

Surgery and Homoeopathy - Significance of Homoeopathy in Surgery and Learning it as a Homoeopathic Doctor

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Abstract: *In this article, I have analysed and demonstrated the relevance of Homoeopathic medicines in Surgery and why it is essential for Homoeopathic medical students and doctors to have a thorough understanding of it. Here, I have also stated what stalwarts in Homoeopathy had to say regarding Homoeopathic intervention in surgical cases and surgery in general. Overall, The integration of homoeopathic medicines with surgical cases uses the best of both worlds to create comprehensive and more effective health care. Hence, the surgeon and the physician, who are different persons in modern medicine, are to live side by side in perfectly co-operative harmony with each other, without ever attempting to usurp one another's position.*

Keywords: Homoeopathy, Surgery, Homoeopathy in surgery, Alternative medicine

1. Introduction

Surgery- It is that branch of medicine that is concerned with repairing, removing or replacing the diseases tissue i.e. any cutting, suturing and repairing of human tissues.

Homoeopathy- Homoeopathy is a system of medicine based on the doctrine 'Similia Similibus Curentur' (like cures like), according to which a substance that causes the symptoms of a disease in healthy persons will cure similar symptoms in sick persons.

Homoeopathy encourages nonsurgical interventions that are amenable to medication as far as possible. It encourages surgery only in unavoidable circumstances to quicken the healing process.

As per a study by the World Health Organisation (WHO), it is estimated that 11% of the Global Burden on Diseases (GBD) can be treated with surgery. This total is composed of injuries (38%), malignancies (19%), congenital anomalies (9%), complications of pregnancy (6%), cataracts (5%) and perinatal conditions (4%). The overall burden of disease that may be cured, palliated or treated with surgical intervention is large and (probably) rapidly growing, and therefore the role of surgery must therefore be revisited. *The integration of homoeopathic medicines with surgical cases uses the best of both worlds to create comprehensive and more effective health care.*

Homoeopathy considers diseases primarily as a disturbance in the vital force. If this disturbance persists for long and the body cannot overcome the condition, it may lead to a state that may or may not come back to normalcy with internal medications. Such conditions, at times, create disease products such as tumors, cysts, prolapse, and so on. These residual products become foreign to the body, which turns out to be an obstacle to cure. In such a situation, recovery may not be possible without the removal of the maintaining cause. Surgery, in such cases, eliminates the disease

products or residues immediately and helps the vital force to recover faster.

2. Importance of Surgery in Homoeopathy as stated in 'Organon of Medicine' by Dr. Samuel Hahnemann

Since surgery is an integral part of medicine, Dr Hahnemann has not left it untouched. He has very clearly advocated its use in certain conditions, as manifested from his references in Organon.

§186- He has discussed the concept of LOCAL DISEASES here. Which is called Local if it be very trivial, and it is of no great moment.

If our body is subjected to any external injury, then the body reacts as a whole eg. in the form of fever. *The treatment of such diseases is related to surgery when affected parts require mechanical aid to remove external obstacles to cure.*
 Eg.

- Reduction of dislocations ('by needles' in 6th edition)
- By bandages to bring together the lips of wounds ('by mechanical pressure to still the flow of blood from open arteries' in 6th edition)
- By extracting foreign bodies that have penetrated into the living parts
- By making an opening into the cavity of the body to remove an irritating substance.
- By reducing and fixing the fractured bones.

All the above-explained cases and many more require mechanical aid, but these may also be combined with Homoeopathic Medicines due to the following reasons:

- When in such injuries, the whole living organism required active dynamic aid to put it in a position to accomplish the work of healing.
 Eg.
- Violent fever resulting from extensive contusions,

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lacerated muscles, tendons and blood vessels must be removed by medicine given internally.

- When external pain of scalded or burnt parts needs to be Homoeopathically subdued.

In the above cases, the services of the dynamic physician and his helpful homoeopathy come into requisition.

§13- Disease (that does not come within the province of manual surgery) is not separate from the living whole. In this §, Dr. Hahnemann has explained the surgical case, which is considered different from medicinal disease.

