



Kingdom Fungi ‘A Compilation of Group Symptoms at a Glance’

Dr. Vineeta Neeraj Kumar

Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery, Aarihant Homoeopathic Medical College & Research Institute, Bhoyan Rathod, Gandhi nagar

ABSTRACT

Homoeopathic medicines are made out of fungi. Fungi are very large group of thallophytes without chlorophyll. There are harmful as well as useful fungi. Fungi causes diseases in human being animals and plants. The reason why some fungi are so dangerous is that unlike any other living things, fungi are able to assimilate extremely complicated organic compounds which attack common organs. I have undertaken prospective type of study of fungi group of remedies group profile.

KEYWORDS : Fungi, Homoeopathic Medicines, Mycology, Fungi Group, Homoeopathy

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

To prepare group profile of fungi group and verification of theoretical group profile.

INTRODUCTION

Homeopathy is not that easy task, every patient and each and every medicine needs to be studied very precisely and deeply. It is an artistic science. It is very tough to study and memorise each and every medicine in its whole aspect.

Faced with the enormous number of living organisms on earth, scientists have long realized that we needed a way of classifying and naming individual species. The Greek philosopher Aristotle devised a primitive classification system over two thousand years ago. In modern biology, an organism is generally classified on the basis of its evolutionary relationship to other species, including anatomy, genetics and reproductive behaviour.

Kingdom Fungi, as represented in homoeopathy, is a relatively small group. Considering the diversity of fungi in nature, and the biological importance within the ecosystem it is surprising that the kingdom does not have a deeper understanding and a greater use in homoeopathic practice^[1].

Kingdom Fungi contains the fungi, which are mostly multicellular eukaryotes of varied structure that share a common mode of nutrition. Fungi either live as parasites on other living plants or animals, or they live in decaying matter. In either way they derive their energy by breaking up highly complex substances (when these are broken down in another living organism, the organism suffers). Therefore, like animals, fungi are *heterotrophic* and consume performed organic matter^[1]. Fungi, however, are heterotrophic by absorption; animals are heterotrophic by digestion^[2]. Most fungi act as *saprotrophic* decomposers that aid the cycling of chemicals in ecosystems. They, along with bacteria, enrich the immediate environs with inorganic nutrients and thereby keep chemicals cycling in the ecosystem. Some fungi are *parasitic*, especially on plants, and others are *symbiotic* with plant roots and algae.

Fungi are characterized by non-motile bodies constructed of apically elongating walled filaments (hyphae), a life cycle with sexual and asexual reproduction, haploid resulting from zygotic meiosis, and heterotrophic nutrition. The characteristic cell wall components are chitin and glucans^[3]. Exceptions to this characterization are well known. Fungi as a biological group have been classified into a kingdom on its own separating them from the plant kingdom. Robert Whittaker proposed that organisms should be broadly divided into kingdoms, based on certain characters like the structure of the cell, mode of nutrition, source of nutrition, interrelationship, body organization and reproduction^[1]. According to this system, there are five main kingdoms^[4].

They are

Kingdom monera

Kingdom Protista

Kingdom fungi

Kingdom animalia

Kingdom plantae

Kingdoms are divided into subgroups at various levels the following flowcharts show the hierarchy of classification.

Kingdom >phylum>class>order>family>genus>species

Fungi are a very large group of thallophytes without chlorophyll. They reproduce by means of spores. They may occur in soil, water or on other living organisms etc. There are harmful and useful fungi some like mushroom are edible. Fungi are widely used in certain industries; antibiotic penicillin is produced from the fungus penicillium^[4].

Oxygen is required for cellular respiration and is used to break down nutrients, like sugar to generate ATP (energy) and carbon dioxide and water (waste) so, fungi do cellular respiration. STUDY OF FUNGI IS CALLED MYCOLOGY. Fungi grow usually best in environment that is slightly acidic. They can grow on substances with low moisture. Fungi live in the soil and on your body in your house and on plants and animals i.e., freshwater and seawater. A single teaspoon of topsoil contains about 120,000 fungi^[4]. Fungi reproduces asexually by fragmentation budding or producing spores. Fragments of hyphae can grow new colonies. They have no leaves due to which their metabolism is catabolic^[5]. Fungi play a major role in decomposing organic matter into inorganic. They can also cause disease in plants, animals and humans.

