



Ophidia Group Study

Dr Rajesh Hanuman Sur

Foster Development Homoeopathy Medical College Aurangabad

INTRODUCTION

The snake is one of the most ancient and most grandiose mythological characters. The snakes have been playing greater role in medical history and Hindu philosophy since ages. Snakes are a fascinating part of nature. Their colour, movement and secretive habits make them more mysterious than other animals. For people who are especially interested in wild life, snakes are a wonderful introduction to the world of nature.

There are more than 2,600 species of snakes in the world, of these about 216 species are found in India of which 52 are poisonous. The snakes are world wide distributed. Majority of snakes inhabit the warm parts of the world. Most of the snakes are non-poisonous and harmless, only few are poisonous. The poisonous snakes cause a major medical problem in the tropical countries like Africa, India, Brazil, Burma, Sri Lanka Pakistan and in Australia. According to an estimate by WHO about 60,000 to 70,000 persons die of snakebite every year in the world. In India 18,000 to 20,000 persons die of snake bite every year. The poisonous snakes are Cobras, Vipers, Kraits, Coral snakes and Sea snakes. Aquatic snakes inhabit sea and fresh water media; terrestrial snakes are generally fossorial (living in burrows) while a few are arboreal (living on trees).

Review of literature

Potentiation is a process by which the poisonous substance can be transformed into medicine. so snake venom is transformed into medicine with help of potentization.

According to doctrine of signature, medicine shows characters of substance or animals from which it is derived. Various books and literature gives information over ophidia group. Most of the symptoms recorded in materia medicas are of toxicological experiences.

- 1) Materia medica by William Boericke
- 2) Materia medica by Dr. S. R. Pathak
- 3) Lectures on homoeopathic materia medica by James Tyler Kent

SPEED OF ACTION OF VENOM:

This depends on the site of injection and the amount injected. If the venom directly enters the blood stream, effect may be rapid and lead to sudden death. In most of the cases, the absorption of venom is slower and especially in Viperine bites. With extensive local reaction, considerable amount of venom may remain locally which will be absorbed into the circulation in due course.

PATHO-PHYSIOLOGICAL ACTION

Neurotoxic venom - Muscular weakness and paralysis. It acts primarily on the motor nerves.

Vasculotoxic venom - Enzymatic destruction of cell walls and coagulation disorders.

Myotoxic venom - Generalized muscle pains followed by myoglobinuria.

Haemolytic venom - Break down of the RBC's separating plasma and haemoglobin

Common snake symptoms are:-

- Hypersensitive especially of slight noise or touch, to motion to cover. The mere touch of a finger or hand is unbearable, cannot wear tight clothes and tight bandages around neck and waist.
- Bleeders
- Pressure can't tolerate eg, bandage, neck tie, tight cloths
- Sleeps into Aggravation

- Waking Aggravation
- Touch Aggravation
- Discharges Amelioration. The discharges of ophidians are very offensive, profuse, bloody and dark. Suppression of these discharges gives rise to the complaints.
- Periodicity of complaints seen during spring, before and after menses.
- Debility and prostration leads to collapse
Inflammation of cellular tissue, effusion of inner organs and septicemia

Mentals :-

- Quick, sharp, easy comprehension
- Loquacity, Jealous, Suspicious
- Talkative and changes topics
- Morning is worse but cheerful in evening
- Communicative expansive
- People beyond realms of reality
- Clairvoyance, Prophesying & Intuitive

General Modalities

AGGRAVATION: Morning, asleep, noise, jar, suppression of discharges, summer, touch, night.

AMELIORATION: When awake, cold, appearance of discharges.

Snake Remedies :-

1. Lachesis
2. Crotalus horridus
3. Crotalus Cascavella
4. Naja
5. Elaps
6. Cenchrus

Thermals

HOT	CHILLY
Lachesis	Naja
Crotalus horridus	Elaps
Crotalus Cascavella	Cenchrus

Side affection

Right	Left	Both
Crotalus horridus	Lachesis	Crotalus Cascavella
	Naja	Elaps
		Cenchrus

Indications:-**Lachesis:**

Intolerance of tight clothes around throat & waist Quick, sharp, witty mind

Selfish

Bleeding tendency

Sleep agg

Menstrual flow ameliorates

Blakish discoloration of skin

Crotallus horidus:

Blood dark & fluid

Hemorrhage from all orifices

Weakness from slightest exertion Obstinate, Quarrelsome & Scolding

Snappish answer

Aversion to family

Crotallus Cascavalla:

Sees ghost, spirits

Moaning

Fancies exaltation

Clairvoant

Naja:

Affects nervous system (cerebellum) ie coordination affected

Brooding tendency

Neglected feels

Anxious

Elaps:

Timid

Anticipatory

Bluish discoloration of skin

Desires icy cold things

Left to right affections

Cenchrus:

Selfish and self centred

Exposing shamelessly

Sexually oriented

Neglecting household duties

CONCLUSION

Harmful effects of toxic substance are beautifully used as medicine in homoeopathy. Characters of the parental substance remained in the medicine which is presented by concept of doctrine of signature in homoeopathy. All the general, physical and mental characteristic symptoms gives a beautiful portrait of patients picture in our materia medica which is essential for prescribing.

REFERENCE

- 1) Materia medica by William Boericke
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