

Review about the Signs of Commencing Improvement after Administration of Homoeopathic Medicine

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Abstract: *Homoeopathy is a system of medicine developed in 1796 by Dr. Samuel Hahnemann, based on the 'Law of Similia'. Before the times of Dr. Hahnemann, this law was stated as 'Similia Similibus Curantur' meaning 'Like cures like'. But to make it therapeutically applicable, Dr. Hahnemann modified the law as 'Similia Similibus Curentur' meaning 'Let likes be cured by likes'. Hahnemann reached this law with the help of inductive reasoning. In Homoeopathic treatment, the process of Case-Taking is very significant. Homeopaths work with patients to build the holistic picture of the patient's health. This involves the physical as well as the mental disposition of the patient. This Portrait of Disease will help for the individualization of the patient. This "Totality of symptoms" is then matched with Homoeopathic remedies. According to the system of Homoeopathy, the choice of the medicine is fundamentally based on the principle that the medicine must have the capability of producing most similar symptoms of the disease in healthy persons which are to be cured. In aphorism 26 of 'Organon of Medicine', Hahnemann states this law: "A weaker dynamic affection is permanently extinguished in the living organism by a stronger one, if the latter (whilst differing in kind) is very similar to the former in its manifestations." In Homeopathy, initially the knowledge of medicinal power of the drug is gained through the 'Drug Proving' & only then that medicine is prescribed to the patient by Law of Similia. 'Drug proving' is the systematic investigation of pathogenetic (disease-producing) power of medicine on healthy human being; of different ages, both sexes and of various constitutions. After giving the treatment, when patient is coming for the follow up, the careful observation is must from the side of physician, before giving the second prescription.*

Keywords: similia, portrait of disease, drug proving, totality of symptoms

1. Discussion

In the follow up of the patient, the second prescription depends on the observation done by the physician. So, the physician must be unprejudiced observer, then only he can give cure to the patient. So after selection of the remedy according to Law of similia & after giving the dose according to Law of Simplex (Single remedy at a time) & Law of Minimum (Minimum dose), there are signs of commencing the improvement. So the treating physician must be able to notice those signs in the patient & if he couldn't, then he has to change the remedy or potency according to the state of the patient.

Which are the sure signs of commencing improvement after homeopathic treatment-

When Homeopathic remedy is administered by following the Fundamental laws of Homoeopathy, the following signs will indicate improvement,

- 1) Return of the natural state with mental & physical comfort.
- 2) No appearance of unusual new symptoms.
- 3) None of the old symptoms are advancing but start disappearing.
- 4) None of the symptoms will go worse.

Dr.Hahnemann has described those signs of commencing improvement in the sixth edition of Organon of Medicine in Aphorisms 252-256.

§ 252

But should we find, during the employment of the other medicines in chronic (psoric) diseases, that the best selected homoeopathic (antipsoric) medicine in the suitable (minutest) dose does not effect an improvement, this is a sure sign that the cause that keeps up the disease still persists, and that there is some circumstances in the mode of life of the patient or in the situation in which he is placed, that must be removed in order that a permanent cure may ensue.

§ 253

Among the signs that, in all diseases, especially in such as are of an acute nature, inform us of a slight commencement of amelioration or aggravation that is not perceptible to every one, the state of mind and the whole demeanor of the patient are the most certain and instructive. In the case of ever so slight an improvement we observe a greater degree of comfort, increased calmness and freedom of the mind, higher spirits – a kind of return of the natural state. In the case of ever so small a commencement of aggravation we have, on the contrary, the exact opposite of this: a constrained helpless, pitiable state of the disposition, of the mind, of the whole demeanor, and of all gestures, postures and actions, which may be easily perceived on close observation, but cannot be described in words.¹

¹ The signs of improvement in the disposition and mind, however, may be expected only soon after the medicine has been taken when the dose has been sufficiently minute (i.e., as small as possible), an unnecessary large dose of even the most suitable homoeopathic medicine acts too violently, and at first produces too great and too lasting a disturbance of

the mind and disposition to allow us soon to perceive the improvement in them. I must here observe that this so essential rule is chiefly transgressed by presumptuous tyros in homoeopathy, and by physicians who are converted to homoeopathy from the ranks of the old school. From old prejudices these persons abhor the smallest doses of the lowest dilutions of medicine in such cases, and hence they fail to experience the great advantages and blessings of that mode of proceeding which a thousandfold experience has shown to be the most salutary; they cannot effect all that homoeopathy is capable of doing, and hence they have no claim to be considered its adherents.

§ 254

The other new or increased symptoms or, on the contrary, the diminution of the original ones without any addition of new ones, will soon dispel all doubts from the mind of the attentively observing and investigating practitioner with regard to the aggravation or amelioration; though there are among patients persons who are either incapable of giving an account of this amelioration or aggravation, or are unwilling to confess it.

