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Title: Acute Ailments in Homoeopathy: Insights from Organon of Medicine

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ABSTRACT

Acute diseases are characterized by rapid onset and a relatively swift course. These conditions rapidly derangement of the vital force, leading to a morbid condition that may resolve quickly if treated correctly. Homoeopathy, as articulated by Samuel Hahnemann in his Organon of Medicine, offers an in-depth approach to treating acute ailments. This article will explore the key insights from the Organon, specifically focusing on the treatment of acute diseases, with references to relevant aphorisms.

Keywords: *Acute disease, Homoeopathy, Organon of Medicine*

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INTRODUCTION**DEFINITION AND NATURE OF ACUTE DISEASES¹**

§72: Acute diseases are defined as a rapid morbid process in which the vital force is abnormally deranged. These diseases tend to resolve either quickly or within a moderate time frame, depending on their severity. (Page no. 66)

§73: Acute diseases can be classified into three types: (Page no. 66 to 68)

- **Individual acute diseases:** These occur when an individual is exposed to a specific noxious influence that disturbs the vital force. In these cases, a latent miasm may erupt, and if the disease is not too violent, miasm may return to its dormant state.

- **Sporadic acute diseases:** These affect several individuals at the same time but randomly, usually caused by external influences such as meteorological or telluric factors (environmental factors).

- **Epidemic acute diseases:** These diseases affect numerous individuals simultaneously, often caused by same infection, with very similar suffering when left alone, leads to termination of organism or recovery that spread quickly, especially in densely populated areas. Epidemic diseases can also be the result of acute miasms like smallpox, measles, or cholera.

CAUSE^[1]

Exciting Cause as Cause of Acute Disease^[1]

§5: The exciting cause is fundamental in understanding acute diseases. The exciting

diseases, which trigger a rapid derangement of the vital force. Understanding this cause helps in identifying the underlying pathology and determining the appropriate remedy. (Page no. 31)

CAUSES IN VARIOUS TYPES OF ACUTE DISEASES:^[1]

§73: Individual acute disease: Exciting cause being injurious influences which they were particularly exposed. Excesses in food, or an insufficient supply of it, severe physical impression, chills, over heatings, dissipation, strains, etc., or physical irritations, mental emotions, and the like, are exciting causes of such acute febrile affections; in reality, however, they are generally only a transient explosion of latent psora, which spontaneously returns to its dormant state if the acute diseases were not of too violent a character and were soon quelled. (Page no. 67)

§73: Sporadic acute disease: Meteoric or telluric influences and injurious agents. (Page no. 67)

§73: Epidemic acute disease: Same infection (contagion) prevail among thickly congregate mass of human beings. (Page no. 67)

HOMOEOPATHIC APPROACH OF INVESTIGATION:^[1]**Case Taking of Acute Diseases^[1]**

§82: The homoeopathic approach to acute diseases involves recognizing the chief symptoms that are most evident and rapidly identifiable. Unlike chronic diseases, where

the process is gradual and symptoms may evolve over time, acute diseases present clear and immediate symptoms that are easier to trace. (Page no. 72, 73)

Footnote 1 of §82: In acute diseases, fewer questions need to be asked because the symptoms are more evident, allowing the physician to quickly identify the picture of the disease. This contrasts with chronic diseases, which require more detailed inquiry.

§92: To obtain the true picture of an acute disease, it is essential to consider both the current illness and any previous treatments or medications the patient has taken. This complete understanding allows for the selection of the most suitable homoeopathic remedy. (Page no. 76)

§93: Both acute and chronic diseases may share similar symptoms, especially when the patient or their family can identify an obvious cause of the illness. It is important to investigate these causes to gain a full understanding of the disease. (Page no. 76)

§99: Investigating acute diseases is relatively straightforward because the symptoms are fresh in the patient's memory and often appear novel and striking. The physician does not need to inquire as extensively as in chronic conditions, as much of the necessary information is spontaneously provided by the patient. (Page no. 78)

§100: Each epidemic or sporadic acute disease must be treated as something new and unique. Even if similar diseases have occurred before, it is essential to treat each case individually based on their specific symptoms and causes. (Page no. 78)

