

Miasm and its Clinical Perspective

Introduction

Dr.R.Gnanasambandam, a renowned clinician and academician, research scholar writes and shares his views in this article about Miasm and its Clinical Perspective. He had authored books and articles published in scientific journal. He also presented many papers in the scientific conferences, lectured in many Homoeopathic Medical Colleges. He served in many positions in the state and central Government.

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Abstract

Even though exact similimum is prescribed in a chronic case, after pain taking case analysis and Repertorisation, we face failures sometimes. Hahnemann postulated the miasmatic theory when he was concerned about the failures particularly in chronic disease. Clinical interpretation of miasm has been a difficult task to everybody; a simple understanding of the miasm in relation with cellular pathology not only guides but also benefits the patient a lot. We understand from his writings that Miasmatic prescribing is a constitutional prescription based on the totality of symptoms including the miasmatic state that inherited or acquired. Even though the concept of miasm is raging the community without any conclusive insight, a homoeopath can interpret the miasm with the knowledge of physiopathology. Psora can be explained in terms of Sensitization of a cell, Syphilitic Miasm can be explained in terms of Proliferation and Syphilitic miasm as Degeneration. The cases with irreversible pathology always seek miasmatic diagnosis for better prognosis and treatment. We hold different types of prescriptions, our prescription unknowingly cover the miasmatic layer and renders great result. An intentional correct anti-miasmatic prescription will remove the complex nature of the disease, layer by layer and remove the blocks. When the miasmatic dyscrasia is corrected, the immunity of the individual improves and also strengthens the constitution.

A u t h o r



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Introduction

Many of us face failures in chronic disease, even though exact similitum is prescribed to the case after pain taking case analysis and Repertorisation. Hahnemann experienced the same difficulty in treating the chronic disease and he emphasized to treat the chronic diseases by understanding the miasms. The concept of miasms in Homoeopathy is still raging the Homoeopathic community without any conclusive insight. Many opinions that miasms are nothing but the microorganisms and few states that it is a Spiritual Sickness, a dyscrasia or predisposition. Clinical interpretation of miasm has been a difficult task to everybody; a simple understanding of the miasm in relation with cellular pathology not only guides but also benefits the patient a lot.

Miasms and its evolution

During Hahnemann's time the concept of disease and its causative factors were on developmental stage. The development of microbiology and pathology replaced the theory of evil spirits, humour theory and miasmatic theory. The practice of bloodletting was based on the four body humors: blood, phlegm, yellow bile, and black bile. Health was thought to be restored by purging, starving, vomiting or bloodletting. The humoral theory attributed for understanding the constitution of a person, which reflects the temperament, personality and diathesis.

The concepts of infectious disease were hypothesized as contagion theory and later as miasmatic theory. When Hahnemann was practicing at Germany the word miasm was already in use. It was the most popular theory in the nineteenth century of Europe.

The Black Death was one of the deadliest pandemics in human history, peaking in Europe between 1347 and 1351. It is widely thought to have been an outbreak of bubonic plague caused by astrological issues; the notion was replaced with the finding of the bacterium *Yersinia pestis*.

Syphilis is generally believed to have come originally from the

New World, imported into Europe by Christopher Columbus's sailors after their famous voyage of 1492. The sexual nature of syphilis transmission and its contagiousness was noticed in the ancient medical history and the causative micro organism *Treponema pallidum* was confirmed by Wassermann blood test in 1906 by Schaudinn and Hoffmann.

Varo and Columella (1st Century B.C) suggested that disease was caused by invisible organisms. (Animalia minuta)Fracastorius (1546) proposed contagium vivum (living germs) as cause of disease. Antony Van Leeuwenhoek (1683) could give description of various types of bacteria using simple microscope. Robert Hook (1678) developed compound microscope confirmed Leeuwenhoek observation.

When the Asiatic cholera was pandemic in 1831, Hahnemann was in tune with the thinking of his times by attributing cholera to infection. He also supported the contagion-miasma theory, the direct transfer of infection by contact of person to person. He writes in his essay, "Appeal to the thinking philanthropists respecting the mode of propagation of the asiatic cholera" (1831) that

"The most striking examples of infection and rapid spread of cholera takes place in this way: on the board ships in those confined spaces, filled with mouldy, watery vapours, the cholera miasm finds a favourite element for its multiplication and grows into an enormously increased brood of those excessively minute invisible living creatures so inimical to human life.... Probably millions of those miasmatic animated beings ...this pestiferous infectious matter..."