Fungi in Homoeopathy

The Homoeopathic medicines are prepared from vegetable (plant), animals, minerals, sarcodes, nosodes and imponderabilia. One more group is present on which very less light has been given and that is fungi group. Homoeopathic materia medica is a vast subject comprising of sign and symptoms of many medicines to study and specially to memorize all these medicines is a very difficult task.

SOME COMMON POISONS OF FUNGI:

- Amanitin – poison produced by mushroom. The mushroom is also known as death cup or the destroying angel. Upon ingesting the mushroom, symptoms are reported between 10-24 hours. Initial symptom includes; diarrhea and cramps. These symptoms usually go but after fourth or fifth day it is having severe effects in liver and kidney. Hence can damage the system.
- Orellanine- it is also a mushroom poison which can permanently damage the kidney.
- Gyromitrin- it is a poison which is similar to amantin.
- Muscarin- acts as a nerve poison and affects the heart and blood circulation.

CLASSIFICATION OF FUNGI KINGDOM:

The kingdom fungi contain five major phyla that were established according to their mode of sexual reproduction or using molecular data. The five true phyla of fungi are;

- Chytridiomycota (chytrids)
 - Zygomycota (conjugated fungi)
 - Ascomycota (sac fungi)
 - Basidiomycota (club fungi)
 - Glomeromycota
- “Mycota” is used to designate a phylum while “mycetes” formally denotes a class or is used informally to refer to all members of the phylum.

The different remedies of this group have been employed in various clinical conditions by different school of medicines since ancient time. Among them some are being well proved and some partially.

Homoeopathic remedies belonging to fungi kingdom

- AGARICUS EMETICUS
- AGARICUS MUSCARIUS
- AGARICUS PHALLOIDES
- BOLETUS LURIDUS
- BOLETUS LARICIS
- BOLETUS SATANAS
- BOVISTA
- PHALLUS IMPUDICUS
- POLYPORUS PINICOLA
- SACALE COR
- THALAPSI BURSA PASTORIS
- USTILAGO

Other rare homeopathic medicines prepared from fungi are:

- Agaricus campestris
- Agaricus citrinus
- Agaricus procerns
- Turula cerevisiae
- Psilocybe caecrulescens
- Solanum tuberosum aegrotans

Uses of fungi

- Decomposers of organic materials.
- Yeast is crucial for fermentation process that makes beer, wine and bread. Fermentation occurs in the absence of oxygen and allows the first step of cellular respiration, glycolysis to continue.
- Some fungi are used in the production of soy sauce and tempeh, a source of protein used in south Asia.
- Fungi can produce antibiotics, such as penicillin.
- Mushroom are fungi that are eaten by people all over the globe.
- They are major source of citric acid.
- They can be genetically engineered to produce insulin and other human hormones.

Properties of Fungi

- All of the fungi are eukaryotic. They possess membrane bound cell organelles including nucleus, mitochondria, Golgi apparatus, endoplasmic reticulum, vacuoles etc.
- They have glucans, mannans and chitin in their cell wall and ergosterol in cell membrane
- They are non-motile because of rigid cell wall.
- They are chemoheterotrophs. They require organic compound for both carbon and energy resources.
- They are osmotrophic. Obtain their nutrition by absorption.
- All fungi are gram positive.
- Food storage is generally in the form of lipids and glycogen.

Formation of Group Symptom Profile

The group symptom profile is erected after study of remedies from the following books:

1. New manual of homoeopathic materia medica, William boericke.
2. A dictionary of practical materia medica, Clarke J. H.
3. Allen's keynotes, H. C. Allen
4. Concordant materia medica, Frans Vermeulen.
5. Materia medica of homoeopathic medicines, Dr. S. R. Phatak.
6. Regional reader, E. B. Nash.