§7- In this §, Dr Hahnemann has explained that exciting or maintaining cause (causa occasionalis) has to be removed to cure a case.

When this cause occasionalis is something mechanical, it has to be removed manually by surgery. Every intelligent physician would first remove this where it exists; the indisposition thereupon generally ceases spontaneously.

Eg.

- Extract from the cornea the foreign body that excited inflammation of the eye.
- Loosen the over tight bandage on a wounded limb that threatens to cause mortification, and apply a more suitable one.
- Lay bare and put a ligature on the wounded artery that produces fainting
- Extract foreign substances that may have got into the orifices of the body
- Open the imperforate anus of the newborn infant etc.

Hence, the surgeon and the physician, who are different persons in modern medicine, are to live side by side in perfectly co-operative harmony with each other, without ever attempting to usurp one another's position.

3. Importance of studying Surgery as a Homoeopathic Medicine Student/ Doctor

Homoeopathy as science needs precise application on part of the physician to decide about the best course actions required to restore the sick to health.

- 1) Surgery has two aspects:
 - a) As operation
 - b) As a subject

Eg. in burn cases if it will not remove scars/ treat the case mechanically then it will not help. These basic surgical procedures will help.

Surgery as a subject includes (What a Homoeopathic student/ doctor learns):

- Principles of surgery
- Fundamentals of examination of a patient with surgical problems.
- Use of standard instruments for examination of a patient, asepsis, antisepsis, dressings, plaster, operative surgery, etc.
- Practical instruments, training in minor surgical methods.
- Include also applied study in Radiology, etc. Diagnostics

- Includes basics of Orthopaedics, Ophthalmology, Dental Diseases, Otorhino-Laryngiology and Neonatal surgery.

2) **Diagnosis:** To diagnose common surgical cases.

- To differentiate between surgical and non-surgical cases and thus to judge the cases whether it is under scope of Homoeopathy or not.

- Diagnosis will tell a physician about prognosis. Prognosis will tell, whether the case is curable or not. Accordingly, it will tell a physician, whether or not it can be palliated.

3) To institute Homoeopathic medical treatment wherever possible.

4) Organise Pre and Post- Operative Homoeopathic restorative care a total/ partial responsibility.

Pre-operative Medicines:

- Arnica (Pain: For the preventive treatment of pain to lessen the pain)
- Argentum Nitricum (Pain anguish before the operation-going to the toilet again and again)

If constitutional medicines is given as preventive, no other medicine is required.

Post-operative Medicine:

a) Staphysagria:

- Retention of urine after an operation.
- Pain due to sharp cuts.

b) Arnica- Trauma, Haematoma

c) Ledum Pal- Punctured wound relieved due to heat.

d) Hypericum-

- Nerve Injury
- Spinal Anaesthesia (Puncture in nerve)

e) Calendula- Supuration in Abscess

f) Acetic Acid/ Phosphorus- Bad effects of Anaesthesia.

g) Natrum Mur- Cannot pass urine in front of others.

h) Ambragracia- Cannot pass stool in front of others.

i) Cals formation in bone- Calcarea Phos.

5) Organise complete Homoeopathic care for restoring the susceptibility of the patient to normalcy

- Starting with a brief example, wherever pus is formed, it becomes a foreign matter for the body, it must be aspirated because it may serve as focus and source of many other secondary infections. Now, indicated remedies based on characteristic symptoms should be administered. After which, anti-miasmatic treatment should be given.

- After giving Antibiotics externally, or after surgery, Homoeopathic medicines have to be given, to regenerate the vital force that is needed to overcome the invading bacteria and microorganisms.

The conceptual clarity and database needed for the above are possible only by effective coordination of the care of the patients.

6) Studying Surgery in Homoeopathic medical college as a curriculum provides the training on the following for the complete care of patients:

- Knowledge of causation, manifestation, maintenance and prognosis of surgery-related health disorders with stress on miasmatic evolution.
- Bedside clinical procedures
- Correlation of applied aspects with factors that can modify the course of illness, including medicinal and non-medicinal measures

The above can assist a Homoeopathic Physician who will be a rational physician and not the one locked up in whirlpools of rare conditions but one who can apply all the basics for an ailing individual.

