

MUMPS

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Mumps is one of the commonest of the acute infectious diseases that a Homœopath is asked to treat. It sometimes break out in epidemic form. It is more common in childhood than amongst adult but is apt to cause more distress to grown-up people when they do get it.

The usual fever symptoms are present, raised temperature up to 100° or higher, being the rule. The most characteristic symptoms however is the swelling of the gland of the neck under ear and perhaps under the chin. The swelling and soreness begins on one side and if not properly treated, after few days spread to the other side of the face as well. The worst points of tenderness are about the ear and under the edge of jaw. The swelling may be immense and there may be a great deal of pain. Sometime the patient may become delirious and in rare cases fall into comatose state.

The patient must of course be put to bed and usual precaution should be taken against the spread of this infectious disease. Fluid diet as barley water should be allowed. The mouth should be rinsed at interval with warm water. For outer application some paint Tincture Iodine, others apply Belladonna plaster. But most Homœopaths rely upon internal administration of medicines. Soft cloth may be wrapped up covering the Mumps. It gives some relief to the patient.

For internal administration specially of intractable Mumps which are seldom encountered if treatment is begun early—there are as many as three dozen of medicines listed in Repertories. The following are important medicines given in italics often found in successful prescriptions.

Aco., *Bar. c.*, *Bell.*, *Brom.*, *Ferr. Phos.*, *Kali Bic.*, *Merc. Cor.*, *Merc. Sol.*, *Phyt.*, *Puls.*, *Rhus Tox.*, *Sil.*, *Pilo.*, *Parotidinum.*

The indications of these remedies are given below in brief:
ACONITE—Very useful at the beginning in acute stage of

chill, rapid swelling of the neck gland. It often shorten the course of the disease. •

BELL.—Extensive swelling particularly of the right side with throbbing headache, red face and darting flying pain, paroxysms extending to the ear. If the throat is very sore and swelling difficult, Belladonna will be found extremely useful. Dr. Clarke suggests its use for Mania coming on after mumps.

MERC. COR.—Red, swollen, and intensely painful. Sharp pain to ears, worse slight external pressure. Dr. Clarke suggests its use after Aconite when fever has subsided.

MERC. SOL.—Dr. Dewey says "This is one of the best remedies in Mumps as it has a specific-action on salivary gland." There is slight fever and is often useful in later stage of the disease. There is much tenderness of the neck gland, offensive breath and threatening suppuration.—Mary Gray.

RHUS TOX.—Left side of the face is more likely to be affected with a tendency for the cheek to be inflamed much aching of the limbs—Mary Gray.

PULS.—If the testicles become affected.

Though Pilocarpine is not given as oft-indicated remedy in some repertory, Dr. Dorothy Shepherd writes "The best treatment I know for it homœopathically is a remedy highly praised by Dr. Burnett, this is *Pilocarpine* which, given in the 6th dilution, two or three times daily reduces the temperature in twenty-four to thirty-six hours and diminishes the swelling of the parotid gland in forty-eight to seventy-two hours, so that before the week is out, the parotid gland is normal again. Pilocarpine is almost a specific for Mumps and acts as an organ remedy on the parotid and sweat glands" Dr. Clarke also includes it amongst the few remedies he prescribes for Mumps. Those of us who used it have high opinion of this remedy.

There is a nosode from Mumps known as *Parotidinum*. It is also of great help in Mumps. It is used by itself or alternated with other indicated remedies. Dr. H. C. Allen writes in his book on nosode "In the disease itself it (*Parotidinum*) may be given every four hours, either by itself or alternated with other indicated remedies." Dr. Clarke also writes "Paroti-

dinum may also be given as remedy every two or three hours when the disease is declared either alone or in alteration with other remedies".

Although simple Mumps is not dangerous disease, there are several metastasis which may be dangerous. Metastasis (a change in the seat of disease) to testes (in males the testicles sometimes become inflamed which is known as orchitis) requires *Aur.*, *Clem.*, *Han.*, *Puls.*, *Rhus Tox.* Metastasis to brain (mania coming after Mumps) require *Bell.*, *Apis.*

Eye, ear complication are fortunately rare with Mumps but they do occur sometimes and incurable deafness is not very uncommon. Inflammation of the kidney (nephritis) may also arise after Mumps. They may be faced with indicated remedies.

Persistent Mumps in a patient will require *Bary. Ac.*, *Bary. C.* and *Silicea.*

Mumps is very infectious and the danger of infection is not over for a fortnight to three weeks after symptoms appears and then the incubation period is also up to three weeks, so no household that had a case of Mumps is safe from it until nearly six weeks have elapsed. As it is extremely difficult to get people specially children to remain in isolation for that length of time, it is absolutely necessary to prescribe a prophylactic—"Parotidinum" which in the words of Dr. Allen "has been used as a prophylactic against infection by Mumps. In this instance it is generally given in 6th or 30th two or three times a day to those exposed to infection". Dr. Clarke also recommends it as preventive.

Dr. Boericke in his *Materia Medica*, page 652, below "*Trifolium Pratense*" mentions *Trifolium Repens* as prophylactic against Mumps. It has not been much used as preventive. But those who used it as such has nothing to say against it. But like all other Homœopathic preventives it has to be tested extensively.