

Editorial for the month of June 2006

My Experiences with Cadmium Salts in Homoeopathy

I remember when I was studying in Calcutta, with Dr Bholanath Chakraborty, in early 80's, we together had seen a case where an old man, who was very debilitated, had a lot of weakness, prostration, was complaining of severe **exhaustion or exertion** of mind and body and he had a lot of depression and all this started after influenza. He had contacted influenza a few years ago and he never fully recovered after this attack. He was also very dejected and hopeless. At that time, Dr Bholanath Chakraborty talked with the patient and gave him Cadmium Metallicum 30 1 dose and called him after 3 weeks. When the patient returned after 3 weeks, I was amazed to see that the patient had practically no trace of **exertion** or depression or prostration. Well, this was my first experience in Homoeopathy with Cadmium.

My experiences in Homoeopathy is chiefly with Cadmium Metallicum, Cadmium Bromatum, Cadmium Iodatum, Cadmium Muriaticum and Cadmium Sulphuratum. I would like to start the discussion with Cadmium Sulphuratum. I had to see a very bad case of **prolapse** in the city of Navsari, the case was of an old Parsi lady and the relatives gave me the history that she was vomiting since many days and whatever she ate comes out immediately, her blood pressure was very low, there was **tachycardia**, she was non-diabetic and non-hypertensive and she also complained of headache. She also said she could not see very clearly. The urine was scanty and there was trembling. The skin was icy cold to touch. With all these symptoms I prescribed to the lady – Tabacum 30, this was at about 10:00 a.m. This I gave her in the 5 cup method, 1 teaspoonful every 2 hourly. In those days I was working in a charitable clinic in Navsari. After a few hours, the son of the patient came running to me saying that his mother's condition has worsened and the vomiting has increased and she is in a state of shock and does not respond. So I again went to see her and this time I added a few more symptoms like – there was cold perspiration on the face, there was profuse salivation, the vomit was nothing but white mucous, the son also said that around 3:00 p.m. she passed some very offensive, slimy stool. For me, these symptoms were not strange to Tabacum, so I increased the potency to 50 M. I gave one dose and told her son to let me know after 2 hours. He again came running to me saying there is absolutely no relief and whether she should be hospitalized. This time, with my knowledge of Homoeopathy, Materia Medica, I changed the prescription to Ipecac 200, in the same dose, but yet there was no relief. Next day, at 4:00 a.m. I was awakened by the son who said that his mother's condition is deteriorating, she was constantly vomiting since the past 24 hours, she cannot move her limbs, her responses are very poor and he said that he wanted to stop Homoeopathy and start giving modern medicine and he also wanted to hospitalize her. So I said that now I will see

her for the last time and then he can do what he wants. When I saw her, she was very restless with all the symptoms same as before. This time I gave her Cadmium Sulph – 200 C. The very first dose gave her relief. I told the son to let me know the number of times she passes stools and the number of times she vomits. After one hour, for the very first time she opened her mouth saying that she was feeling thirsty. Always remember that Cadmium is one remedy that is extremely thirsty like Acetic acid, Bryonia, China, like **Euphatorium perforatum**, like Robinia, like Theridion and like Veratrum. After she had a few sips of water, I examined her again after an hour. Her blood pressure was better and her tachycardia came down. By noon there was no vomiting. By noon, the vomiting had stopped and I told the son to reduce the frequency of Cadmium Sulph to 6 hourly instead of every 2 hourly as he used to give earlier. Within the next 2 days, there was no trace of vomiting or slimy stool and she had completely recovered. In the meantime, I had sent her stool sample for examination, I did the complete blood chemistry and she had a massive electrolyte imbalance which called for giving her a lot of fluids, she was also anemic and fortunately her white blood cells count was normal. We thought of starting the fluids, but considering her age, we thought that she should first recover and she should start taking the fluids orally on her own. So within the next 48 hours, she started taking the fluids orally and she gradually saw the road to recovery. This was my first experience. I worked in this charitable clinic for a period of 10 years. Every month I went to Navsari to help the poor people there. This was one place where I gained a lot of experience in Homoeopathy.