After studying the medicines of fungi group from these books, the group symptoms profile will be formatted on the following bases:

- Symptoms which are present in two or more materia medica will be included in the group symptoms.
- Symptoms which are present in two or more remedies will be consider into group symptoms.
- Mental and physical general along with emotional presentation will be considered.
- Symptoms which are 3 marks & 2 marks are considered.
- The name mentioned in the bracket indicate the book in which this symptom must be present. (see abbreviations table)

CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES OF FUNGI GROUP

Constitution

Hydrogenoid constitution, General puffiness, bloated condition of body surface, in old people with indolent circulation, or drunkard, especially of their headaches.

At climaxis, old people.

Ailments from

Coitus, fright, mental application or excitement, over exertion, sexual excess, alcoholism, blood poisoning, subjective symptom arising after frost or sun, frostbite, all consequences of exposure to cold, use of cosmetics.

Miasm

All three miasms but predominantly Sycosis and tubercular background.

Temperament

Sanguine and irritable

Diathesis

Hemorrhagic

Thermal relation

Chilly

Sphere of action

It is noted that certain remedies have an affinity towards specific physiological systems, and the following sphere of action was noted in the case of kingdom fungi:

- a) Central nervous system
- b) Peripheral nervous system
- c) circulation- haemorrhage tendencies

- d) Female sexual organs
- e) Skin
- f) Male sexual organs

Patho-physiological action

- Central nervous system- they involve the cerebrospinal axis, producing irritation, inflammation, and degeneration.
- Produces spasm—ischemia—gangrene.
- Produces dilatation—relaxation—hemorrhage
- On skin- inflammation—exudation—eczema.
- Produces a state of intoxication and is used in many parts for making an intoxicating drink. ^[6,7,8,9,10,11]

Characteristic mental symptoms

- Anxiety ^[6,7,9]
- Confusion of mind^[6,8,9,10]
- Delusions- enlarged, intoxicated, and poisoned, under superhuman control, low weight, visions. ^[6,7,9]
- Irritability. ^[6,7,9]
- Sensation as if boiling water running along the back. ^[6,8,9]
- Very depressed, weeps, desponding, feels null, great depression of spirit. ^[6,7,9,10]
- Prostration from sexual abuse and loss of semen. ^[6,8,9]
- Could not bear to see or talk with anyone, aversion to company. ^[6,9]
- Desire solitude to practice masturbation. ^[6,8,9]
- Awkward, inclined to drop things, from hands, objects fall from powerless hands. ^[6,8,9]
- Quarrelsome. ^[6,9,10]
- Great sensitiveness, irritable, takes everything amiss. ^[6,8,9]
- Weakness of memory, absence of mind. ^[6,9]
- Laughs and cries alternately. ^[6,9]

Characteristic physical symptoms

- Tendency to involuntary movements like twitching, jerking especially of the eyelids and tongue. ^[6,8,9]
- Twitching ceases during sleep. ^[6,8,9]
- Nystagmus and uncertain gait. ^[6,9]
- Clonic tetanic movements ^[6,9]
- Tendency to develop paraesthesia like tingling, numbness with or without pain or twitching. ^[6,8,9]
- Sensation as if pierced by cold or hot needles. ^[6,8,9]
- Shooting and burning along the spine. ^[6,8,9]
- Burning itching redness and swelling as if frozen. ^[6,8,9]
- Sensation of boiling water flowing along the back. ^[6,8,9,10]
- Tendency to hemorrhage. ^[6,8,9]
- Nose bleeds persistent in drunkards. ^[6,8,9]
- Bleeding dark, offensive and stinky. ^[6,8,9]
- Metrorrhagia- especially during climaxis. ^[6,8,9]
- Vicarious menstruation. ^[6,8,9,10]
- Congestive, passive or slow bleeding dark watery or in clots forming large black strings. ^[6,8,9]
- Tendency to increase sexual desire with masturbation. ^[6,8,9]
- Tendency to catch cold, feels very chilly yet aversion to covering. ^[6,8,9]
- Suited especially to females during climaxis. ^[6,8,9]
- Tendency to form new growth. ^[6,8,9]
- Complaints appear diagonally, upper left and lower right side. ^[8]
- Epilepsy from suppressed eruption. ^[8]
- Loss of hair and nails, complete alopecia. ^[8]

