

Palliation In Homoeopathy

Palliation is the temporary relief of symptoms without curing the patient.

The patient is too diseased to be cured viz. lots of advanced pathological changes have taken place hence the approach has to be relief of symptoms without curing.

Here the vital force is too weak to receive deep acting constitutional remedies in high potency with high dosage, hence very superficial remedies in low potencies have to be given.

The best part of palliation is that if we don't repeat the remedy then the symptoms relapse.

Many cases of cancer, auto immune disease, deep coma, brain hypoxia, brain stem pathology, massive myocardial infarction, advanced pulmonary hypertension, advanced tuberculosis etc.

Many old and famous homoeopaths have said in their past : "In the Pulmonary tubercular cavity or terminal cases of tuberculosis do not give Phosphorus, Tuberculinum, Psorinum, Silica, but give remedy from vegetable kingdom like Drosera, Rumex etc.

When one looks at modern medicine one finds it is full of palliation, doctors in the hospital frequently suppress the disease by palliating individual symptoms this is dangerous as in long term they make a simple acute disease like cough and cold into a full fledged asthma.

Allopathic medicine accepts the defeat of curing chronic disease to such an extent that attention is focused entirely on "controlling" the disease, i.e. suppressing the symptoms, which requires lifelong and often increasing doses of the medicine. Chronic diseases which otherwise could be curable are palliated over and over again until the case finally does become incurable.

The root cause of these suppression and the consequent development of chronic disease is that most people around the world wants quick and immediate relief.

Whether acute or chronic disease palliation without proper evaluation is very dangerous, as by palliating a wrong condition may always produce harmful disease affecting vital organs.

Any recurring acute illness should never be palliated but rather treated with deep acting constitutional remedy. When one palliates wrongly we often tend to forget fundamental miasm.

Also when one palliates wrongly too many acute conditions wrongly with antibiotics then one may develop resistant variety of bacteria within the body which then becomes impossible to treat.

Palliation in cases which could otherwise be curable thus has destructive effects, suppressing symptoms in acute conditions and complicating the picture in chronic states.

So far we have agreed that palliation is appropriate in incurable cases. But what is an incurable condition???

Unfortunately many cases pronounced incurable by allopathic medicine could have been cured with homeopathy, Today's

health environment in our society is dominated by allopathy and hence simple case of atopic eczema gets suppressed because allopath's try to give steroids ointment and look for palliation where as homoeopath could have cured the disease permanently.

I once had a child with atopic eczema totally covered with rashes and foul smelling sticky discharge, the child was treated for six months before me by steroid cream which gave excellent relief to the child but made the child dependent on it. Now when I started the Homoeopathic treatments and stopped the cortisone cream the rashes definitely became worse for first few weeks this was quite natural as body was following Hering's law of cure, but the parents were very upset about the social stigma and the suffering and finally they said we give you two weeks to reduce all the symptoms otherwise we would like to start cortisone cream again!!!!

Many parents who come to me for their children's atopic eczema have unrealistic expectations of the time frame involved and also of what homeopathy can accomplish. Or another example could be a child suffering from dyslexia who is doing much better under homeopathic treatment and suddenly the parents tell you to change the remedy as the exams are approaching and they want child to perform well!!!.Patients expect miracles of the homeopath and take them for granted, this they will never have courage to tell their paediatrician. In many other cases the patient's mother is convinced of the value of homeopathy but their husband and grandparents of the child are not and they pressure mother to seek conventional treatment, I am sure most of the readers have found the similar situation.As a result of all the above facts many homeopaths do make the mistake by yielding to patients' pressure for speedy symptomatic relief.

Remember one thing in the illusion of symptomatic relief never palliate a case if one sees any hope of curing the patient.

With palliation we can allow the patient to live with dignity and also permit him to die with dignity as no doctor in this world can prevent death as death is part of our natural existence.

Now I would like to discuss about potency, when advance pathological changes have taken place then it is best to start with low potencies like 3c or 6c or 12 c or best is to use Q potency.

However I sometimes use high potency repeatedly if the susceptibility of the person is good and the general condition of the patient is good, this may seem a contradiction to the statement just made about low potencies when pathology is extensive. As long as there is a hope of cure and susceptibility is good, the potencies must be kept moderate to high but when the case has very low and poor susceptibility and the death is near the best way to help the patient is to let his last few breaths go peacefully.

