

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



Foundation Course in Medical Homeopathy

A Blended Course in Homeopathic Medicine for Healthcare Professionals

Part 1.9

Cantharis (Spanish Fly)



Regions most affected:

Skin, genito-urinary tract, mucous and serous membranes, right side

Ailments from:

Urination

Generals:

- **Raw, burning, cutting pains** – before, during, and after urination
- Rapid and destructive **inflammatory processes** associated with **irritable bladder**
- Constant **urging** to urinate
- < Coffee
- Burning thirst, but averse to drinking
- **Vesicular eruptions**
- Thick tenacious discharges

Mind symptoms:

- **Angry**, anxious, restless
- **Violent behaviour** with **violent burning**
- < Slightest touch or approach, can lead to abusive behaviour
- Strong sexual desire
- Fear of bright objects and mirrors

Modalities:

- < Touch or approach
- < Urinating
- < Cold drinks and coffee
- > Rubbing

Clinical uses:

- Vesicular eruptions, eg **burns**, scalds, erysipelas, sunburn
- **Cystitis** with burning and constant desire
- Drops of urine at a time
- Haematuria
- Dysentery with burning pains and shivering
- Stevens Johnson Syndrome

This insect is a member of the beetle family. It has evolved a highly irritant secretion as a means of self defence. If the beetle or its secretions come in contact with skin or mucus membranes, it causes a sudden and quite extreme reaction. This is characterised by a severe local inflammation with blistering and pain. On delicate tissues this reaction progresses to serous exudation and local bleeding. Irritation of the afferent nerves can cause segmental or regional spasm of muscles and sphincters.

Activity



Now view the video presentations on *Cantharis* using the links below. We include two different views on the remedy, which will help you gain a fuller understanding of the remedy.

Cantharis - presented by Dr Marysia Kratimenos
https://youtu.be/CHt_wL3u7gc

Cantharis - outlined by Dr Russell Malcolm
<https://youtu.be/WqBd-KJAprU>

Comparative Materia Medica

As time goes on, you will become aware of the prescribing options that exist for many common presentations. From your study of *Cantharis* you will have identified its leading symptoms in acute cystitis.

There are other remedies of equal value in cystitis, with a number of other remedies that are of even greater value in chronic and relapsing cases.

Optional Activity



For the sake of comparison, you may wish to have a quick look at the following in your materia medica:

Copiava
Prunus spinosa
Sarsaparilla

Note:

Don't spend too long studying these at this stage, since we will return to them in the Intermediate Course. These three remedies are given here merely to introduce you to the idea of comparative materia medica and are not part of the exam curriculum for this Introductory Course, or the PHCE.

SAQ 1.9

Without looking at the text, how many of the new features of *Cantharis* can you remember?

Mind

General or environmental

Local

Frequent pathological indications

Check your answers by referring back to the information on page 64.

Now read *Cantharis* in your *materia medica*:

Page 242 Vermeulen

Page 383 Clarke

Page 163 Boericke (2nd British ed)

Page 308 Neatby & Stonham

Page 143 Phatak

Page 94 Jouanny

Pages 79,121 Boyd