

HOMOEOPATHY IN ADVANCE BREAST CANCER PATIENTS

Locally advanced breast cancer is invasive breast cancer that has one or more of the following features:

- Tumour bigger than 5 cm
- Tumour spread to several lymph nodes in the axilla or other areas near the breast
- Tumour spread to other tissues around the breast such as the skin, muscle or ribs.
- Cancer has spread beyond the breast region or to other parts of the body.

Signs and symptoms of advance cancer are

- Inflamed, red, swollen breast
- Large lump in the armpit that does not move freely away from the chest wall
- Lump at the base of the neck.
- Lump in the breast that doesn't move freely and is attached to the chest wall
- Thick and dimpled skin.
- Ulcers on the skin of the breast

Case:1

A woman aged eighty years comes to me with a hard fungating lump on the left breast. The lump was totally adhered to the skin of the breast wall. It was non-tender. The axillary lymph nodes were enlarged and non-tender. She had this lump for over last few months but ignored it due to lack of funds. On examination, the nipples were cracked. A large lump was also felt in the left axilla. There was extreme weakness which necessitates the woman to sit as standing aggravates. Constitutionally she was a chilly patient with strong aversion to meat and tea. She is lean, thin, emaciated, living alone in small room surviving on little pension that comes to her after the death of her husband. She has no children and hence very lonely and forsaken. She has a fear of dark and many times sees images of people or shadows of people in the night. Darkness in any form aggravates her general condition. She lost her husband after 10 years of marriage and for Thirty-nine years she leaves all alone. She hardly gets sleep due to depression and sadness.

I took following rubrics

MIND - DELUSIONS - forsaken; is

MIND - DELUSIONS - images, phantoms; sees - night

MIND - FEAR - dark; of

MIND - SADNESS - sleeplessness - with

CHEST - CANCER - Mammae - fungous

CHEST - CANCER - Mammae - last stage

CHEST - COMPLAINTS of chest - extending to - Axillae

CHEST - COMPLAINTS of chest - External chest - left side

CHEST - CRACKS - Mammae - Nipples

CHEST - INDURATION - Axillary glands

CHEST - STANDING - agg.

CHEST - TUMORS - Mammae

GENERALS - ANEMIA

GENERALS - CACHEXIA

GENERALS - FOOD and DRINKS - meat - aversion

GENERALS - FOOD and DRINKS - tea - aversion

From the above rubrics, I selected carbo animalis 3C in five cup method three times a day for three months.

The treatment was started on January 1987 by March 1987 she gained 2 kilos. The axillary glands which was enlarged subsided substantially and the fungating breast mass started reducing. her appetite was better. Her sadness was better. Everything seems well till May 1987 when she starts spitting blood with the sputum after mild coughing. She refused for an X-Ray but I was sure that she had metastasis in the lungs. I gave Helix tosta 2X six grains twice a day which immediately gave relief to haemoptysis. However, since then her general condition deteriorated. In July 1987, she developed high fever with chilliness and more spitting of blood. The fever was worse in the evening and during fever she wanted sips of cold water. Based on these symptoms Phos 6C was prescribed every three hourly in five cup method. In six days, the fever subsided and she started regaining her strength, energy back. After this episode, she was put back on Carbo animalis 6C three times a day for two months. The enlarged axillary glands remained status quo whereas the fungating mass in the breast started becoming smaller. On 16th August 1987, she wakes up in the morning and while brushing the teeth spits a large quantity of blood in the toilet and collapses before any medical help could come to her rescue she was declared dead. This was a perfect case of palliation.