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A case study of homoeopathic treatment for Guillain-Barre syndrome

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Abstract

Guillain-Barre syndrome alias GB syndrome is a rare autoimmune neurological disorder which affects 1–2 cases per 1, 00,000 people per year worldwide. It affects all age groups but is common in males than females. Around 20% of them are affected with severe disability or mortality due to GB syndrome. Usually ones immune system pounces over the foreign invading germs as a natural defense mechanism against contagion. However in GB syndrome body's defense mechanism mistakenly attacks and damages one's own nervous system considering it as a foreign body. Predominantly the feet, hands and limbs are affected, causing numbness, weakness and pain. Most of them recover fully over a period of time but rarely result in near total paralysis. 3-5% of the cases die due to muscular paralysis, cardiac arrest, blood infection etc. This article focuses on a completely bedridden 17 years old male suffering from severe GB syndrome; after a 74 days ICU sufferings and turmoil, going through lot of injections and medicine which yielded no results in despair and hopeless situation they approached Dr Batra's Positive Health Clinic. After taking homeopathic treatment his health showed miraculous improvement in 3 months followed by independent walking in just 6 months. Homeopathic system of medicine is based on holistic approach. In this case, considering the physical and mind symptoms of the patient, co-relating the onset of symptoms with any triggering factors and reaction of patients towards various situations. This totality helps in selecting similimum for the patient and when administered in right doses, leads to cure. His hope for survival was almost nil and after taking homeopathy now he lives a normal life and even lifts dumbbells.

Keywords: Guillain-barré syndrome, neurological, immune system, paralysis

Introduction

Around 700 million people worldwide suffer from autoimmune disorders ranging from mild to severe ^[1]. GB syndrome holds its place in it. The syndrome occurs due to excess bacteria and viruses present in the polluted air which triggers the immune system and confuses it to attack one's own cells. Here when homeopathy comes into picture for autoimmune disease it heals by stimulating the defense mechanism of the body to recover itself. Surprisingly without any side effects. Homeopathy also helps decrease the likelihood of autoimmune disease in children with a high family risk. Homeopathy treatment finds the root cause of the triggers and treats accordingly. This, in turn, helps to bring back the equilibrium of the body's immune system in a natural way to a normal state, treating the autoimmune diseases.

Case Profile

A 17 years old male patient was brought to Dr. Batra's Positive Health Clinic carried by his parents as he was completely bedridden and totally dependent on his parents for his day to day activities.

His symptoms were - difficulty in swallowing, speaking, breathing, loss of bladder & bowel control cannot walk or stand by himself, drooling of saliva, along with nephrotic syndrome for which he was under dialysis. He took treatment in The National Institute of Mental Health & Neuro-Sciences (NIMHANS) & Sita Bhatija hospital in Bangalore for 2 years during these 2 years he was under ICU care for 74 days but the treatment failed to provide positive outcomes. His parents had spent more than 30 lakhs after which they were informed that there is no hope on his survival and there is nothing further that can be done for him.

His motor and sensory functions were deteriorating at a speedy rate. After knowing it they opted for homeopathy.

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Physical Generals

Diet: Non vegetarian.

Appetite: Poor-only oral fluids (was on Ryles tube).

Desire: Cold things esp. cold drinks, ice.

Aversion: Milk.

Thermal Reaction: Ambithermal.

Thirst: Scanty.

Stools: Constipated, shy stools.

Urine: Yellowish, Incontinence during dialysis.

Perspiration: Profuse esp. on palms and soles.

Sleep: Disturbed due to dreams.

Dreams: People chasing him and cornering him.

He is left alone, standing at the edge.

Examination

Systemic Examination

- He was conscious and not reciprocating for any communication only spoke few words.
- After motivational words he had tears in his eyes.
- No state of hallucination, delusion or illusion.
- Mental orientation-diminished.
- Memory-diminished.
- Understanding- poor.
- Speech missing syllable, dysarthria.
- Gait-unable to walk hence he was carried by dad.

Table 1: Motor System Examination

Parameters	Upper Limb	Lower Limb
Bulk	Moderate G- I	Severe G – IV
Power	G- III	G – IV
Tone	Hypotonic G- IV	Hypotonic G – IV
Beevor’s Sign	Negative	Positive
Cranial nerve 12	no fasciculation but flaccid, drooling saliva	

Table 2: Superficial Reflexes

Flexor plantar response	Yes
Corneal reflex	Present
Signs of meningeal irritation	No
Babinski’s reflex	It is reduced showing hypo-reflexia and in some area of lower limb is areflexia

Table 3: Signs of meningeal irritation

Biceps jerk	+ 1
Knee jerk	0
Abdominal jerk	Present partially in right side
Tremor	Bilateral

