

Editorial for the month of August 2008

My experiences with rare remedies in skin disease

The first remedy that I would like to describe is *Vinca minor*, it belongs to Apocyanaceae family. I had a case of an infant who was 9 months old who presented to me with severe eczema of the scalp. The eczema was characterized by thick crust, with discharge that was moist, offensive, There was also lots of suppuration, the hair was sticking together, along with that the child presented with recurrent tendency to cough and cold, where nose perpetually used to be blocked. There was excessive salivation from the mouth and another peculiar thing mother presented to me that the child was extremely sleepless in the night and he was quite restless in the night and will not go to sleep very easily, with these symptoms I prescribed *Vinca minor* 30 few doses which completely cured the eczema in the next few months.

I have also over and above the symptoms described above have used this remedy in cases of eruptions of the eyes where you get itching and burning of the lids, or any allergy around the eyelids.

The peculiarities of this remedy is oozing of moisture, that emits offensive odor with formation of thick crust and the hair meeting together what we call as *plica polonica*.

Another remedy is *Viola tricolor*, it belongs to violaceae family. I had a case of a child of 6 years old who had very peculiar mental symptoms. There was marked disobedience; the child will never obeys his parents. While playing any game he has a tendency to make lot of noises. Everything has to be given on the table for the child, the child will not do any work given to him even for a

glass of water he will call a servant. He is extremely obstinate. He had a tendency to shriek quite a lot. He used to like cold air; he preferred remaining in the open air, immediately after eating child will start perspiring.

Now his chief complaint was eczema all over the body. The eczema was moist with lot of crusts, the discharge was extremely sticky. The crusts were yellow in color. The itching was worse in the night. Mother had applied lot of ointment to suppress the eczema but the eczema keeps on recurring. The itching will become much worse if the child perspires but the itching is temporarily better by scratching.

To the child I gave a remedy *Viola tricolor* 30 with excellent result.

Some of the peculiar symptoms which I have repeatedly confirmed of this remedy are eczema of the scalp with swollen cervical glands. Perspiration immediately after eating. Thick scabs with eruptions, eczema especially of the face and head and itching is worse in the night. This remedy was proved by Dr. Hahnemann and he used this remedy very successfully in cases of eczema and impetigo. In adults I use this remedy in involuntary seminal discharge with amorous dreams.

Next remedy is *Skookum chuck aqua*, this is a mineral salt obtained for the medical springs from the state of Washington, United states. I was introduced for this remedy by my teacher Late Dr. K. Prahlad. This is one such remedy which I use in my practice in cases of *Urticaria* especially when *Apis-mel* or *Urtica urens* fails. This will be my first indication. My second indication to use this remedy is when the discharge from any eczema anywhere in the body is horribly offensive. The patient enters the room and you see that there is so much offensiveness in the room that emits from the discharge especially from the eczema. Another concomitant which I see in this case is excessive

dryness of the skin of the scalp but more than anything which I have confirmed repeatedly in my practice is urticaria after the failure of *Urtica urens*.

Another remedy which I would like to mention is the X-ray. I use X-ray a lot in my practice in cases of warts and eczema but the characteristic of this eczema is that it is always dry and painful and it is full of cracks. This eczema has got lot of itching, discharge is offensive, and there is crust formation which is very thick. Sometimes nails are very big indication and concomitant for use of this remedy where the nails are deformed, nails are ridged or cracked. Emotionally these patients have got a strong fear of death. They are usually very sad, they are very depressed and they weep a lot. I had a case of a very old man about 70 years old who presented to me with the xerotic eczema where excessive dryness of skin. The skin is so dry that it has got cracks and itching worse in the bed in the evening and in the night. Patient was much better by warm application. Few doses of X-ray helped a lot to reduce the symptoms of this notorious disease.