The contagion- miasma theory was supplemented by the Germ theory of Disease after Hahnemann's time by Louis Pasteur, Joseph Lister and Robert Koch. The causative organism for Tuberculosis by Robert Koch only in 1882 and he also discovered the bacteria *Vibrio Cholera*, the causative organism for cholera in 1883. Hahnemann was clear before the miasmatic theory that disease also caused by microbes before the discovery of *Vibrio Cholera* and they dynamically derange the health of an individual.

Hahnemann postulated the miasmatic theory when he was concerned about the failures even after prescribing the most similar remedy to his patients, particularly in chronic disease. We understand from his writings that he has begun to consider this problem in depth

from 1816 or 1817 and after many years of thought and effort he came to the discovery of miasm. The theory of miasms originates in Hahnemann's book, *The Chronic Diseases* which was published in 1828, after the result of 12 years of the most painstaking work on difficult cases of a chronic character combined with his own historical research.

Hahnemann's miasmatic theory was formulated to one non-venereal and two venereal miasms. He found 'psora' as a fundamental cause for the disease and it pollutes the organism with a non venereal base, the itch disease. He also found that the other two venereal miasms sycosis, the fig wart diseases, and Syphilis the chancre disease. He found that these three miasms are responsible for all diseases of a chronic nature and to form the foundation or basis for all disease in general. He also inspired the possibility of co-existence of two or even three at a time in the same patient overlapping each other. The tubercular miasm, which is perceived by Dr.J.H.Allen, is nothing but the combination of Psoric and Syphilitic miasm. The Cancer miasm postulated by Dr. H.A. Roberts is based on mixed miasmatic state.

The word Miasm is known as "The dynamic disease producing power which pollutes the human organism and become the producer of every possible diseased condition" Miasm is an invisible disease producing power, noxious agent. It is also explained as stigmata and pollutant.

He emphasize the importance of understanding the miasmatic state in Aphorism 78

"the true natural chronic diseases are those that arise from a chronic miasm, when left to themselves, improper treatment, go on to increase, growing worse and torment the patient to the end of his life..." - 78th aphorism (Organon).

And also the Aphorisms 5 and 206

Hahnemann inspired the truth that miasms are "Alerted Manifestations of the disease" by the microorganism, the true root causative factor for the disease. Hahnemann perceives the organisms like viruses, bacteria, and parasites are responsible for introducing miasma in a body. We inspire that the miasma is stigma, or stain, invisible noxious influence caused not only by the microbes,

but also the external and internal influences and also genetic influence. The misinterpretation of bacteriophages in sycosis and syphilis, would have implemented the thought that miasms are purely microbiological which lead them to introduce the Aids miasm, leprosy miasm, tubercular miasm and so on.

Hahnemann visualized the miasms as a cloud or fog, which is polluted with the dynamic nature of the chronic disease and obstructing the cure. He opined that 100% of chronic disease is miasmatic, 85% is due to Psora and the remaining 15% of all disease is either syphilitic or sycotic.

Miasm and Cellular pathology

After the birth of Germ theory and cellular theory, we understood the Hahnemannian Pathology "Altered Manifestations of the Disease" is nothing but the functional disturbance, an excess and deviation of the cell, which is the structural and functional unit of the body.

Hahnemann interpreted "Psora" is the fundamental cause of the disease and categorized it as "Itch Disease". His findings surprisingly coincide with the functional disturbance of a cell, which reflects as a hypersensitivity reaction, deficiency, sensitization and genetic influence. A cell is altered initially by both external and internal factors. The sensitization occurs when the factors such as chemicals, radiation, viruses, hormones and inherited mutations involves.

When the body loss control over a cell's reproduction capacity, the cell continues to divide and multiply abnormally, proliferate until a detectable lump or tumor develops. These cellular findings on proliferation corroborate with the findings of Hahnemann as Sycosis Hahnemann's finding on the cellular deviation is syphilis, in which the cell undergoes degeneration, desquamation and break off and travel through the blood lymph system to other parts of the body, resulting in a secondary tumor, or metastasis.