Particulars

HEAD

- Vertigo from sunlight, and on walking. ^[6,9]
- Lateral headache, as if from a nail. ^[6,9]
- Dull headache from prolonged desk work. ^[6,9]
- Icy coldness like icy needles or splinters. ^[6,8,9]
- Neuralgia with an icy cold head. Desire for warm covering. ^[6,9]
- Headache with epistaxis or a thick mucoid discharge. ^[6,9]
- Headache with epistaxis or a thick mucoid discharge. ^[6,9]
- Stammering. ^[6,8,9]
- Scalp itches, worse, warmth, sensitive, must scratch until sore. ^[6,9]
- Nervous headache from menstrual irregularities. ^[6,9]

EYES

- Lids agglutinated in morning. ^[8]
- Dim vision ^[6,8,10]

NOSE

- Nosebleeds in old people, with relaxed circulatory system. ^[6,8,10,11]

NECK AND BACK

- Aching along the spine and limbs, column sensitive to touch. ^[11]
- Painfulness along spinal cord when stooping every turning motion of the body causes pain. ^[8,11]
- Sensation of ant creeping along spine. ^[11]
- Itching coccyx. ^[6,8,9,10]

EXTREMITIES

- Twitching of gluteal muscles. ^[7,11]
- Itching, burning, and redness of hands, fingers, and toes, as if they had been frozen. ^[6,8,11]
- Chilblains that burn and itch intolerably. ^[7,8,11]
- Involuntary movements while awake, cease during sleep. ^[7,8,10]
- Chorea from simple motion jerks of single muscles to dancing of whole body, trembling of whole body. ^[8]

SKIN

- Burning, itching, redness and swelling as from frost bites. ^[7,8,10,11]
- Herpetic eruptions. ^[6,8]
- Pellagra, eczema, urticaria covering whole body ^[6,8,10]
- Itching aggravates at night. ^[6,9]
- Rubbing any part brought out the eruptions, skin hot. ^[6,9]
- Corns, warts shooting pains. ^[6,9]

FEMALE

- Menses flow only at night or only in the morning. ^[6,9]
- Passive Metrorrhagia of bright or dark blood, with many clots and pains in the ovaries. ^[6,11]
- Prolapsed, post- climacteric, hemorrhage, bearing down pain almost intolerable ^[6,10,11]
- Yellow and offensive leucorrhoea. ^[6,10,11]

MALE

- Increased sexual desire, with flaccidity of the penis. ^[6,10,11]
- Scanty emission in coition. ^[6,7,10]

General modalities**WORSE**

Climacteric, touch, motion, menses, cold.

BETTER

Bending double, hot food, eating

Clinical conditions

Gangrene, hyperpyrexia, itching, jaundice, lachrymal fistula, lichen, lumbago, Acne rosacea, blepharospasm, softening of brain, bunion, chilblains, chorea, coldness, cough, cramp, delirium tremens, dysmenorrhoea, enteric fever, epilepsy, meningitis, myopia, neuralgia, numbness, nystagmus, phthisis, rheumatism, sebaceous tumor, sexual excess, tremor, typhoid fever, eczema, corns, gleet, urticaria, warts, whitlow, rheumatic affections, ovaries affection of, alopecia, climaxis, ovaries affection, tonsillitis,

Remedy relation

Antidotes- absin. Coff, Camph.

Compare- cimicifuga, cann. i, hyos, tarantula his, rhus t, Sep, cic, calc, Sabina. ^[6,7,8,9,10,11]

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