

Case of Esophageal Cancer

Male/ 74 years

Diagnosis: Carcinoma of Esophagus

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This is the case of a 74 year old railway policeman, Mr. R. S., who came from a small village in Bihar, India. Since one and a half month, there was a mass detected in his upper gastro-intestinal tract at the Tata Memorial Hospital in Mumbai. The mass was confirmed to be malignant and the diagnosis of Carcinoma of the Esophagus was established. The upper G.I. Endoscopy revealed that there was an ulcerated lesion in the upper third of the Esophagus with a stricture formation.

His complaints were as follows:

- Inability to swallow any solids; due to this, the patient was on a liquid diet
- Reflux after eating food

Only first dose of chemotherapy had been given when the case was reported to us. He discontinued Chemotherapy and opted for Homeopathic treatment instead.

Inspite of knowing about the gravity of his disease, there was no discouragement or fear in him; in fact, he was very much balanced and not much worried about his condition.

He had been in the railway police and said, "I have never done anything dishonest in my life- that is why I have so much of peace of Mind. I have a very relaxed life and want to live peacefully with my grandchildren."

Due to his extremely sensitive nature, he would not be able to bear to see others suffering and would feel very bad. Sympathy for others and intolerance to injustice were other prominent features of his personality.

Weeping tendency was a marked symptom seen in this case, especially when he would be at a funeral or while watching a sad movie. Fear was conspicuous by its absence and his following statement confirmed this: 'Death is going to come, nobody can stop it.'

Being the eldest child in the family, responsibilities had been put on his shoulders at a tender age and this had led him to quit studies (which he was good at) and take up a job. His ambition to pursue a good career was left unfulfilled and there was a silent, lasting grief about the same.

On the physical front, following features were noted:

- Normal appetite; mixed (vegetarian + non-vegetarian) diet
- Marked desire for sweets
- Also desired salty things, milk, cereals
- Desire for food to be very hot
- Poor thirst

On examination findings:

Wt: 70 kg

Blood pressure: 140/ 80 mm of Hg

R.S: NAD

C.V.S: NAD

Warts on the face+

The following Rubrics were selected for Repertorisation:

- Responsibility: Strong
- Injustice, cannot support
- Sympathetic, compassionate
- Weeping, tendency
- Grief: Silent
- Fearlessness
- Desires Sweets
- Desires Hot food
- Thirstlessness
- Swallowing: Difficult: Solids: Agg
- Face: Warts

The Repertorisation of the case has been charted below:

Homopath Classic 8.0 - [Repertorisation]

Repertorisation

Reg. No. : Visit Date :

Repertorisation: Normal

Remedy Name	Lyc	Nat-m	Iga	Puls	Calc	Sep	Caust	Kali-c	Nit-ac	Nux-v	Phos	Staph	Arg-n	Apis
Totality	16	16	14	13	12	12	11	11	11	10	10	10	10	9
Symptom Covered	9	9	7	7	7	7	6	6	6	7	6	6	5	4
[C] [Mind]Responsibility: Strong:	1	1	1	1	2			1						
[C] [Mind]Injustice, cannot support:		1	1		1	1	1			1	1	1		
[C] [Mind]Sympathetic, compassionate:	1	2	2	1	1	1	2		2	2	3		1	
[C] [Mind]Weeping, tearful mood:Tendency:	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	3
[C] [Mind]Grief:Silent:	1	4	3	2						1				1
[C] [Mind]Fearlessness:			3											
[C] [Generalities]Food and drinks:Sweets:Desires:	3	1		2	2	2		2	2	1	2	3	3	
[C] [Generalities]Food and drinks:Hot food:Desire:	3													
[C] [Stomach]Thirstlessness:	2	1	1	3	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	3
[C] [Throat]Swallowing:Difficult, Solids:Agg:	1	2		1		1	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	2
[C] [Face]Warts:	1	1			2	2	3	2	2			1		

Symptoms 11 Remedies 428

As it can be seen above, the remedies ranking highest and covering most of the symptoms are Lycopodium and Natrum Mur. However, keeping in mind the overall history and evolution of patient, desire to take responsibilities and strong will power with clarity of mind, Lycopodium emerged as the Similimum.

The patient was prescribed Lycopodium 0/2 (14 powders- 7/ week) for his complaints on 22/09/2001.

On 6/10/2001, he reported that difficulty in swallowing was better than before. Sleep had improved in quality though the sleeping hours were lesser than before. There was congestion of throat and salivation ++ on examination. The same dosage was continued.

Another 2 weeks later, on 22/10/2001, the patient mentioned that he could now eat Khichadi (a form of rice preparation, which is very soft). Lycopodium 0/2 (14 powders- 7/ week) was prescribed.

7/11/2001:

In the patient's words: "I am feeling 50% better. I can have solid food now and face some difficulty only when swallowing Roti (pancake type bread)."

13/12/2001: Patient started feeling much better in general and started taking his regular meals.

The medication was continued later based on the feedbacks given by him over telephone. He continued to do well.

On 21/6/2002, his Endoscopy was repeated at the same Tata Memorial Hospital in Mumbai and the report was normal this time. The patient could now eat and drink anything without any difficulty. His treatment was discontinued after some time and he was asked to report to us in case any complaints occurred anytime in future.

Summary of Reports:

Before treatment:

The Histopathology report from the biopsy of the Esophagus:

Micro Sections show fibrous tissue infiltration by a tumor by lobules and clusters of malignant epithelial cells having pleomorphic hypochromic nuclei exhibiting increased mitosis. Keratinization not present, secondary chronic inflammation is present. Poorly differentiated Squamous Cell Carcinoma.

Upper G.I. Endoscopy: An ulcerated lesion in the upper third of the esophagus with a stricture formation.

After treatment:

Upper G.I. Endoscopy: Normal

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Some important points to learn from this case:

- The significance of prescribing Constitutional medicine: In cases where characteristic symptoms are present, only these should form the basis of the prescription. As seen above, the case presented with striking characteristic symptoms, based on which Lycopodium was chosen.
- Locally acting medicines are generally not required if the Constitutional medicine is well chosen.
- Use of LM potencies: In cases of advanced pathology (such as Cancer), LM potencies can be used in order to minimize the aggravation.
- Understanding the scope of Homeopathic treatment: We may not claim to cure every case of Cancer but it does good to believe that the scope of Homeopathy is good as far as 'palliation of the symptoms' and 'controlling the progress' is concerned.
- Improving the quality of life of the sufferer is another aspect that must be kept in mind during the course of treatment of patients suffering from Cancer (as well as other diseases).

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