This method is far more superior than allopathic palliation in terminal hours because the material doses of allopathic drugs have a pathogenic action, They produce side effects, and they create disturbance in organs where perhaps there was none before. They compel a defensive or eliminative reaction which exhausts the already weakened Vital Force.

The secondary action of allopathic medicines tend to depress the vital force. While allopathic drugs may sometimes give a temporary sense of comfort and well-being this palliative effect is deceptive. It is soon followed by the weakness and irritability of the secondary action.

Many cancer patients I see in hospital suffering from cancer quickly succumb to the radiation, chemotherapy and side effects of toxic drugs used to treat terminal cancer.

Some Reflections: from my case records

A case of advance pulmonary interstitial fibrosis in a man 55 years old he was on high dose of steroids and cyclosporine but the disease as progressing ,doctors finally gave up the hope and asked him to consult alternative medicine physician. His CT scan of chest showed advance and extensive changes of pulmonary fibrosis, his spirometry showed decreased VC,IRV,ERV and increased RV and FRC.His 2D echo showed right ventricular hypertrophy and tricuspid incompetence. He was very anaemic and weak.

His main complain was dyspnoea worse slightest motion can't walk even few steps without getting breathless. He was on oxygen therapy. I evaluated the case and found that case needs palliation I started with coca 3C 4hourly,with in few weeks he felt much better but within months the patient expired.

Another case was of terminal cancer cervix with extensive pelvic and abdominal metastasis. There was severe emaciation with poor appetite and anaemia. bloody watery leucorrhoea which was offensive and copious. She was too weak to even talk with me .I started her on Carbo animalis 3c every few hours, within few weeks there was major changes in her health, she gained little weight, her appetite improved however she died in next eight weeks.

Dr. Dorothy Sheppard describes treating a woman with a hard tumour of the kidney causing pain so intense that massive doses of

morphine could not relieve it. Sheppard took her off the morphine and put her on Hekla lava 3x, which not only eased the pain, it removed all but traces of the tumour.

Behaviour of symptoms and Palliation

Most incurable cases have a paucity of symptoms. As Hahnemann says in Aphorism 14, "All curable diseases reveal themselves to the intelligent homeopath in signs and symptoms. " Pathological conditions are incurable when there are no signs and symptoms on which to base a cure. As the pathology progresses, the symptoms of the patient decrease (i.e. symptoms of the disease; the patient may have many symptoms from the treatment). These patients rarely have the vital reaction strong enough to bring out their original symptoms, hence they are incurable.

Remedies for Terminally ILL:

Aconite: The patient typically has great anxiety, panic, and terror, with anxious restlessness and tossing about.

Antimonium tart: death rattle; great rattling of mucus but with very little expectorated; coughing and gasping consecutively; edema and impending paralysis of the lung.

Arsenic Alb.: Gives quiet and ease to the last moments of life (Boericke)

Carbo veg: the corpse reviver (Kent) physically is gasping for air. Guiding symptoms include complete collapse with blue, icy cold body. The patient typically is almost lifeless, but head is hot; the breath is cool, the pulse imperceptible and the respiration quickened.

Lachesis:: Euthanasia (Boericke)

Latrodectus mactans : for the anxious patient, screaming with the pain, typically in heart failure. The patient has extreme breathlessness with gasping respiration and fear of losing his breath. The skin is cold as marble.

Opium : for the dying person who has complete loss of consciousness, who is unable to understand or appreciate his suffering, as in a stupor. Or the patient has painlessness of all complaints, heavy stuporous sleep, and noisy, irregular breathing (Cheyne-Stokes respiration). The patient's skin is hot and damp. She feels better from cold things and worse from heat and during and after sleep.

Tarentula cubensis : it soothes the final agony, especially when there is nervous restlessness, difficulty breathing, anxiety to the point of delirium, and atrocious pains with great prostration.(Kent)

Tuberculinum: also advocated in the CM potency when the death rattle is very distressing. It stops the rattling and allows the patient to go in peace.

Veratrum album :. These patients are likely to suffer from collapse with extreme coldness, blueness, and weakness. Cold perspiration on the forehead is very characteristic.