

Centre for Integrative Medical Training
In Association with the Centre for Integrative Care &
The Academic Department, Royal London Hospital for Integrated Medicine



Foundation Course in Medical Homeopathy

A Blended Course in Homeopathic Medicine for Healthcare Professionals

Materia Medica Studies: *Pulsatilla*

Part 4.2

Pulsatilla (Pasque flower)

Pulsatilla is becoming scarce in the wild due to commercial grazing and human collection of the plants. It is still to be found growing in upland areas.

The soils in which *Pulsatilla* grows tend to be rather poor and gritty and these drain freely and so retain very little moisture between rain showers. Since these upland regions are also very windy, you will appreciate that one of the main environmental issues for *Pulsatilla* is hydration.



Transpiration losses from leaves and sepals is reduced by the presence of thousands of fine hairs, which act to reduce the air flow over the leaf surfaces and so reduce water loss. The plants are adapted to quickly absorb rainwater through their root structures and retain it within the plant tissues while the freely draining gravels quickly dry out.

It is not surprising that water balance is evident in the symptom picture of *Pulsatilla*. For example in the tendency of female *Pulsatilla* patients to complain of pre-menstrual water retention and tissue puffiness; and in the general thirstlessness of those patients who tend to respond best to this remedy.

Pulsatilla can still be found growing in the rolling uplands of the south-downs in England. One of the hallmarks of Britain's open landscapes is the changeability that comes from our Atlantic weather systems. Within very short intervals the landscape can be exposed to squally showers, bright sunshine, thunderstorms, sea fog and mist or more protracted drizzle.

Changeability is also notable in the symptom picture of *Pulsatilla*, and like a number of other plant remedies, this is most evident at the emotional level.

The stalk of the plant itself is very flexible, allowing it to be blown almost flat along the ground when the winds are high, before recovering a more upright habit in quieter weather. The corolla itself opens and closes with the appearance and disappearance of the sun.

Activity:

Now study the plant in more detail using the summaries overleaf.

View the course presentation on *Pulsatilla* by Russell Malcolm:



<https://youtu.be/RHMkwtTJuOo>

Other video lectures on *Pulsatilla* are available. George Vithoukas' lecture on *Pulsatilla* is in the public domain. In his interpretation of the mind picture, he brings out a manipulatory aspect to the emotionality in the *Pulsatilla* constitution which can be seen in practice from time to time.



<https://youtu.be/GHXhrx1vcIc>

The late John English was a keen homeopathic teacher who explored various unconventional teaching and learning styles. You may find his lecture on *Pulsatilla* entertaining and useful.



<https://youtu.be/RlaXqf4XuFw>

Pulsatilla (Wind flower, pasque flower)

Watch the video presentation on Pulsatilla, using the notes below for guidance.

The Pulsatilla type:

- 'Soft', blythe, gentle demeanour
- Sympathetic and respond to sympathy of others
- Affinities for exocrine glands (catarrhs)
- Tendency to puffiness and fluid retention
- Generally thirstless (most notable when unwell)
- Changeable mood - very reactive to impressions
- Expresses emotion freely and immediately (weeps)



5. Anemone Pulsatilla.

Childhood Keynotes for Pulsatilla

Indicated in children with this particular psychological and physical make-up, and can be considered a constitutional for children of this type:

- Clingy
- Insecure
- Catarrhal
- 'Mucusy'

These children usually have a fine complexion and are often chubby with a 'rose-bud' mouth and a mild temperament.

They stay close to their mother, particularly if they are new to the consulting room, and often hug-in closely, or reach up around their mother's neck. They can often be seen sucking their thumbs, or may have a soft toy held up close to comfort them, or give them a sense of security.

Respiratory infections will be characterised by a moist catarrhal cough and a bland nasal discharge. He/she will be prone to fevers, but these are rarely quite as dramatic as in children who develop a 'Belladonna fever'.

Clinical Applications

- Eczema
- Asthma
- Upper respiratory infections
- Middle ear infections
- Chronic catarrh states
- Behavioural disturbances

The Essence of Pulsatilla

- ‘Softness’
- Changeable
- Yielding
- Women more often than men
- Fluid retention and swelling
- Infections of mucous membrane – catarrhal states
- Better for open air
- Menstrual problems including premenstrual tension

Pulsatilla Clinical Case <http://youtu.be/iQYJTfDP9iI>



Watch the *Pulsatilla* case on your video then note your observations in the box provided.



This videocase (Mrs SB) is also included in the main lecture presentation.

Doctor: You dropped me note at the end of April didn't you?

Patient: Yes.

Doctor: I sent you some powders. Did you get them?

Patient: Yes. I took them and believe it or not up until last weekend, I had no wheezing through the night [I was] a lot better. I don't know what changed actually, I was getting used to not getting woken at night.

..... I must admit I'm quite glad, theI'm having.....I don't feel out of breath as much.....obviously I've got a long way to go, but I do find it is helping me an awful lot. And hopefully [it will] carry on.

Doctor: Is there any catarrh or skin problems?

Patient: Skin problems, yes. I'm getting a lot morebasically acne, and I wonder if that is the diet as well asthe skin has been really bad, and I don't usually have bad skin. I usually have good skin but at the moment it's not bad again, but the acne disappeared about one week after menstruation.

Doctor: What about your mood, is it up and down a lot?

Patient: Ay, very much, very much.