After practicing Homoeopathy for more than 26 years, even today I make mistakes in identifying Ipecac from Tabacum, Tabacum from Cadmium Sulph, **Cadmium Sulph from Ipecac and Tabacum**. So, what are the symptoms which are very common to all these three remedies?? All these remedies are very restless, if you examine the patient, the eyes are sunken, the face has pale discoloration, there is cold perspiration on the face, the salivation is profuse, there will be deathly nausea, too much retching, extreme thirst and the patient will vomit after drinking. In all these three remedies, I have found that in children whenever they are suffering from infection due to Rota virus, **this** remedy is extremely useful. Some Homoeopathic remedies that have proved to be useful for me in treatment of Rota virus are Athusa, Ant-crud, Ars, Bismuth, Cuprum-ars, Jathropa, Curcas, Phosphorus and Veratrum album. The vomiting of these remedies is bitter and with mucous. The liver may be enlarged or tender. There will also be diarrhea, the stools will be frequent, slimy with mucous, offensive and sometimes black. There can be jerking of the extremities and cold perspiration is very typical **of this remedy**. There will be marked weakness associated with vomiting. So these are very characteristic and common symptoms between the three remedies. If you feel like differentiating one from another, I think Ipecac is one remedy which has got nausea accompanied by foul breath, the breath of an Ipecac patient will always be

very foul. The nausea is always accompanied by a lot of perspiration in Ipecac and in Tabacum but not in Cadmium Sulph. As is known, in Ipecac the tongue is very clean and an Ipecac person usually vomits immediately after cold drinks. Another differentiating point is that if there is history of alcoholism associated with **that??**, then Cadmium Sulph is a much better remedy than ----- Tabacum has a very nice symptom and that is the person with nausea likes to be fanned like Carbo-veg. If there is nausea after eating a lot of fatty food or after eating ice-cream, **then Ipecac comes up**. I also use Ipecac for treating reactions after chemotherapeutic agents, like severe nausea. Ipecac has also got nausea after eating rich food or pork or some such food. If you look into the symptoms of Tabacum, tabacum also has typical nausea. In tabacum, nausea becomes worse after closing the eyes and there is desire to be fanned, uncovering aggravates, they desire water in small quantities, the vomiting is extremely forcible and spasmodic and as soon as the person tries to uncover the abdomen, he feels much better. While in Cadmium Sulph, the person with nausea must lie absolutely still, this is very very important in this remedy, if he does not lie extremely still, the nausea becomes worse. In Cadmium Sulph, If you look at the vomiting part, it is always accompanied by profuse perspiration on the face. The vomit is usually bilious and bitter. There is extreme coldness of abdomen. This is usually associated with **GI tract malignancies** like cancer of the liver or cancer of the pancreas or sometimes with appendicitis or colitis, or sometimes with gastroenteritis, including gangrene of the abdomen for which Cadmium Sulph is an excellent remedy. Another area where I found Cadmium Sulph extremely useful in my practice was in the case of neurological problem. I once had an opportunity to treat a case of left-sided **Bell's palsy**. This patient was a very good friend of mine who loved to ride his motorbike early in the morning when there is a lot of cold wind blowing on the face and once suddenly when he goes to work, his mouth hangs on one side, his speech becomes very thick and sloppy, swallowing becomes difficult and food rolls out from the angle of the mouth. He rushes to a nearby doctor who diagnosed this as a case of **Bell's palsy**. This whole episode started after a certain incident that took place a month ago, when at his work place, he was very wrongly reproached by one of his colleague for the mistake which he never committed. The patient was extremely angry about the whole situation, but instead of bringing out his anger verbally, he preferred to suppress it and he went to a nearby restaurant and had a lot of drinks. To begin with, he had some beer followed by Whiskey. This incident was in his mind for a long time, but to the family members and friends, he appeared quiet, he never discussed this issue with them and then, after 4 - 5 days, his ailment started. I also found that he used to complain of choking sensation in the throat – a sort of a spasm, the swallowing was little difficult, his bowels and urine was normal, he also mentioned that even though he loved alcohol, it never suited him. With all these indications, I used Cadmium Sulph 200 for the very **first time in my life** and the result was excellent. It took about 15

