

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

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Part 3

## *The Angry Patient*

In the last section you learned how the irascibility of *Nux vomica* can present itself in the patient's immediate behaviour. Their volatility often makes others feel that they are walking on egg-shells.



This is, of course, only one presentation for anger which, although it is a fundamental human emotion, takes many different forms and presents entirely differently in different people and situations. To some extent your perception of anger will depend on the individual's social conditioning, their ability to rationalise or suppress the expression of their feelings and the circumstances behind the emotion itself.

You have already been introduced to a few remedies whose experience and expression of anger are quite different. *Chamomilla*, *Cina*, *Colocynthis*, *Natrum mur.*, *Nux vomica* are now known to you and you will find them summarised for you by Dr David Owen in the supplemental materials for this unit.

### *Activity:*



First listen to an archive lecture on *The Angry Patient* by Dr Peter Fisher.

<https://youtu.be/1g19opublhU>

In his talk, Dr Fisher will expand on what you have learned about *Nux vomica* and he will contrast this with another remedy in which anger is an important feature, *Staphisagria*.

Take careful note of the different ways in which these remedies 'physicalise' their emotions. This is important, since these local somatic symptoms can be of great help in finalising your choice of treatment.

Finally, look at the table on page 7 and patch in the remedies you have studied, according to whether they tend to suppress or express anger, and whether this manifests behaviourally or in their local symptomatology.

If you have a repertory to hand, you may find Dr Owen's rubric summary in the supplemental material helpful as you complete this activity.

## *Staphisagria (Stavesacre)*

### *Regions most affected:*

- Skin
- Autonomic nervous system
- Urinary tract
- Neuromuscular arc

### *Ailments from:*

- Indignation
- Suppressed anger
- Disappointed love
- Domestic conflict

### *Generals:*

- Symptoms after injury, especially from sharp surgical instruments

### *Mind:*

- Hypersensitive, offended with least thing
- Ailments from jealousy, chagrin
- Mortification and wounded pride

### *Modalities:*

- Worse from cold
- Worse from tobacco

### *Clinical uses:*

- Honeymoon cystitis
- Neurodermatitis
- Nervous states caused by suppressed anger
- Persisting symptoms after surgery
- Chronic pain in surgical wounds
- Styes, chalazae, inflammation of the eyelid margins
- Psychosexual problems



*The Essence of Staphisagria*

Indignation  
Invasion  
Mortification  
Wounded pride  
Knotted up inside  
Grudging  
Poor insight into self-destructive emotions  
Trapped by cycle of anger and hurt  
Ailments from disappointed love  
Honeymoon cystitis  
Neurodermatitis

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*Staphisagria*

*Clinical case: Mr EG*  
*'Epidermolysis bullosa'*

Started at the time of divorce 12 years previously.  
Very acrimonious 'settlement'.  
Uses expletives when the subject is broached.  
Itching, like lumps under the skin. Excavates with his nails until 'matter' extracted. Large infected bullae appear. Much scarring.  
Sensation of constriction in the chest.  
Some dysuria on passing urine, burning in the urethra.

*Treatment:*

*Staphisagria* 30, 3 stat doses

*Outcome:*

Marked improvement in itching at the time of review, four weeks later. Resolution of chest pain and dysuria. Feels exercise tolerance has improved.

*Further Relevant Reading*



Try to read as many of the following articles, relevant to *Staphisagria*, as possible.

Robinson K

Staphisagria: evolution of a remedy  
J Am Inst Homeopath 1982 Jun;75(2): 22-31

Jack RA

Homeopathy in the treatment of emotionally induced illness  
stramonium, staphisagria, kali phosphoricum  
J Am Inst Homeopath 1973 Mar;66(1): 19-29

Trexler HL

Staphisagria and mosquitoes  
J Am Inst Homeopath 1965 May-Jun;58(5-6): 146-152

Vincenzo F

A clinical case: asthma and Staphisagria and homeo-mesotherapy  
Homeopath Int 1987 Oct;1(2):13,22

Keller GV

Staphisagria und die Rangordnung der Symptome  
Allgem Homoeopath Zeit 1986 Nov-Dec;231(6):221-7

Currim A

A case of interstitial cystitis  
J Am Inst Homeopath 1988 Sep;81(3):102-7

Baig MA

A case of synovial sarcoma  
Homoeopath Heritage 1988 Dec;13(12):654-6

Kokelenberg G

Ailments of disappointed love  
ignatia, lachesis, staphisagria, causticum, drug picture  
Homoeopathy 1989 Apr;39(2):56-9

Barbancey J

Staphisagria in psychiatry  
Br Homoeopath J 1990 Jan;79(1):36-8

Schmidt P

Little doses – for big results! Homoeopathy for animals  
aconitum napellus, staphisagria  
SWINE DIS  
Homeotherapy 1982 8(1): 25-28

Tyler ML

Staphisagria. Drug pictures 50  
Homoeopathy 1936 Feb;5(2): 63-70  
Hahnemann SC  
Hahnemann on Staphisagria  
Homoeopathy 1941 Aug;10(8): 251

Parhasarthy V Ischaemic heart disease  
kali carbonicum, staphisagria,  
naja  
Simile 1991 Jul;1(3):9

Baur J  
Staphisagria - observation  
clinique  
Cah Group Hahnemann Doct P  
Schmidt 1991;28(6):246-8

Sen KB  
The exciting cause of the  
disease and homoeopathy  
Staphisagria SEX BEHAVIOR  
Hahnemannian Gleanings 1980  
Aug;47(8): 353-354

Gibson DM  
Staphisagria, a study  
Homoeopathy 1984 34: 86-89

SAQ



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

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Mind

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General, environmental and constitutional features

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Local

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Frequent pathological indications

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

Page 903 Vermeulen

Page 1252 Clarke

Page 607 Boericke (2nd British ed)

Page 857 Neatby and Stonham

Page 555 Phatak

Page 386 Jouanny

Page 245 Boyd



**SAQ**

Now insert the main remedies associated with anger states into the table below, according to whether they tend to repress or express their emotion. Provide one or two physical and mental keynotes for each of the remedies you have listed.

Prescribing Features	Repressed Anger Remedies	Expressed Anger Remedies
Mental & Behavioural	Remedy: Keynotes:   Remedy: Keynotes:	Remedy: Keynotes:   Remedy: Keynotes:
Physical, Local or Somatic	Remedy: Keynotes:   Remedy: Keynotes:	Remedy: Keynotes:   Remedy: Keynotes: