

Centre for Integrative Medical Training  
In Association with Dundee NHS Homeopathy Clinic



# Foundation Course in Medical Homeopathy

A Blended Course in Homeopathic Medicine for Healthcare Professionals

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Part 1.10

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## Materia Medica Studies

This is the section of Part 1 in which we study the materia medica and therapeutic indications of an important homeopathic remedy.

The topic of this section is the remedy *Arsenicum album*. Arsenicum is what we call a polychrest remedy, because it has an extensive symptom picture and its biological effects cross over several systems both in humans and in animal medicine.



Start by viewing the video presentation on Arsenicum album at: <https://youtu.be/kWv0hufn0Y4>

This discussion begins with some notes on the toxicology of Arsenic and progresses to a description of its main homeopathic indicating features and symptoms.

The remedy has been in the materia medica for centuries - long before Hahnemann revised the indications for its safe homeopathic use.

You should take careful note of the mind picture for this remedy, since although it has several useful pathological indications, it is also an important material in the treatment of anxiety.

Use the notes overleaf to orientate you and as an aide memoire, before progressing to the illustrative case study.



You may also wish to hear Todd Rowe present this important homeopathic remedy at: [https://youtu.be/xFNXYZ\\_13UA](https://youtu.be/xFNXYZ_13UA)

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# Arsenicum album

## (White oxide of arsenic)



### Regions most affected:

**Skin, Bowel, Peripheral nerves**, and most tissues to a greater or lesser extent

### Ailments from:

Spoiled food, alcohol abuse, viral infection, worry, grief, fright.

### Generals:

- **Burning** pains - often better for heat
- Great **chilliness**, lack of vital heat  
Weakness, and often emaciation
- Symptoms which are recurrent or **relapsing at regular intervals**
- **Thirst** for cold drinks, small sips of water frequently
- Inflammation of mucous membranes with **thin acrid discharges**
- **Acute diarrhoea** - can be copious, watery and exhausting

### Mind symptoms:

- **Anxiety** -especially concerning his/her health,
- **Great fear and restlessness**
- **Fastidiousness**
- **Obsessive** personality to the point of being ritualistic
- They imagine that every tiny symptom heralds severe illness like cancer or heart disease.

### Modalities:

- < Periodically, especially at night after 2am
- < Lying with the head low
- > External heat, warm wraps
- > Motion, walking about

### Clinical uses:

- Painful vesicular eruptions, eg **herpes zoster**
- Pain syndromes characterised by **burning sensations**, post herpetic neuralgia
- **Gastroenteritis**: diarrhoea vomiting and prostration  
Anxiety states with obsessive ideas concerning illness
- Asthma, with **nocturnal aggravation**, restlessness and anxiety

## SAQ 2.4

Without looking at the text, how many of the main features of *Arsenicum album* can you remember?

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Mind



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General or environmental



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Local



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Frequent pathological indications



Check your answers by referring back to the information on page 2.  
Now read *Arsenicum album* in your *materia medica*:

Page 115 Vermeulen

Page 177 Clarke

Page 79 Boericke (2nd British ed)

page 200 Neatby & Stonham

Page 69 Phatak

Page 47 Jouanny

Page 178 Boyd

Page 553 Vithoulkas