days for the person to improve and then in the next 2 months, there was complete resolution of **Bell's palsy**. He was advised **galvanic stimulation** as physiotherapy, which I refused. I just gave him little wheatgrass juice to drink along with Homoeopathy and since then I have used this particular remedy in many neurological cases, not only in Bell's palsy, but problems that are related to involuntary movements, problems related to spasms and problems related to paralysis. In Homoeopathy, this is one of the best remedies for treating paralysis that comes after any **cerebro-vascular** accident, is almost similar to opium, phosphorus, zincum, vipera, etc. Now, there may be slight confusion when you read this remedy from Materia Medica, because Cadmium **Sulphuratum** and **Cadmium Sulphate** are two different substances. Boericke Materia Medica gives us the description of **Calcium Sulphuricum**, but this is probably a mistake, because both **Allen's Encyclopedia** – Volume II, page 330 and Clarke – Volume I, page 328, are clearly talking about Cadmium Sulphuratum, so you have to make a note of this. I also remember, when I was studying in the Academy of George Vithoukas, Dr Vithoukas used to always teach us that if, with a very chronic eye trouble, you get a chronic stomach problem, this is one remedy that you should think of. He further mentions that these patients have got recurrent inflammation of eyes and they **struggle** with the eye drops all their lives, especially with every change of weather or with every cold spell. **A person who is prone to develop recurrent conjunctivitis**. Unfortunately, in my practice I have not verified this aspect, but what I verified very commonly in the eye symptom is the corneal opacity. This was one symptom that I observed frequently. Another thing that I observed is that the patient usually has problem reading very small letters, the vision is badly affected in Cadmium Sulph, almost similar to **Mephitis** and Natrum-carb. The mental symptoms of Cadmium Sulph has been described by George Vithoukas in his Materia Medica Viva, wherein he explains that the person wants company and he does not like to be alone especially during fever, but so far I have not been able to confirm this. Clarke states that Cadmium Sulph is a cross between Bryonia and Arsenicum, it has a desire to keep quiet and complete aversion to motion of Bryonia with the **exhaustion** and stomach irritability of Arsenic. In my perception there is no way to confuse it with Arsenic or Bryonia **as they are clear differential points**, as opposed to Bryonia, **in Cadmium Sulph??** there is usually no great thirst, only a desire for small and frequent sips which the patient vomits immediately. Though the patient has a horror of solitude and cannot stay alone and wants someone with him, he differs from Arsenic in that he does not like if the doctor or **someone else** comes near him to burden him, i.e. to demand something from him or to discuss with him. He is too tired and prostrated to communicate. The impression one gets of the patient is also distinguished from Arsenic in that he stays quiet, does not want to be disturbed and there is little or no fear of death **and in any case the patient is obviously going to die**. I had a few opportunities to treat advanced cancer patients with this particular remedy and I got two very important

causative factors which George Vithoulkas has not discussed and these are in relation to alcoholism, grief and anger. These are the main issues where Cadmium Sulph should come up for discussion. These people develop anxiety when alone and also when in company. They are a little timid in the sense they do not express their anger much, they try to keep their anger within themselves, and alcohol is one escape mechanism which is used by these patients. Otherwise, from outside they are quiet individuals who do not talk much. One thing that I have observed in these patients is that they smile during their sleep. **This is very important. When you find a person with neurological illness smiling in sleep, he is a Hyoscyamus person, a person in a typhoid-like situation smiling in his sleep is or when in depression or with psychological symptoms smiling in sleep, he is Phosphoric acid.**