

## **Homoeopathy for Birth Trauma**

There are two types of birth traumas that I know of; one is what we call Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) that occurs after childbirth.i.e. An experience involving the threat of death or serious injury to an individual or another person close to them (e.g. their baby) produces a response of intense fear, helplessness or horror to that experience.

The second type of birth trauma is damage to the tissues and organs of an infant caused by mechanical forces during childbirth often accompanied by impaired blood circulation and organ functioning. The most frequent and significant birth traumas are to the skull, brain and spinal cord, the severity of which usually distinguishes spontaneous birth traumas from those of an obstetric nature such as injuries which may occur with the use of forceps.

Most of the birth trauma causes in the infant physical deformities of the head, brain, and central nervous system leading to mental retardation, cerebral palsy and epilepsy.

### Case 1

A child 6 years old came for consultation with obstinate convulsions after forceps delivery in 1987.Lots of anti-epileptics were used but the control of convulsions was not unsatisfactory, unfortunately there was no modality for the convulsions available or any concomitant symptom was present. The only history was that it started after using forceps during the labour. The other symptoms were severe constipation cannot move the bowels without a laxative, timidity and bashfulness.

I started the treatment with opium 30c and later on went to a higher potency without any positive effects, later I studied the rubric convulsion after head injury in repertory and I saw Melilotus alba which totally covered the case just few doses of 30c controlled the convulsions later the anti-epileptic drugs were also tapered down, sweet clover is a very important remedy since then in my practice

for convulsions due to birth injury accompanied by severe constipation. Also epilepsy accompanied by mental retardation.

Case 2.

A case of delayed milestones in a child of 3 years following a fall on the head at one and a half month after birth from the bed which was 4 feet high. The child was unable to do following things which a 3 year child could do and the neurologist said to give vitamin and tonic for the same which never helped the child.

The chief complaints were

- Shows little affection for friends without prompting
- cannot show any concern for crying friend
- Does not understand the idea of “mine” and “his” or “hers”
- Unable to separate easily from mother and father
- May get upset with major changes in routine
- Unable to dress and undress himself

Unable to name most familiar things, e.g. can't yet say first name, age, and sex.

- Unable to speak words like “I,” “me,” “we,” and “you”.
- Unable to talk well enough for strangers to understand most of the time
- Cannot work toys with buttons etc.
- Cannot copy a circle with pencil or crayon
- Cannot turn book pages one at a time.
- Cannot climb well or run easily.

The homoeopathic symptoms were:

Desire potatoes, perspiration during sleep, very hungry all the time, regularly grinds the teeth, shrieks a lot without any reason, involuntary clapping many times unconsciously, fails to recognise nearest relatives who he has meet several times. Fear from noise and in a crowd, bites objects, mother had a strong history of fright during pregnancy as she had an occasion to sleep all alone for 3 nights in the house.

I started the case with stramonium and later on with Ignatia but both the prescription failed miserably. Later on I restudied the case and explored the combination of desire of potato and insatiable appetite unfortunately the above two remedies did not cover the key symptoms hence they never worked so I changed my prescription to cicuta virosa 30c, in the next 6 months the improvement was slow but sure and the child could do majority of things which 6 months back the child was unable to do so.

Hahnemann, who first proved Cicuta, was assisted by his son and two other provers. He says that the symptoms that he presents "can only be regarded as a commencement of a thorough proving of the peculiar effects of this powerful plant in altering the human health" (Mat. Med. Pura).

It is quite likely that you will give Cicuta to the first child that you are unfortunate enough to see in a delayed mile stones with convulsion, for it is usually the first remedy to come to one's mind, as in the majority of cases where it is prescribed there will be a convulsion or at least a spasm.

The convulsions are very characteristic concomitant of the remedy it comes from various causes, among which are injuries, including concussion of the brain, epilepsy , worms , indigestion , during and after labor and from opium, for which it is more or less of an antidote.