

EDITORIAL FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2007

ACETANILIDUM

AN IMPORTANT REMEDY FOR HEART DISEASES

Acetanilidum is a combination of Acetic acid and Aniline, which are both in use in homoeopathy. Although these three remedies, especially Anilinum and Acetanilidum, have many symptoms in common, they are nevertheless so different that they cannot be simply interchanged. Acetanilidum is a homoeopathic medicine, which is a derivative of Analine, and it is a white micaceous powder and known as phenyl acetamide or it is also known as antifebrin.

The physiological action of the remedy in cardiology is that it reduces and depresses the heart action and slows down the respiration. It destroys the oxygen carrying capacity of the blood and has a destructive influence on the red blood corpuscle producing pallor. The blood and urine become darker and if this particular action is prolonged on the human body then patient suffers from severe anemia, cardiac failure and an ultimately develops cardiac shock.

The best place to read the effect of this remedy on the heart and respiration is an article given by Dr.H.C.Gordinier from Boston in the journal Boston Medical and Surgical Journal and Lancet where they have reported a poisoning of this particular remedy and its effects on human being who have consumed this as a poison.

In olden days this remedy was used to control the temperature and to reduce the articular and rheumatic pain that followed influenza. I have not much used this remedy for the above indication in my practice.

The most important areas where I have been seen the usefulness of this remedy is depression of the heart and respiration, hypertension, cyanosis, collapse. The collapse is characterized by tachycardia and hypotension. There is also an increased susceptibility towards the cold.

What you should look in patients who need this remedy in cardiac cases:

- Eyes look pale and the pupils are dilated.
- Face is pale and tired.
- Oedema of the feet and ankle.
- Presence of albumin in routine urine test.
- Severe hypothermia.
- The heart beats will be weak and irregular.

In my practice I have seen many patients with cardiac failure developing lot of respiratory complaints characterized by severe suffocation accompanied by clenching of hands or clench anybody around him, this type of suffocation of respiration is an important keynote of this remedy.

Another important indication of this remedy is thrombosis of lower extremities. I have seen many cases where the heart pumping is very weak in old people and a result they suffer from thrombosis of the lower limb, the lower limb is enlarged, oedematous and Colour Doppler shows thrombosis.

Examination of routine urine may also show acetone, epithelial cells, and cast.

Pulfords has mentioned that there is presence of hypertension in those people who are morally depraved.

Depraved means a corrupted or perverted individual and I have not so far used this indication in treatment of high blood pressure but it is worth using.

Pulford has also mentioned about the suffocation in respiration as if the diaphragm had ceased to function and one must continue to breathe on ones own account as a leading indication of this remedy.

Another clinical indication worth understanding is that they are usually born tired, they usually have no stamina, they will come, sit down and then they just lie down on the sofa. It is actually not a depression but it is an exhaustion which is very similar to China.Muriatic-acid and Stannum-met. These people are anaemic, pale, exhausted with low blood pressure, low pulse rate, temperature is extremely low, and the whole organism is functioning at a very low gear.

I had a case of a one year old child suffering from Fallot's tetralogy; he had excessive cyanosis without any other indication. I tried to get symptoms but nothing happened. It was a case from college OPD so I did not have that much time to take the symptoms and hence my first prescription was Carbo-veg 6X which had no relief and that same day I advised CBC count to the mother because I thought that child looks little pallor and it was found to be anaemia so in the combination of anaemia with the cyanosis I gave Acetanilidum 3X, just one grain twice a day and slowly and slowly the cyanosis of the child improved.

It is very difficult to differentiate this remedy with Carbo-veg, both these remedies can have:

- MIND – STUPOR
- HEAD – Pain – exertion of the eyes – agg.
- FACE – DISCOLORATION – pale
- URINE – ALBUMINOUS
- RESPIRATION – DIFFICULT – exertion – after – agg.
- CHEST – HEART failure
- GENERAL – HEAT – lack of vital heat
- GENERAL – CYANOSIS
- GENERAL – DROPSY – external dropsy
- GENERAL – PULSE – weak
- GENERAL – THROMBOSIS

Differentiating symptoms are the concomitant of gastric symptoms in Carbo-veg, flapping of the alae nasi; slow passive type of hemorrhage in Carbo-veg, Acetanilidum is not at all hemorrhagic remedy, hemorrhage in broken down constitution, the typical hemorrhage would be epistaxis, the blood would be oozing out, strong craving for alcohol, in Carbo-veg patients always have craving for the things which will make them sick and the concomitant of eructation give them temporarily relief, offensiveness of the discharges, loss of voice.