Case analysis

Table 5: Repertorial totality

Repertory used	Rubrics selected
Synthesis Repertory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mind - Activity - desires activity - weakness; with physical. ▪ Mind - Activity – restless. ▪ Mind – Affectionate. ▪ Mind - Fear - alone, of being. ▪ Mind - Fear - approaching; of – others. ▪ Mind - Fear - alone, of being - strange, unknown environment. ▪ Extremities - Weakness - Lower limbs. ▪ Extremities - Paralysis: lower limbs. ▪ Extremities - Perspiration - Foot – profuse. ▪ Extremities - Perspiration - Hand – Palm. ▪ Generals - Food and Drinks - cold drink, cold water - desire: Extremities, Paralysis, ascending. ▪ Generals Complaints, nervous system.
Homoeopathic Medical Repertory by Robin Murphy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Diseases guillain-barre syndrome- carc. con. lath. thuja. ▪ Nerves, Conduction, nerves delayed- alum, cocc.

Table 4: Sensory Examination - touch feel intact

Palmar planter cramps	Present
Cranial nerve 1 – Olfactory	Positive
Cranial nerve 2 – Optic	Positive
Cranial nerve 3 – Occulomotor	NAD
Cranial nerve 4 – Trochlear	Pupillary reflex – positive
Cranial nerve 5 – Trigeminal	Weak
Cranial nerve 6 – Abducens	Positive
Cranial nerve 7 - Facial nerve	Mild positive
Cranial nerve 8 – Vestibular	NAD
Cranial nerve 9 - Glossopharyngeal	NAD
Cranial nerve 10 – Vagus	Positive
Cranial nerve 11 – Spinal accessory	Slow response
Cranial nerve 12 – Hypoglossal	No fasciculation but flaccid, drooling saliva

Mental Generals

Patient was born and brought up in Bangalore in a nuclear family.

His father was a driver by profession; mother was a housewife and 1 elder sibling.

His childhood was spent well along with his sibling and parents.

He is mild, calm and affectionate in nature Doesnt mix up easily he requires time to makes friends cannot bear to be alone for e.g.: When his mother goes out he is restless till she returns. Emotionally attached to his mother Short tempered, Cannot tolerate rude behavior, highly irritated on contradiction Gradually when his condition had set in his responses were slow with a lowered confidence. He has an anxiety about his health as he had become bedridden. Eye to eye contact was missing, he always looked confused. Slurring of the speech caused embarrassment as he used to keep on hunting for words. He had become highly sensitive he used to weep immediately if anyone would shout at him He used to hide himself if any relatives visit their house, but was comfortable with known people. Anticipatory anxiety Anger- gets angered easily when anyone tells things repeatedly to him. Fear- strangers, stage fear, darkness, being alone, failures.

Hobbies- listening to music.

Past History

- **Chickenpox:** Childhood
- **Recurrent Fevers:** URTI

Family History

- Mother- Migraine
- Paternal G- Father – DM

Repertory of Homoeopathic Materia Medica by J T Kent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nerves Guillain- barre syndrome- carc, con, lath, thuja. ▪ Legs Paralysis, legs- ARG-N, AGAR, ARS, CANN-I, CON, LATH, NUX-V, PLB, RHUST.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extremities, Paralysis, ascending: ars, con, kali-c, agar, hydr-ac, mang. ▪ Extremities, Paralysis, lower limbs: agar, arg-n, cann-i, nux-v, plb, rhust. ▪ Extremities, Weakness, lower limbs: aesc, Alum, arg-n, Ars, Aur, Calc, Carb-ac, Caust, cocc, con, gel, alon, Nat-C, mur-ac, Nux-v, Phos, pic-ac, plb, Rhust, sil, Zinc.

Synthesis Repertory

Synthesis Treasure Edition 2009V (SCHROYENS F.)

Limit analysis to a view: Full repertory

Search remedy:

	phos.	nux-v.	hyc.	sep.	ars.	sil.	ign.	rhust-t.	caust.	chem.	acon.	carb-v.	calc.	kali-c.	bell.	sulph.	thu.	bry.	graph.
1. Clipboard 1																			
▶ 1. MIND - ACTIVITY - desires activ... (1) 1																			
▶ 2. MIND - ACTIVITY - restless (17) 1	1	2					1												
▶ 3. MIND - AFFECTIONATE (89) 1	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	2		3	2	1	1	1
▶ 4. MIND - FEAR - alone, of being (139) 1	3	1	3	2	3	1		1	1		1	1	1	3	1			1	
▶ 5. EXTREMITIES - WEAKNESS - L... (238) 1	3	3	2	2	3	3	1	3	3	1	1	2	3	2	1	2	2	2	2
▶ 6. EXTREMITIES - PARALYSIS - L... (139) 1	2	3	1	1	3	2	2	3	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1
▶ 7. MIND - FEAR - approaching, of... (52) 1	1	1	2	1	1		2		1	2	1			1	2		2		1
▶ 8. MIND - FEAR - alone, of being - ... (1) 1	1																		
▶ 9. EXTREMITIES - PERSPIRATION... (38) 1			3	2	1	3		1		1		1		2		1	2		2
▶ 10. EXTREMITIES - PERSPIRATIO... (109) 1	2	3	1	3		3	3	1	1	2	2	1	2	2		3		1	
11. EXTREMITIES - PARALYSIS - a... (0) 1																			
▶ 12. GENERALS - FOOD and DRINK... (276) 1	3	1	2	2	3	1	2	2	2	3	3	1	2		2	1	2	3	2

