

Centre for Integrative Medical Training
In Association with London Integrated Medical Health Education



Intermediate Course in Medical Homeopathy

A Blended Course in Homeopathic Medicine for Healthcare Professionals

Unit 30

Materia Medica Studies and Therapeutic Pointers for Week 10

Thuja occidentalis and the Sycotic miasm

Your long case study over the last 2-3 weeks has brought together a number of strands in the homeopathic learning process.

Firstly, from the patient:

1. Information gathering and close observation
2. Faithful recording of the case
3. Selective review of the case information
4. Modelling of the case diagnostically, phenomenologically and psychodynamically
5. Perception of what must be treated and the symptom hierarchy
6. Case analysis through engagement with the repertory and materia medica

Secondly, from homeopathic method:

1. Pattern matching
2. Symptom - Rubric matching
3. Treatment choice and posology (*Thuja occidentalis*)
4. Review decisions
5. Evaluation of response
6. Further treatment considerations

Thirdly, from materia medica

1. Awareness of the remedy essence and how it may be recognised or repertorised
2. Awareness of traditional remedy perspectives (provings)
3. Awareness of remedy perspectives borne out of experience (constitutional pictures)

Our therapeutic topic for Weeks 9-11 is Ear, Nose & Throat

You have already encountered some remedies associated with catarrhal states (eg Pulsatilla, Kali bichromicum) and you were given an outline description of *Thuja* in your Foundation Studies. This is a good opportunity to revisit this remedy in greater depth and we have provided a traditional materia medica extract for *Thuja* overleaf with an opportunity to view Gabriela Rieberer's presentation on the remedy once again.

MIASMS (Introductory note on *Sycosis* and *Thuja occidentalis*)

Because, at a physical level, *Thuja* is associated with proliferative tissue change, excessive secretion and 'over-production' it is often considered an archetypal example of a *Sycotic* remedy (ie associated with 'Sycosis' - a category of chronic illness predisposition (miasm) originally described by Hahnemann).

Hahnemann formulated these chronic disease categories before the science of microbiology began to elucidate the role of micro-ecology and infective processes in disease. Today there are hints that chronic colonisation phenomena occurring in host organisms can lead to changes in gene expression, with wide systemic consequences for physical and mental health.

Hahnemann's Sycotic miasm became closely associated with chronic gonorrhoea, for example, which itself is associated with a number of emergent physical and psychological changes. Many of these signs and symptoms are recognisable in the description of 'Sycosis' provided by Hahnemann and his contemporaries from 1826 onwards.

In the mid 19 century, Hahnemann, von Boeninghausen and others explored the *anti-sycotic* properties of various remedies linked in their symptomatology to proliferative-secretory states, including *Thuja*. They identified that, in terms of their mental/emotional presentation, many patients who either inherited or acquired *Sycosis* developed subtle guilt complexes.

Today the role of the microecology in human mental wellbeing remains in the early stages of scientific enquiry. You will find that detailed mind pictures are available for some of our most long established nosodes, which themselves are linked to the kinds of chronic infective states that were prevalent before the advent of anti-microbial drugs.

The miasms will be explored to a greater depth a little later in your course.

Thuja occidentalis (thuj.) Extracted from Boericke

(Arbor vitae)

Acts on skin, blood, gastro-intestinal tract, kidneys, and brain.

Its relation to the production of pathological vegetations condylomate, warty excrescences, spongy tumors is very important. Moist mucous tubercles. Bleeding fungus growths. Naevus. Excess of venosity.

The main action of Thuja is on the skin and genito-urinary organs, producing conditions that correspond with Hahnemann's sycotic dyscrasia, whose chief manifestation is the formation of wart-like excrescences upon mucous and cutaneous surfaces—fig-warts and condylomata. Has a specific antibacterial action, as in gonorrhoea and vaccination. Suppressed gonorrhoea, salpingitis. Ill-effects of vaccination. Sycotic pains, i.e., tearing in muscles and joints, worse at rest, better in dry weather, worse damp humid atmosphere; lameness. Hydrogenoid constitutions, whose blood is morbidly hydroscopic, so that damp air and water are inimical. Complaints from moonlight.

Rapid exhaustion and emaciation. Left-sided and chilly medicine. Variola, aborts the pustule and prevents the suppurating fever. Vaccinosis, viz., inveterable skin troubles, neuralgia, etc.

Mind. Fixed ideas, as if a strange person were at his side; as if soul and body were separated; as if something alive in abdomen. [Croc.] Emotional sensitiveness; music causes weeping and trembling.

Head. Pain as if pierced by a nail. [Coff.; Ign.] Neuralgia from tea. [Selen.] Left-sided headache. White, scaly dandruff; hair dry and falling out. Greasy skin of face.

