



International Journal of Homoeopathic Sciences

E-ISSN: 2616-4493
P-ISSN: 2616-4485
www.homoeopathicjournal.com
IJHS 2023; 7(4): 199-202
Received: 23-08-2023
Accepted: 29-09-2023

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A case report on abscess treated with homoeopathic medicine

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.33545/26164485.2023.v7.i4c.978>

Abstract

Abscesses are very common affection that happens very frequently with children. Here our intent is to show that homoeopathic medication is a good alternative to cure such obstinate case of abscess. It is a case of recurrent obstinate case of abscess in the face near the scalp region measuring an area of 2.5 cm x 2.5 cm, discolored, fluctuant, warm to touch, it was resistant to many treatment previously given. It is very important to know that potential complications of recurrent obstinate abscesses are osteomyelitis, cellulitis, septicemia, epidural abscesses, bacteremia etc. Here is to show a case of recurrent obstinate abscess of a 9 years old boy which is cured by individualized homoeopathic remedies.

Keywords: Abscess, homoeopathy, case report

Introduction

Abscess is a collection of pus in any part of the body that, in most cases, causing swelling, pain, fever, and inflammation around it. It is usually a soft mass that ranges in hue from pink to deep red. Abscesses can manifest anywhere on the body and are frequently detectable by touch. The most common sites are in armpits (axilla), areas around the anus and vagina (Bartholin gland abscess), the base of the spine (pilonidal abscess), around a tooth (dental abscess), and groins. Inflammation around a hair follicle can also lead to the formation of an abscess, which is called a boil (furuncle).

An abscess is a tissue's protective response to stop the spread of infected elements to other body areas. The organisms or foreign materials kill the local cells, resulting in the release of cytokines. The cytokines cause an inflammatory reaction, which attracts a lot of white blood cells to the location and boosts local blood flow.

The final structure of the abscess is an abscess wall, or capsule, that is formed by the adjacent healthy cells in an attempt to keep the pus from infecting neighboring structures. However, such encapsulation tends to prevent immune cells from attacking bacteria in the pus, or from reaching the causative organism or foreign object.

Conventional mode of treatment includes antibiotic therapy and surgical drainage of the abscess. Due to antibiotics' frequent inability to penetrate the abscess and their ineffectiveness at low pH levels, antibiotic therapy alone without surgical draining of the abscess is rarely beneficial. Usually, once the abscess has progressed from a tougher serous inflammation to a softer pus stage, surgical draining of the abscess is advised.

Recurrent obstinate abscesses may complicate to osteomyelitis, cellulitis, septicemia, epidural abscesses, bacteremia etc [2].

Homoeopathic medicines are very effective in treating skin abscess and boils [3, 4, 5]. Once the abscess gets treated with homoeopathic medicines, the chances of it recurring again are very less.

The current case study aims to support and illustrate the efficacy of individualized Homoeopathic medicines for the treatment of abscess.

Case report

Patient information

A 9 years old boy came to Out Patient Department (OPD) of D. N. De Homoeopathic Medical College and Hospital with presenting complaint of swelling in right side of forehead measuring 2.5 cm x 2.5 cm area, which was red in appearance and painful, this swelling was

persisting for 4 months. At first the patient went for conventional treatment there was no improvement noted, then the parents were advised for surgical drainage. After this the patient’s guardian opted for Homoeopathic treatment.

The patient was very irritable, used to throw things when angry even if had a desire to break things by throwing. Patient used to do things opposite to what said by his parents, and he was very destructive. Regarding appetite and thirst there is nothing significant. Patient had a strong desire for sweet and sensitive to heat. His stool was regular and clear, and no complaints regarding urine was there. Developmental milestone was normal. Past history of recurrent abscess is noted. There was nothing significant in family history.

Diagnostic assessment

Painful swelling with sensitiveness and red in appearance clinically confirms it to be an abscess.

Therapeutic intervention

Medicines were given by oral route. Dose, potency and repetitions was done as per physician choice. Repertorisation is done by RADAR 10.5.003(fig 1)

Prescription

Tuberculinum 200 was given followed by Rubrum 30.

Basis of prescription

Medicine was selected on the basis of Repertorisation but for final selection Materia Medica was thoroughly checked.

Response to the course of treatment

Follow up is given in the Table-1

Objective evidence

Improvement is noticed by photographs.(Figure-2)

Possible causal attribution

Modified Naranjo Criteria for Homoeopathy (MONARCH)^[6] is used here. This case obtained +9 MONARCH score that is detailed in table-2.

Adverse or unanticipated events

Nothing such.

Homoeopathic Aggravation

Nothing such.

