

EDITORIAL FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2007

My experiences with Aconite ferrox and Aconitinum

Aconite ferrox is a botanical plant belonging to Ranunculaceae family this is one of the most poisonous species of Aconite and it is grown in the Himalayas.

The very first experience of using this remedy in my practice was way 12-13 yrs back when I was treating a patient who had a severe bronchitis and he was having chronic smokers coughs, he used to smoke about 20-30 bidis every day since years, he used to eat 6-7 pan with lots of tobacco in it. His cough was constant. It was chronic and the expectoration was scanty. It was more of an irritation in the throat, which was responsible for the cough. He also had aphthous stomatitis. There was lot of burning in the tongue, mouth and upper part of the pharynx.

He could not eat spicy or hot food. Further he complained of difficulty in breathing, on climbing the stairs or on exertion, the dyspnoea many times invited suffocation which forced the patient to sit and take some rest.

His constitutional medicine was Sulphur and in acute I used to treat him with Kali bichromicum and thing was going quiet well, but the only thing which fails to improve under the influence of Sulphur was his aphthae and the violent burning in mouth, tongue and pharynx he refused to stop his quota of bedis or pan. That was a time I started searching this characteristic symptom in homoeopathic materia medica to cover this powerful burning in the mouth and which also has the concomitant of respiratory problem dyspnoea. I found this symptom in aconite ferrox.

I gave 30c few doses, which wonderfully reduce the burning sensation in the mouth and since then it has become one of the best medicine in

homoeopathy whenever I see any burning sensation or raw smarting sensation like Arsenic, Iris versicolor or Petroleum which are the leading remedies in burning in the mouth. Now I will differentiate this remedy from other remedies e.g. if this burning is ameliorated by cold then I think of aconite ferrox and no other remedy but if there is burning in the mouth accompanied by fever then I think of Arsenic or Petroleum or if it is accompanied by thirst then I know it is Hypericum or if it is burning is associated with any hot food I know it's Sanguinaria.

This was my initial experience as far as chronic bronchitis was concerned; I use aconite ferrox extensively in my practice. I always look for following symptoms. The first is that the respiratory rate has to be accelerated, Person has to feel better by sitting, person can not lie down, there are clinical signs of left ventricular hypertrophy, they usually have a history of hypertension and they have grade 3 to grade 4 type of dyspnoea and they love cold water. This is very important of Aconite ferrox people they love cold water. If you measure the pulse of Aconite ferrox people it will be little weak and small and the body will be cold to touch.

Now here I saw that after successfully treating some cases with aconite ferrox in respiratory disorders I found out that this remedy has a characteristic symptom of Cheyne strokes respiration(of course I never had an opportunity to treat such type of respiration specifically with aconite ferrox.) I also found out the respiratory symptoms like fear of suffocation breathlessness on slightest exertion comes very close to a remedy Curare, sometimes I have to differentiate this from Aconite ferrox. In Aconite ferrox, Curarae, Lachesis, Opium breathing is worse lying down but the cough of Curarae comes on because the person breaths deficiently. Now this is a very classical symptom of Curare that because of the deficient breathing the patient starts coughing and I think so Arsenic and Curare are one of the leading remedies for this type of situation, further in Curarae the cough is usually spasmodic and the expectoration is very sticky, whitish albuminous and in rare occasion

there can be paralysis of the lung or severe emphysema where the person just cannot breath in emphysema.

Another important clinical observation that I have observed in this remedy Aconite ferrox is the mental symptoms. The person has lot of incapability to do any mental exertion, concentration and comprehension and understanding becomes extremely confused. In the abdomen many times I have heard gurgling sound on auscultation.

Another variety of Aconite, which I have used successfully in my practice, is Aconitinum; it is an extract from the; the roots and the stems of the Aconite napellus. Now this is one of the remedy which I have used successfully in cases of trigeminal neuralgia especially the supra orbital branch of the trigeminal nerve and the characteristic symptom is that neuralgia is worse slightest motion or worse slightest anxiety. Another area where I have used this remedy successfully is in cases of costochondral neuralgia. This costochondral neuralgia is where you get the typical pain in the chest but there is actually no angina pectoris, this remedy comes very close in this aspect to Moschus, Liliun tig or like Cactus grandiflorus. . I used it in 30 C potency with infrequent repetition but important thing over here is that there has to be very strong anxiety or there has to be strong fear of heart disease in the background.