Eyes. Ciliary neuralgia; iritis. Eyelids agglutinated at night; dry, scaly. Styes and tarsal tumors. [Staph.] Acute and subacute inflammation of sclera. Sclera raised in patches, and looks bluish-red. Large, flat phlyctenules; indolent. Recurring episcleritis. Chronic scleritis.

Ears. Chronic otitis; discharge purulent. Creaking when swallowing. Polypi.

Nose. Chronic catarrh; thick, green mucus; blood and pus. On blowing nose, pain in teeth. Ulceration within the nostrils. Dryness of nasal cavities. Painful pressure at root.

Mouth. Tip of tongue very painful. White blisters on side close to root, painfully sore. Teeth decay next to gums; very sensitive; gums retract. Drinks fall audibly into stomach. Ranula; varicose veins on tongue and mouth. Pyorrhoea alveolaris.

Presentation by Gabriela Rieberer

<https://youtu.be/uehnO3Vr5N8>

Stomach. Complete loss of appetite.

Dislike for fresh meat and potatoes. Rancid eructations after fat food.

Cutting pain in epigastrium. Cannot eat onions.

Flatulence; pain after food; sinking sensation in epigastrium before food; thirst.

Tea-drinking dyspepsia.

Abdomen. Distended; indurations in abdomen.

Chronic diarrhoea, worse after breakfast.

Discharges forcibly expelled; gurgling sound. Brown spots.

Flatulence and distension; protruding here and there. Rumbling and colic.

Constipation, with violent rectal pain, causing stool to recede. [Sil.; Sanic.]

Piles swollen; pain worse sitting, with stitching, burning pains at the anus.

Anus fissured; painful to touch with warts.

Movements as of something living [Crocus], without pain.

Urinary. Urethra swollen inflamed. Urinary stream split and small.

Sensation of trickling after urinating. Severe cutting after. [Sars.]

Frequent micturition accompanying pains. Desire sudden and urgent, but cannot be controlled. Paralysis sphincter vesicae.

Male. Inflammation of prepuce and glans; pain in penis. Balanitis.

Gonorrhoeal rheumatism. Gonorrhoea.

Chronic induration of testicles.

Pain and burning felt near neck of bladder,
with frequent and urgent desire to urinate.

Prostatic enlargement. [Ferr.pic.; Thiosinaminum; Iod.; Sabal.]

Female. Vagina very sensitive. [Berb.; Kreos.; Lyssin.]

Warty excrescences on vulva and perineum.

Profuse leucorrhoea; thick, greenish. Severe pain in left ovary and left inguinal region.

Menses scanty, retarded.

Polypi; fleshy excrescences.

Ovaritis; worse left side, at every menstrual period.[Lach.]

Profuse perspiration before menses.

Respiratory. Dry, hacking cough in afternoon, with pain in pit of stomach.

Stitches in chest; worse, cold drinks.

Asthma in children.[Nat.sulph.]

Papilloma of larynx. Chronic laryngitis.

Extremities. When walking, limbs feel as if made of wood or glass, and would break easily. Tips of fingers swollen, red, feel read.

Muscular twitchings, weakness and trembling.

Cracking in joints. Pain in heels and tendo-achilles.

Nails brittle. Ingrowing toe nail.

Skin. Polypi, tubercles, warts epithelioma, naeva, carbuncles; ulcers, especially in ano-genital region. Freckles and blotches.

Perspiration sweetish, and strong. Dry skin, with brown spots.

Zona; herpetic eruptions. Tearing pains in glands.

Glandular enlargement. Nails crippled; brittle and soft.

Eruptions only on covered parts; worse after scratching. Very sensitive to touch. Coldness of one side. Sarcoma; polypi. Brown spots on hands and arms.

Sleep. Persistent insomnia.

Fever. Chill, beginning in thighs.

Sweat only on uncovered parts, or all over except head, when sleeping; profuse, sour, smelling like honey.

Orgasm of blood in the evening, with throbbing in the blood-vessels.

Modalities. Worse, at night, from heat of bed; at 3 a.m. and 3 p.m.; from cold, damp air; after breakfast; fat, coffee; vaccination.

Better, left side; while drawing up a limb.

Relationship. Compare : (Hydrogenoid constitution : Calcar.; Silica; Nat.sulph.; Aranea; Apis; Pulsat.) Cupressus australis (sharp, prickling pain; general feeling of warmth; rheumatism and gonorrhoea). Cupressus Lawsoniana (acts like Thuja; terrible pains in the stomach). Sphingurus (falling out of hair from beard; pain in jaw-joint and zygoma); Sil.; Maland. (vaccination); Medorrh. (suppressed gonorrhoea); Merc.; Cinnab.; Terebinth.; Juniperus; Sabin.; Sil.; Canth.; Cannab.; Nit.ac.; Puls.; Ant. tart.; Arborin is a non-alcoholic preparation of Thuja.

Antidotes : Merc.; Camph.; Sabin. (warts).

Complementary : Sabina; Ars.; Nat.sulph.; Silica.