§101 - First case of an epidemic may not give the complete picture. By close observation of several cases the physician obtains the totality of symptoms of the epidemic. (Page no. 78)

INDISPOSITION^[1]

§150: Indisposition or Slight ailment - Manifested by one or two trivial symptom observed a short time previously. Not to regard this as fully developed disease requiring serious medical aid. Slight alteration in diet and regimen will usually suffice. (Page no. 95)

SELECTION OF MEDICINE:^[1]

§5: Useful to the physician in assisting him to cure are the particulars of the most probable exciting cause of the acute disease. (Page no. 31)

§7: Totality of symptoms - Outwardly reflected picture of the internal essence of disease that is affection of the vital force. It is the only thing that determines the choice of remedy. (Page no. 32)

§152: The worst types of acute diseases have more numerous and striking symptoms, making it easier to identify the correct remedy. The variety and intensity of symptoms provide a clearer picture, allowing for a more accurate prescription. (Page no. 95)
The Role of Mind and Disposition¹

§213: In treating both acute and chronic diseases, it is crucial to observe changes in the patient's state of mind and disposition. These changes must be matched with the symptoms of the selected remedy to ensure that the treatment is effective. (Page no. 112)

TREATING ACUTE MENTAL DISEASES^[1]

§221: When treating acute mental diseases such as mania or insanity caused by factors like fright, vexation, or alcohol abuse, non-antipsoritic remedies like Aconite, Belladonna, Stramonium, and Hyoscyamus should be considered. These remedies correspond to the acute nature of the condition and help to restore balance to the vital force. (Page no. 114)

§222: After the acute mental condition has been addressed, the treatment should not be considered complete. Prolonged antipsoritic treatment is necessary to ensure full recovery and to address any underlying miasms. (Page no. 114 -115)

REPETITION OF HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICINES:^[1]

§245: Homoeopathic remedies should not be repeated during the amelioration phase, either in acute or chronic conditions. The physician should observe the progress carefully and avoid unnecessary repetition, as this can interfere with the body's natural healing process. (Page no. 122)

Footnote 1 of §246: The best dose of a homoeopathic remedy varies depending on the nature of the disease, corporeal constitution, nature of medicinal substance. For acute diseases, remedies are often administered at shorter intervals, such as every 24, 16, 12, 8, or 4 hours. In very severe cases like cholera, the dose may be repeated every five minutes at the beginning of the disease. (Page no. 122 - 125)

§247 (5th edition): In chronic diseases, remedies are generally repeated every 7 days or more, whereas in acute diseases, doses are repeated at shorter intervals. In extremely severe acute conditions, doses may be administered as often as every hour or even every few minutes. (Page no. 126)

§247 (6th edition): It is impractical to repeat same unchanged dose of a remedy. Each succeeding dose is to be changed every time, some what potentized higher to perform the cure. If given in unchanged dose will make the patient sick in another way as the symptoms of the given remedy will remain active which were not homoeopathic to the original disease. (Page no. 126)

§248 (6th edition): In acute diseases, doses of 50 millesimal potency are often repeated at intervals of 2-6 hours. In urgent cases, repetition can occur every hour or more frequently. (Page no. 127)

MANAGEMENT AFTER ADMINISTRATION OF REMEDY:^[1]

Signs of Aggravation and Amelioration^[1]

§253: The signs of improvement in an acute disease are evident in the patient's increased comfort, calmness, higher spirits, and a return to their natural state. On the other hand, aggravation is indicated by a constrained, helpless, and pitiable state. (Page no. 129)

§256 - Occurrence of new symptoms indicates wrong selection of medicine even if the patient says that he feels better. (Commonly seen in Phthisical patient with lung abscess). Regard this state as aggravation of disease. (Page no. 130)

HOMOEOPATHIC AGGRAVATION AND PROGNOSIS^[1]

§157: Homoeopathic aggravation occurs

when the symptoms temporarily worsen after the administration of a remedy. In acute diseases, this aggravation may last for a few hours resembling the original disease. (Page no. 97)

