

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 21

Materia Medica Studies and Therapeutic Pointers for Week 1

Therapeutics of The Mouth, Throat and Pharynx

The mouth has a special place in homeopathy being a point of observation and frequently a telling site of important signs and symptoms. This information is often taken in context of the whole organism, assisting the diagnosis of local and systemic illness. Since systemic illness often manifests locally in the mucus membranes, the mouth becomes an important port of call in our systematic enquiry. Of all the mucosae the oral ones are, of course, the easiest to examine.

The teeth may be indicators of typology and they should be viewed in terms of their architecture, basic quality, fundamental resistance to infection, wear and damage, and amalgam content. Let's begin by taking a closer look at some inflammatory conditions of the mouth.

Inflammatory conditions of the mouth

Inflammatory conditions may arise as a result of local pathology, for example, root abscess secondary to caries. Conditions of this kind require the usual dental surgery/hygiene appropriate to the circumstances. Homeopathy however can be of great help in reducing acute inflammation and increasing the quality of tissue healing responses. Homeopathy may also be useful for improving surface immunity, thereby preventing reinfection.

Stomatitis and glossitis which have been caused by deficiency syndromes should be treated with the appropriate vitamin or dietary supplement. Homeopathy can be used as an adjunct for pain, hypersensitivity, inflammation, superinfection or local bleeding.

Infective foci should be swabbed in the normal way. Culture results may yield information which is useful in terms of a nosode preparation. Autonosodes of tonsillar pus or inflammatory exudates are sometimes used. Some homeopathic pharmacies supply mixed-growth nosodes prepared from tonsillar pus, but these are unlikely to meet the precise requirements of most cases.

The following nosodes may be used for persisting after-effects of infection, or between acute episodes in cases of recurrent infection:

- *Candida albicans*
- *Streptococcus*
- *Staphylococcus*
- *Herpes simplex*



View a lecture on
Oral Therapeutics by
Catherine Price BDS MFHom

<https://youtu.be/QQchIBhcvcg>



Bleeding Gums

In cases of bleeding gums you should consider whether the situation is primarily due to an inflammatory condition, for example:

- gingivitis
- periodontitis

or whether there is a constitutional tendency towards bleeding.

In the case of local inflammation the correct pathological remedy (see below) should be used. Otherwise consider a haemorrhagic remedy (*Phosphorus, China, Lachesis* or another snake venom, *Millefolium, Erechthites*).

Pathological remedies for gingivitis or periodontitis

<i>Mercurius corrosivus</i>	Gums purple, swollen and spongy Chronic periodontitis causing loosening of the teeth Pyorrhoea Metallic taste in the mouth, or food tastes perversely salty or bitter Aphthae Moist, coated tongue Glossitis, tongue painful to protrude or examine with a depressor Burning sensation in the mouth
<i>Cistus canadensis</i>	Swollen gums which recede from the teeth and bleed easily Pyorrhoea with offensive discharge (often thick yellow mucous discharges) Cold sensation in the mouth Enlarged submandibular and cervical glands Generally sweaty and very chilly
<i>Staphisagria</i>	Salivation Spongy gums which bleed easily Stomatitis Oral candidiasis Excrescences and painful nodosities on the gums due to chronic induration Fistula dentalis
<i>Kreosotum</i>	Gums puffy and bluish, bleeding easily Taste perverted: bitter Painful dentition with rapid decay

Toothache during pregnancy
Aphthae or hypersalivation
during pregnancy

Nitric acid

Gums soft and bleed easily
Halitosis
Salivation and foetor oris
Moist tongue fissured or mapped
and very sensitive
Ulcers on buccal mucosa which
are painful as from splinters
Sour taste in the mouth

Other remedies include *Causticum*, *Antimonium crudum*,
Plantago, other mercury salts.

Oral candidiasis

Usually occurs when surface-immunity is underdeveloped (infancy) or impaired by drugs (eg steroid inhalers), chronic illness (eg carcinoma), immunodeficiency syndromes (eg HIV) or malnutrition (elderly or in alcoholics).

Use high potencies of *Candida* intermittently between episodes for prophylaxis (seems to be useful in HIV positive patients). Use low-medium potencies of *Borax*, *Kali muriaticum* or *Mercurius solubilis* for prevailing infections.

Lichen planus

Lichen planus is usually an indication for a constitutional remedy. Consider sycotic remedies or materials associated with proliferative or dysplastic conditions. Commonly indicated in lichen planus are: *Arsenicum album*, and *Natrum muriaticum*.

Dry mouth/burning mouth

This condition is frequently seen in elderly women and is often associated with affective disorders, particularly agitated depressive states. Sometimes it is difficult to distinguish between cause and effect. There is often evidence of autonomic arousal. The following process might be helpful:

1. Exclude deficiency syndromes and remedial local pathology.
2. Treat simple depressive states
3. Ensure dental hygiene is adequate

4. Check for intolerances to dental fixatives and mouthwashes etc.
5. Note trigger factors, particularly mental/emotional stresses, and treat homoeopathically for grief, or shock syndromes. Consider iatrogenic causes and use tautopathic drugs if necessary.
6. When there is a dry mouth, general agitation and sleep disturbance consider potencies of *Cortisol*, *Aconitum*, *Adrenalin*, and other materials associated with autonomic arousal.

Commonly indicated materials for dry mouth or burning mouth are: *Bryonia*, *Argentum nitricum*, *Magnesium phosphoricum*, *Calcarea carbonica*, *Arsenicum album*, *Natrum muriaticum*, *Nitric acid*, and *Thuja*.

Mouth Ulcers

Always ask the patient if the mouth ulcers are associated with periods of stress or overwork. There are different remedies indicated depending on whether they are painful or painless and whether they have a tendency to bleed. Treatment with an accurate constitutional remedy will normally eradicate mouth ulcers and markedly reduce the frequency of recurrence. Commonly indicated pathological remedies are: *Thuja*, *Borax*, *Kali muriaticum*, *Kali carbonicum*, and *Mercurius solubilis*.

Read about mouth ulcers in your course reader pages 152 and 220 *Introduction to Homoeopathic Medicine* by Dr Hamish Boyd.

Further Relevant Reading

Look through as many of the articles listed below as are of interest to you.

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