

Experiences with Glacial acetic acid

Let me recall some of my experiences with this remedy. The very first experience in my life regarding this remedy was when I was a house physician way back in 1980 in Bombay Homoeopathic Medical college o.p.d., at that time there used to be attendance in the o.p.d. around 75 to 80 patients per day, I remember one day a man came complaining of severe diarrhoea and I asked him what is the cause of his diarrhoea and he said he is on anti tuberculosis treatment, as he was suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis and that's the reason why he has lot of diarrhoea.

Instead of examining the local symptoms of his diarrhoea I took this rubric:

- Diarrhoea tuberculosis during

Of course I knew that the most important remedy in this rubric would have been Calcarea carb, China, Phosphorus etc. But I found a very small remedy known as acetic acid when I read it and I asked the patient please tell me something about your thirst "Do you feel thirsty?" and he said "I have excessive thirst for large quantities of water". I immediately gave Acetic acid 30 few doses which immediately cured the diarrhoea.

Subsequently this medicine became my prime medicine for patients suffering from diarrhoea due to tuberculosis.

Another very important remedy that I had read in Clarke's Materia Medica years back was Ferrum pernitricum.

Ferrum pernitricum is an excellent remedy in Homoeopathy for diarrhoea in a tuberculous person. The characteristic of this remedy will be the undigested stool and with the enlarged tuberculous lymph node.

Gradually I developed more experiences with this remedy in the field of diarrhoea and what I found was that usually if I have to prescribe acetic acid in a paediatric age group the dentition period, the chronicity of the diarrhoea and the emaciation in children are characteristic.

Usually diarrhoea of acetic acid which I have seen in practice is early morning diarrhoea (Nuphar leuteum, Psorinum, Rumex).

I would now would like to tell you a very interesting case of an old man who had a rattling variety of cough it was like a loose cough.

Cough <night,
<evening

The type of expectoration he would bring out would be copious and purulent. When I advised X-ray chest-it showed frank bronchitis. I took some more symptoms and what I noticed that he would prefer sleeping on abdomen in the night; he would have perspiration all over the body in the night.

He was extremely emaciated, and he had a strong aversion to milk.

I took these symptoms and repertorized with Kent's repertory and to my surprise I got acetic acid. I immediately gave acetic acid in 30th potency few doses with prolonged relief of cough since then it has become a very useful remedy in my practice for cough and problems related to bronchitis in old people or middle aged people.

What I see in most of my patients is the respiration gets arrested after coughing for long (Antimony-tartaricum, Cuprum-metallicum, and Drosera). The patient gasps for the air, the cough is loose, expectoration is copious, purulent and sometimes viscid. These are the points which I am able to confirm in my practice.

In fact another very useful experience from my practice is in the field of gynecology. It is useful in Metrorrhagia; it is one of the remedies where the menses can be profuse. One should look for the constitution to prescribe the right remedy and usually the

Constitution of acetic acid is flabby muscle similar to Calcarea- carb or waxy or pale appearance of face like Ferrum- met. So you should look out for paleness. This is one thing you should never neglect in your practice.

The second thing that I have seen over here is usually people with the haemorrhage with profuse menses may have small oedema of feet, little pitting on pressure that is another characteristic symptom, they usually become very anemic in fact this is one remedy in homoeopathy where I used a lot in anemia specially when anemia after acute illness like Calc-phos, China, Ferrum met, Natrum-mur, Phosphoric acid.

I have never used much acetic acid in cases of dropsy but I have used it as an important remedy for emaciation.

Emaciation is a strong hold of this remedy especially in children with ravenous appetite (Calcarea-carb, Iodum, and Natrum-mur)

Emaciation is accompanied by extreme weakness; acetic acid is one remedy which has got extreme weakness (Kreosote, Verat-album)

Another area where I used this remedy is as a palliative remedy for cancer stomach and the symptoms are burning, excessive thirst, profuse diarrhoea, emaciation and sour retching. If you feel lot of sour things comes out of stomach in cancer patients with great burning and sour retching with concomitants of emaciation and diarrhea it is the best palliative in homoeopathy.