Repertory of Homoeopathic Materia Medica by JT Kent

Repertorisation Of Speed Case Reg. No. : Visit Date : 15/06/2023

Repertorisation: Normal

Remedy Name	Con	Agar	Kali-c	Arg-n	Nux-v	Plb	Rhust-t	Alum	Ars	Calc	Carb-ac	Cocc	Gels	Pic-ac
Totality	7	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Symptom Covered	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
[KT] [Extremities]Paralysis:Ascending:	2	1	2						2					
[KT] [Extremities]Paralysis:Lower limbs:	2	3	2	3	3	3	3	2		2	2	2	2	2
[KT] [Extremities]Weakness:Lower limbs:	3	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

Homoeopathic Medical Repertory by Robin Murphy

Waffle graph

Go to Remed

	Alum.	Con.	Lath.	Cocc.	Op.	Agar.	Arg-n.	Ars.	Cann-i.	Nux-v.	Plb.	Rhust-t.	Abrot.
Total	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2
Rubrics	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Kingdom													
MurphyIII - L; Legs; paralysis, legs(80)													
MurphyIII - C; Clinical; guillain-barre syndro... (4)													
MurphyIII - C; Clinical; conduction, nerves del... (3)													

Table 6: Selection of Remedy

Remedy	Reasons
Silicea- 1 M – Single dose - Constitutional	Aversion to mental work Childhood- fixed ideas, Anxious in nature Insomnia, Shy stools, Loss of confidence
Conium- 200 - wkly - Acute	Muscular weakness esp. of lower extremities Heavy weary paralysed and trembling sensation\hands unsteady, Fingers and toes numbness- locomotor ataxia- ascending paralysis- painful stiffness of legs- sudden loss of strength while walking
Causticum- 200 - Intercurrent	Gradually appearing paralysis Progressive loss of muscular strength Feels restless at night Trembling of forearms- hands- numbness - loss of sensation - unsteady gait- easy falling off

Symptoms	Psora	Sycosis	Syphilis	Tubercular
Fear of being alone	+			
Shy introverted	+			
Sweat- palms- soles	+			
Desire to work	+			
Disturbed Sleep due to dreams dreams	+			
Chilly patient	+			
Craving for cold drinks			+	+
Weakness of lower limbs			+	
Constipation - shy stools		+		
Miasmatic predominance	PSORA			

Materials and Methods

Method used was basis repertorization by Synthesis Repertory, Medical Repertory by Robin Murphy, and Repertory of Homoeopathic Materia Medica by J T Kent

Table 7: Miasmatic approach

Results

Months	Progress	Prescription
1 st Month	Improvements in upper limb motion- gestures	Conium 200 1 dose followed by placebo
2 nd Month	Gradual improvements in vocalization	Silicea 1M dose + Causticum 200 1 dose weekly followed by placebo
3 rd Month	Upper limb- power- tone – visible improvements	Conium 200 single dose + Causticum 200 1 dose weekly followed by placebo
4 th Month	Started walking with support	Conium 200 single dose + Causticum 200 1 dose weekly followed by placebo
5 th Month	Daily activities- like eating- washing hands	Conium 200 single dose + Causticum 200 1 dose weekly followed by placebo
6 th Month	Started mild exercises	Conium 200 single dose + Causticum 200 1 dose weekly followed by placebo
7 th Month	Exercises- doing all his physical needs by himself	Conium 200 single dose + Causticum 200 1 dose weekly followed by placebo
8 th Month	Good verbal communication	Conium 200 single dose + Causticum 200 1 dose weekly followed by placebo
9 th Month	Came walking to the clinic climbing stairs by himself	Conium 200 single dose + Causticum 200 1 dose weekly followed by placebo
10 th Month	He can do his daily activities almost 95% by himself	Conium 200 single dose + Causticum 200 1 dose weekly followed by placebo

Discussion and Conclusion

GB syndrome affects physically as well as leaves a psychological impact, as studied in this case the patient was not able to perform his daily activities, even for eating, dressing, combing he needed someone's help. His mental state was hampered due to dependency on others which made him psychologically low. A young boy with lots of dream of future at age of 17 had lost his hopes. But with the

help of homeopathic system of medicine he got his confidence back now he even goes to gym and lifts dumbbells, walks miles without any difficulty. Homoeopathy is a holistic system of medicine and treats the patient based on totality of symptoms. In this case, Silicea single dose was prescribed as similimum along with Conium and Causticum as acute and Intercurrent respectively.

The transformation



Before Treatment

After Treatment

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