§ 255

But even with such individuals we may convince ourselves on this point by going with them through all the symptoms enumerated in our notes of the disease one by one, and finding that they complain of no new unusual symptoms in addition to these, and that none of the old symptoms are worse. If this be the case, and if an improvement in the disposition and mind have already been observed, the medicine must have effected positive diminution of the disease, or, if sufficient time have not yet elapsed for this, it will soon effect it. Now, supposing the remedy is perfectly appropriate, if the improvement delay too long in making its appearance, this depends either on some error of conduct on the part of the patient, or on other interfering circumstances.

§ 256

On the other hand, if the patient mention the occurrence of some fresh accidents and symptoms of importance – signs that the medicine chosen has not been strictly homoeopathic – even though he should good-naturedly assure us that he feels better, as is not infrequently the case in phthisical patients with lung abscess, we must not believe this assurance, but regard his state as aggravated as it will soon be perfectly apparent it is.

2. Conclusion

So, according to Dr.Hahnemann, in some chronic cases, in spite of selection of proper similar homoeopathic remedy with suitable minute dose & potency, there no signs of improvement. In such cases, physician should think of the cause that keeps up the disease (exciting or maintaining cause) is still persisting. So the removal of that obstacle to cure is must to for obtaining cure (Aphorism252).

In all diseases, especially in acute diseases, the guide for indication of Aggravation (<) or Amelioration(>) is the state of mind & the behavior of the patient (Aphorism253).

Signs of commencing Aggravation- a constrained helpless, pitiable state of the disposition, of the mind, of the whole demeanor, and of all gestures, postures and actions.

Signs of commencing Amelioration- a greater degree of comfort, increased calmness and freedom of the mind, higher spirits – a kind of return of the natural state.

The minutest possible dose will give the signs of commencing improvement in mental as well as physical disposition. But the homeopathically selected remedy may act violently if given in large dose. So the Law of Minimum plays very important role in homoeopathic prescription(Footnote of Aphorism253)

If patient is unable to identify the changes in symptoms after talking remedy, whether it is < OR > then physician can access it with by careful observation & by checking all the symptoms in the case paper one by one.(Aphorism 254 &255)

*Appearance of new symptoms or increased intensity of original symptoms = indicates AGGRAVATION

* Decreased intensity of original symptoms & no addition of new symptoms = indicates AMELIORATION.

But if there is appearance of new symptom, it indicates the administration of wrong homoeopathic remedy i.e. without following the laws of Homoeopathy. Here it is must to reform the totality of symptoms by case taking again & to change the remedy, though the patient is ready to wait because the remedy selected is not curative for the patient (Aphorism 256).

He established the fact that this law is not of occasional occurrence but of universal adaptability as a general law of permanent cure, for all physical and mental ailments of mankind

How does Homeopathy work?

Homeopathic remedies trigger the body's ability to heal itself by stimulating a precise reaction in the body against the symptoms.

What are the key homeopathic principles?

- What will cause symptoms in a healthy person will trigger the cure of a sick person with those symptoms (**like cures like**)
- All the patient's symptoms need to be taken into account when choosing a medicine (**totality of symptoms**)
- Only one remedy should be given at a time in order to avoid confusion about what is happening
- The dosage should be the smallest that will work
- Symptoms are part of a continuous process of change and indicate movement towards greater health or illness (**law of cure**)

What are the key benefits of Homeopathy?

- Homeopathy uses the body's own healing mechanisms, so there are no side effects or rebound effects
- Homeopathy speeds up the process of recovery

- Homeopathy does not force the body to do anything, so its action is as gentle as possible
- Homeopathy is based on full and detailed records of the case and its progress
- It is easy to learn to treat yourself and your family for minor injuries and simple problems

The **law of Similia** is a **law** which defines “cure”. A substance that produces a certain set of symptoms in a healthy human being has the potential to remove those symptoms from a sick person. We know cure often means much more than merely the removal of symptoms.

Law of Similia is famous, well announced Law of Homeopathic field. It is such a law, which you can say is a, fundamental law because it remain here, in the rule book of Homoeopathy for long years and had not been, changed till now. Why it has not been, changed till now?

This is because, it has proved its validation and results it claimed, proved them again and again, whenever tested. Due to this stable nature and not failing, like allopathic laws; with time it has been given name and status of, as one of the cardinal laws of, Homeopathic system of Medicine.

Law of Similia as rule book, Organon says is, "Similia Similibus Curantur". Yes it is law of Similia, but what does it mean? It means, states that similar cures similar, that in detail as told in Organon by Dr. Hahnemann that only those medicines can cure diseases in sick persons, which are capable of producing similar diseases in human beings who are healthy.

So, diseases produced by medicine in drug proving on healthy human beings, if resemble in its manifestations, that is, similar diseases with similar manifestations, if found occurring in sick persons; on giving this medicine which produce similar diseases in healthy human being, disappear totally and does not return.

So, similar medicine which produced similar manifestation of a disease in drug proving in healthy human being, not only cure similar sufferings occurring in sick person totally; but eradicate them permanently, that is along with removing those disease manifestations also removes the culprits responsible for their re-budding; which is susceptibility to those diseases in drug proving are selected for curing similar diseases in sick persons.

So, you can say that it is law, which is used for selection of medicines in Homoeopathy. Medicine which is capable of producing similar affections in healthy persons is selected.

References

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