It will also facilitate him for individualisation of the patient, necessary for final Homoeopathic management.

- 7) Training and learnings of Surgery is important in Homoeopathy because it explains the surgical cases and instills an orientation towards case taking and examination of surgical patients.

Eg. In obstructive Jaundice, abscess, appendicular lump; in these cases you can not treat a patient merely on a Homoeopathic prescription. Learning about surgery in the curriculum explains in which cases you can treat medicinally and in which cases you cannot.

- 8) Study of surgery helps in determining state and stage of the disease. This helps in identifying potency when to repeat and other details.
- 9) Removing the obstacle (foreign matter) is essential to bring Homoeopathic cure (Because Surgery- Is an eliminating Science)
- 10) Surgery is important to be taught in Homoeopathy because it teaches the management of common Surgical Procedures and Emergency Procedures. which are taught in theory as practice.

Eg.

- Wounds, abscesses, etc. Incision and drainage.
- Venesections
- Dressings and Plasters
- Suturing of various types
- Pre-operative and post-operative care
- Management of Postoperative complications.
- Management of shock
- Management of Acute Haemorrhage
- Management of Acute Injury cases.

The above is of utmost necessity for any physician. The above basically consists of the mechanically skilled procedure, supplementation, etc, a measure which is no way interferes with scope and application of Law of Similars.

Hence, Surgery is important and indispensable to be taught in Homoeopathy Curriculum because it teaches:

- Comprehensive case taking
- Bedside training
- Adequate grasp over the process of diagnosis
- Adequate grasp over principles of management

4. Discussion on significance of Surgery

Importance of surgery:

- Remove foreign Body
- Cases where the condition gets the pathology
- Acute emergencies to save the life of the patient
- When the condition of a patient cannot be brought back by medication.
- D & C Operation for sterility
- To treat cases of accident where Homoeopathic remedies do not have time to do

A physician must have good knowledge of surgery; only then he can select the cases to be sent to a surgeon and know at what stage the condition becomes a surgical emergency.

Surgery and Homoeopathy: One cannot replace the other, but one can complement the other without any harm according to the understanding of Homoeopathic Principles.

The above statement can be explained by the following points:

'Homoeopathy, as such is not against surgery entire though it limits the use of Surgical measures to the minimum in the treatment of Diseases'

- Surgery comes into play when the Physiological changes cannot be brought back to normal position by medication.
- The disease has progressed in the body that has lead to pathological changes when surgery is required.
- Surgery is required when even after a Homoeopathic cure, pathological changes remain.
- Surgery is applied in the ultimate disease; it does not deal with that something unknown which is residing in the body and which cannot be located.
- When the stage of Disease, is such that the medicine would not help.
- Dr, B.K Sarkar- "What comes from within must be treated from within and what comes from without must be treated from without."
- When the cause of the disease is any trauma or foreign body, in such case, Disease has not come from within due to disturbed vital force. It has to be set right with the help of surgical measures.
- Thus, surgery is immensely needed and cannot be dispensed with in many cases, such as Fractures.
- Homoeopathy treats many cases in which reversion to a normal healthy state is not possible, and palliation is the only way of treatment. Bus, when pus is formed, destruction of cells and tissues has occurred, reversion is a difficult task; aspiration should be done as early as possible.

5. Conclusion

Learning Surgery is of immense help to the Homoeopathic physician. Even knowledge of Homoeopathic medicines is equally essential for a surgeon.

One without the other will not bring fruitful results and will not be of much help and utility to humanity's suffering.

Homoeopathy also does not stand in the way of Surgery; rather one can benefit the other in many aspects.

Although, it discourages the use of surgery on the ground that the treatment and cure must be gentle. But, even then the importance of surgery cannot be ignored by a Homoeopath.

“One cannot replace the other, but one can complement the other without any harm.”

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7. Conflict of Interest

The author has no conflict of interest to declare.

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