§158: A slight aggravation in the first few hours after the administration of the is a good prognostic sign in acute diseases. It suggests that the body is responding to the treatment, and the disease is beginning to resolve. (Page no. 97)

§160: The reason for homoeopathic aggravation is that the dose of the remedy, though small, is generally stronger than the natural disease process in acute conditions. This excess of energy can briefly intensify symptoms before improvement occurs. (Page no. 97 - 98)

§161: The duration of homoeopathic aggravation varies between acute and chronic diseases. In chronic diseases, aggravation during the first few days of treatment may last for several hours or even days. In acute diseases, however, the aggravation is usually short-lived, lasting for only a few hours. (Page no. 98)

Footnote 1 of §161: In cases where antipsoric medicines are used, the duration of aggravation is the shortest in acute diseases. The action of these medicines is quick and typically resolves shortly after the treatment begins. (Page no. 98)

DURATION OF TREATMENT IN ACUTE DISEASES ^[1]

§149: The duration of treatment in acute diseases varies based on the severity and onset of the illness. Acute diseases can resolve in a few hours or a few days if treated with the correct remedy. In contrast, chronic diseases require a longer treatment period due to their protracted nature. (Page no. 94)

MANAGEMENT OF CASE WHEN SELECTION OF MEDICINE IS IMPERFECT IN ACUTE DISEASES ^[1]

§167: In cases of medicinal failure or insufficient response to treatment, the physician should not allow the remedy to exhaust its action. Instead, the physician

should reassess the entire disease picture (old and new symptoms) and select a new remedy based on this updated information. (Page no. 99 - 100)

§168: In the treatment of acute diseases, a single well-selected remedy can advance the healing process. If the disease is not entirely cured by the first dose, subsequent examinations should be made, and the treatment should continue until a permanent resolution is achieved. (Page no. 100)

EXTERNAL APPLICATIONS AND LOCAL AILMENTS^[1]

§194: The application of external remedies, whether specific or not, is not recommended in acute or chronic conditions except acute conditions which are caused by external injury. Homoeopathic treatment should begin with the internal use of a proven medicine. External remedies, even if they seem specific, can interfere with the action of the internal remedy and hinder the healing process. Treatment is to be started by the general store of the proved medicine. After treatment if relic of disease still remains then this will be due to Psora.

Footnote 1 of §194 : In acute conditions like Aconite, Rhus tox, Belladonna, and Mercury are frequently used remedies. These remedies should be administered internally, as external applications could disrupt their healing effects. (Page no. 105 - 106)

§195: In cases of chronic non-venereal local ailments (often related to Psora), once the acute condition has subsided, an appropriate antipsoric remedy should be prescribed. This remedy will help to address the underlying chronic condition and facilitate long-term healing. (Page no. 106)

DIET AND REGIMEN IN ACUTE DISEASES^[1]

§259: During homoeopathic treatment for acute diseases, diet and regimen must be carefully managed. Foods or external factors

that have medicinal properties should be avoided, as they can overpower the action of the remedy. (Page no. 131)

§262: In acute diseases, except in cases of mental alienation, patients should be allowed to eat the foods they crave. This is a palliative measure that provides comfort, as it helps fulfill the patient's natural desires. (Page no. 132)

§263: The desire for particular foods or drinks in acute diseases within moderate bounds, can provide palliative relief. Similarly, the temperature of the room, bed covers, and other environmental factors should be adjusted according to the patient's preferences for maximum comfort. (Page no. 132)

Footnote 1 of §263 : In pure inflammatory diseases treated with Aconite, patients often crave cold water. However, acidic foods should be avoided, as they can interfere with the remedy's action. (Page no. 132)

CONCLUSION

Homoeopathy offers a comprehensive framework for treating acute ailments, as outlined in the Organon of Medicine. By considering the exciting cause, the specific symptomatology, and the patient's individual constitution, homoeopaths can select the appropriate remedies to restore balance and health. The insights from Hahnemann's aphorisms guide practitioners in providing rapid, effective, and individualized treatment for acute diseases.

REFERENCE

1. Hahnemann S, Boericke W. Organon of Medicine 5th & 6th edition. B. Jain Publisher Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi; 2013.