The emergence of cellular pathology, the disturbances can be explained in relation with miasms. Psora can be explained in terms of Sensitization of a cell, Sycotic Miasm can be explained in terms of Proliferation (Proliferative or New Growths) and Syphilitic miasm as Degeneration (Irreversible pathology). Table: Clinical Interpretation and miasms

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Psora	Sycosis	Syphilis
Functional disturbances Deficiency inflammatory Metabolic	Proliferative and infiltrative	Ulcerative and destructive
Ectoderm	Endoderm	Mesoderm
Serous secretions	Purulent secretions	Acrid,Putrid
Unhealthy dry, itching burning skin	Oily skin with copious perspiration Excretions	Ulcerated With pus and Blood Necrosis and Gangrene
Slow Pulse	Rapid Pulse	Irregular Pulse
Anxious and Fearful Irritable	Suspicious and Jealous Cross	Fixed Ideas Stubborn Melancholic
Slow sluggish Oversensitive	Hurried and Hyperactive	Gloomy and Destructive attempts
Sad	Grief	Suicidal Thoughts

Pathogenesis of Miasm

Hahnemann emphasized the "Theory of Vitalism" when he perceived the truth of dynamic nature of the disease, which needs the dynamic application of Medicines. Miasm is understood to be a

derangement of the vital force that predates and is more fundamental than the current illness of the patient. The nerve is affected by the miasma, communicated almost instantly to the whole vital force, in an invisible dynamic manner. He states in his writings "The Chronic Diseases, their peculiar Nature and their Homoeopathic Cure .Volume-1 Page 38,

"...As soon as the miasma of itch, e. g., touches the hand, in the moment when it has taken effect, it no more remains local. Hence forth all washing and cleansing of the spot avail nothing. Nothing is seen on the skin during the first days; it remains unchanged, and, according to appearance, healthy. There is no eruption or itching to be noticed on the body during these days, not even on the spot infected. The nerve which was first affected by the miasma has already communicated it in an invisible dynamic manner to the nerves of the rest of the body..."

The functional relationship between the nervous system and the immune system has been discussed as early as the beginning of this century. Later work on the interactions has been considered on Psyche of an individual with influence of Hormone theories. The central axis influences the hypothalamus in the brain which revolves round the thoughts, feelings, ego, will and love of an individual.

Hahnemann perceived the truth that dynamic nature of the disease needs the dynamic application of Medicines and genius of Homoeopathy lies in 'Potentisation'. Inspiring the truth he states that the medicines stimulate the sentiment nerves in Aphorism 16.

Plate - I

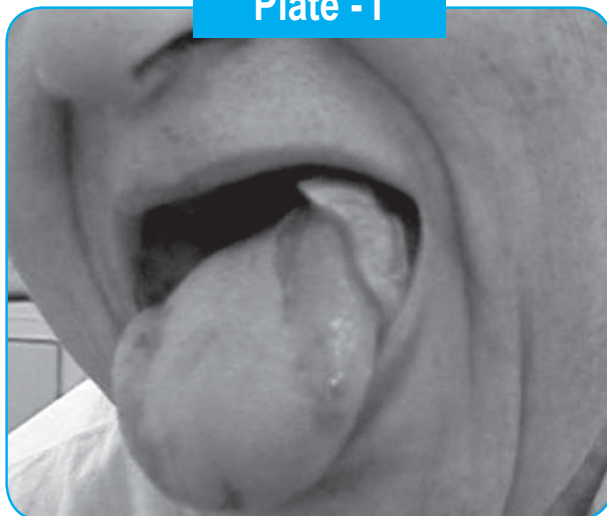


Plate - II



Plate - III



Plate - IV



Results

Miasmatic interpretation in relation with cellular pathology gives excellent results in treating the incurable diseases. which can be illustrated with evidence based documents. A case of squamous cell carcinoma of the tongue has responded to Sycotic drug Nitric Acid by understanding the miasmatic expression during consultation. Later received Merc Sol by the expression of syphitic changes. (Refer Plate I & II) We could avoid the remissions by understating the cases by miasmatic expression in each consultation A 25 years old Psoriatic patient with keratinized lesions in scalp, ear lobes, elbows, knee and low back. Arsenicum Album 1M was prescribed initially on understanding miasmatic background . While the expression of pseudo syphilitic changes with rough, cracked, fissured lesions with bleeding was managed petroleum 200. (Refer Plate III & IV) The patient has improved without any trace of lesion . The patient received an antipsoric remedy "Sulphur" to conclude the sayings of Hahneman as per Aphorism 2. , no remissions consultation. uch successful stories could break the confrontation developed by the scientific community

Discussion

Miasm is the most controversial topic in Homoeopathy because many opinions that miasms are nothing but the microorganisms and

few state that it is Spiritual Sickness, a dyscrasia or predisposition. The understanding of "Altered Manifestations of the Diseases" is an eye opener to the homoeopaths. The knowledge of pathophysiology helps a homoeopath to sought open house discussions in public health with cases on reversible pathology

Conclusion

Efficacy of Homoeopathy can be highlighted to the public forum by treating the incurable disease in which the other systems of medicine faces great difficulty. Homoeopathy could enter the mainstream of medicine in future with a distinct name without doubt in future as "Homoeopathy for Public Health"

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