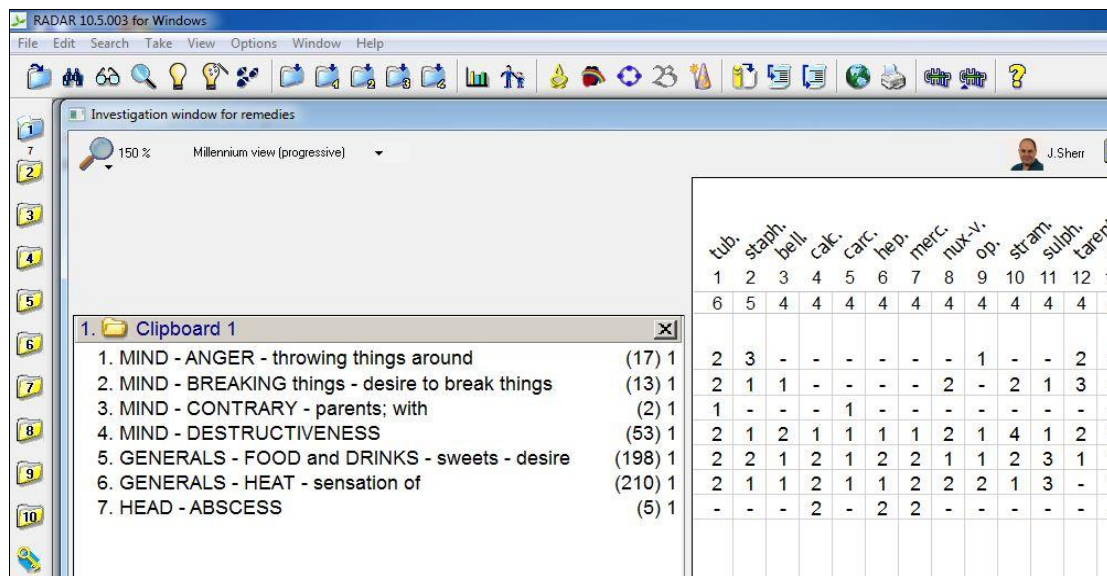


Fig 1: Repertorial Sheet using computer repertorization

Table 1: Follow up of the case

| Present complaint | Date of visit | Medicine prescribed |
|--|---------------|--|
| swelling in right side of forehead which was red in appearance and painful. The patient was very irritable used to throw things when angry even if had a desire to break things by throwing. Patient used to do things opposite to what said by his parents, and he was very destructive. Patient had a strong desire for sweet and sensitive to heat. | 11.05.2022 | Tuberculinum 200, 1 dose is given followed by 6 doses of placebo |
| Swelling, pain and redness was completely subsided, occasional oozing of pus was there. Irritability and destructive nature was little less than before. | 17.05.2022 | Placebo 200 For 7 days |
| No more oozing of pus was noticed. Irritability reduced. | 08.06.2022 | Placebo 200 For 30 days |
| Irritability and destructive nature is reducing. | 12.07.2022 | Placebo 200 For 30 days |
| Irritability and destructive nature is reducing. | 07.09.2022 | Placebo 200 For 30 days |
| Irritability and destructive nature is reducing. | 14.12.2022 | Placebo 200 For 30 days |
| Irritability and destructive nature is reducing. There was no recurrence of abscess. | 13.06.2023 | Placebo 200 For 30 days |



Table 2: Assessment by Modified Naranjo Criteria Score

| Domains | Modified Naranjo Criteria for Homeopathy | Answered question | Score |
|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------|-------|
| 1. | Was there an improvement in the main symptom or condition for which the homoeopathic medicine was prescribed? | Yes | +2 |
| 2. | Did the clinical improvement occur within a plausible timeframe relative to the medicine intake? | Yes | +1 |
| 3. | Was there a homeopathic aggravation of symptoms? | No | 0 |
| 4. | Did the effect encompass more than the main symptom or condition, (i.e. were other symptoms, not related to the main presenting complaint, improved or changed)? | Yes | +1 |
| 5. | Did overall wellbeing improve? (suggest using a validated scale or mention about changes in physical, emotional, and behavioural elements) | Yes | +1 |
| 6. | (A) Direction of cure: did some symptoms improve in the opposite order of the development of symptoms of the disease? | Not sure or N/A | +1 |
| | (B) Direction of cure: did at least one of the following aspects apply to the order of improvement of symptoms: From organs of more importance to those of less importance? From deeper to more superficial aspects of the individual? From the top downwards? | Not sure or N/A | 0 |
| 7. | Did “old symptoms” (defined as non-seasonal and non-cyclical symptoms that were previously thought to have resolved) reappear temporarily during the course of improvement? | No | 0 |
| 8. | Are there alternate causes (other than the medicine) that – with a high probability- could have caused the improvement? (Consider known course of disease, other forms of treatment, and other clinically relevant interventions) | No | +1 |
| 9. | Was the health improvement confirmed by any objective evidence? (e.g., investigations, clinical examination, etc.) | Yes | +2 |
| 10. | Did repeat dosing, if conducted, create similar clinical improvement? | Not sure or N/A | - |
| Total score (maximum +13, Minimum -6) | | | +9 |

Discussion

This is a case of obstinate abscess which was persisting for 4 months. After a course of conventional treatment, it remained the same. On the basis of totality of symptoms Tuberculinum 200 was prescribed. After 3 days of medication the abscess got aborted without any complication. This improvement is shown by photographs in figure-2. Follow up was continued for 1 year. There was no recurrence of abscess noted. Master Hahnemann in apphorism 80 Organon of Medicine [7] and its footnote along with other sections of organ on gives clear preference to individualize a case instead of giving improper names in any individual given case. Because in homoeopathy we recognise a dynamic concept of disease in its essence.

Conclusion

This case is showing that potentized Homoeopathic medicine selected on the basis of totality can work fast enough in treatment of chronic as well as acute conditions. According to 24th apphorism of Organon of Medicine [7] Master Hahnemann after diligent scrutiny of all other medical system says that the only system remains is homoeopathic system of medicine by which we can get the remedies, which can promises to be of services for the dynamic rearrangement of disease to health.

Acknowledgments

Our heartfelt regards to our Principal and all other departmental teachers for giving us this opportunity. We would like to thank our parents for their constant support.

Informed Consent

Written consent was taken from patients guardian.

Source of Financial Support

None

Declaration of Competing Interest

None

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How to Cite This Article

Karmakar A, Mitra S, Gain B, Khatun MSTT. A case report on abscess treated with homoeopathic medicine. International Journal of Homoeopathic Sciences. 2023;7(4):199-202.

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