: Hysteria, over sensitiveness, nervous affections, when apparently well-chosen remedy fails^[13].

Zincum metallicum: Person suffering from cerebral and nervous exhaustion; defective vitality; brain or nerve power wanting; too weak to develop exanthemata or menstrual function, to expectorate, to urinate; to comprehend, to memorize^[17].

Conclusion

In many situations, particularly in the treatment of chronic diseases, where vitality is depleted and the well-selected remedy is unable to produce any favourable reaction or it stops acting, it is necessary to administer an intercurrent remedy. This remedy will occasionally clear up a case by bringing symptoms into view, making it possible to choose

the necessary remedy. A homoeopathic doctor can guide these unhappy patients toward a cure over time when the susceptibility is restored. Whether it is for cure, recovery, or palliation, it all depends on the case, homoeopathy has a key role to play in the management of disease with malfunctioning reactions. The ability to effectively treat or cure a disease depends on both preserving and using the living thing's inherent susceptibility as well as correctly tailoring the medication and dosage to meet those demands. In order to fulfil that susceptibility, cause a typical reaction, and restore equilibrium or health.

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