Doctor: Are you weepy?

Patient: Very.....I'm usually quite a happy person, but [some people with PMT would say its not even a week before], but I can say I'm even 10 days before.....my husband last noticed it because I'm biting his face off and I don't even know I've done it, poor soul. I do after I've done it too. I am bursting into tears over any reason.....a hankie [reaches for handkerchief].

Further Relevant Reading

Try to read as many of the following references, relevant to *Pulsatilla*, as possible.

Acute medicine (case report)

(Crohn's dis, gastroenteritis, pulsatilla, caulophyllum, veratrum album, arnica)
Homeopathic drugs – their use, case report
J Am Inst Homeopath 1983
Sep;76(3): 105-107

Acute medicine (Case report)

Pulsatilla, dog dis, natrum muriaticum, spongia Homeopathic drugs – their use
J Am Inst Homeopath 1984
Dec;77(4): 157-16

Chase SM Natrum mur, *Sepia* and Pulsatilla in female patients: a comparison Homeopathic drugs – their use
J Am Inst Homeopath 1979
Dec;72(4): 215-220

Schmidt RA

An obstetrical homeopathic confirmation Pulsatilla Case report, homeopathic drugs – their use
J Am Inst Homeopath 1968 Jul-Sep;61(7-9): 184B

Five remedies useful in pediatric practice aconitum napellus, belladonna, chamomilla, pulsatilla, tuberculinum Child, homeopathic drugs – their use
J Am Inst Homeopath 1966 Nov-Dec;59(11-12): 352-357

Verma L

Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis- a case report
Hahnemann Homoeopath Sand 1987
Jul;11(7):153-9

Hughes R

Pulsatilla pulsatilla nigrans, pulsatilla apratensis
Homeopathie 1988 May-Jun;5(3):51-6

Maclouf J Pulsatilla, remede d'eczema?

Homeopathie 1988 May-Jun;5(3):43-50

Cochaud B

Pulsatilla: symptomes gynecologiques (French) Homeopathie 1986 Mar-Apr;3(2):29- 31

Clarke H C

Pulsatilla
Homeopathie 1986 May-Jun;3(3):56-65

Graciet-Pirotte J

Pulsatilla: toxicologie et composition chimique (French)
Homeopathie 1986 Mar-Apr;3(2):12-13

Joly P

Pulsatilla (French)
Homeopathie 1986 Mar-Apr;3(2):43-47

Campbell AC

Three modern provings: arnica, bryonia and pulsatilla
Br Homoeopath J 1984
Oct;73(4):226-8

Clover A, Jenkins S, Campbell A, Jenkins Report on aproving of

Pulsatilla 3x
Br Homoeopath J 1980 Jul;69(3):134-49

Damonte J

Pulsatilla
Homeopath 1982 Spring;2(3):102-9

Barbancey J

Cyclamen, pulsatilla and sepia depressive disorders

Perichon-Bastaire H

Guerison d'une pousse d'eczema par Pulsatilla
Homeopathie 1988 Nov-Dec;5(5):67-8

Schmid FW

Homeopathic treatment of civilisation diseases. Pill amenorrhoea
Homeotherapy 1974-5 1(8): 14-18

Tyler ML

Pulsatilla Drug pictures 12
Homeopathy 1932 Dec;1(12): 468-474

One of Hahnemann's cases pulsatilla

Homeopathy 1933 May;2(5): 137-138

Barker JE

Pulsatilla 30 in menstrual pain
Homeopathic World 1931
Jun;66(786): 161-162

Wiener A

How to obtain easy labour in childbirth pulsatilla, caulophyllum
Homeopathic World 1926
Dec;61(732): 322-323

Tyler ML

Some drug pictures. Arsenicum, Psorinum, Nitric acid, Pulsatilla
Homeopathic World 1924
Mar;59(699): 66-70

Howell ME

Some experiences with homeopathic remedies in surgical cases pulsatilla, arsenicum album, croctalus, colocynthis
Homeopathic World 1921 Jan;56(1): 21-26

Reed WL

Surgical cases treated homeopathically pulsatilla, nux vomica
Homeopathy 1938 Mar;7(3): 79-82

Borland DM

Children's Types. No. 4 pulsatilla, kali sulphuricum
Homeopathy 1938 Aug;7(8): 237-240

Kent JT

Note clinique sur Pulsatilla
Cah Group Hahnemann Doct P
Schmidt 1991;28(3):136

Elliott CK

Pulsatilla in multiple sclerosis
Simile 1991 Jul;1(3):8

Saify ZS

A case of erythroblastosis foetalis cured by Pulsatilla
Hahnemannian Gleanings 1978
Mar;45(3): 130-134

Mossinger P

Zur Behandlung der Otitis media mit Pulsatilla
Allgem Homoopath Zeit 1985
230(3): 89-94

Baylies B

Pulsatilla in malposition of the fetus
Homeotherapy 1984 10(4): 110-114

SAQ 4.2



Without looking at the text, how many of the keynotes of *Pulsatilla* can you remember?

Mind

General, environmental and constitutional features

Local

Frequent pathological indications

At home revise *Pulsatilla* in your *materia medica*:

Page 796 Vermeulen

Page 907 Clarke

Page 536 Boericke (2nd British ed)

Page 767 Neatby and Stonham

Page 487 Phatak

Page 327 Jouanny

Page 238 Boyd