

## DRUG PROVING - DOSAGE

Anil Khurana\*

### Introduction

The more the materiality of a drug is reduced by process of dilution or trituration, the greater the pharmacological quality or the specific therapeutic quality lying hitherto dormant in the drug seemed to be unveiled or liberated for effective action. This idea is the seed of theory of dynamisation.

### Sources of Homoeopathic Drugs

Mineral Kingdom	Gold, Silver, Lead, Aluminium, Copper and their salts etc.
Vegetable Kingdom	Aconite, Belladonna, Lycopodium etc.
Animal Kingdom	Apis mellifica, Lachesis, Tarentula cubensis etc.
Nosodes	Derived from diseased products and causative organisms like Tuberculinum, Medorrhinum, Syphilinum, Influenzinum etc.
Sarcodes	Prepared from healthy animal tissues and secretion like - Thyroidinum, Adrenaline, Cholesterinum etc.
Imponderabilia	Magnets, Electricity, Radium, X-ray etc.

Drugs act on human beings differently in different doses. When the crude drug is used, it produces a *chemical reaction*, like the action of bichloride of mercury or arsenic uniting chemically with tissues.

We may observe *mechanical action* which causes the symptoms to eject the drug before it is observed, as it is with large dose of Ipecac and many other drugs.

Research Assistant, Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy.

Then there is the *dynamic action* of drugs which manifests itself through the vitality producing peculiar reaction of the drug according to susceptibility of individuals. It is this dynamic action that gives the homoeopathic prescriber the better knowledge of the remedy; therefore the symptoms produced through the dynamic reaction are the valuable part of the provings. These are always produced by the minute doses.

### Types of Dynamic reactions\*\*

(In moderately large doses)

*Generic type* - Arsenicum, Cuprum, Veratrum produce diarrhoea (Primary action)

*Specific Dynamic type* - Differentiates (Secondary action)  
Arsenic from Cuprum from Veratrum

*Central* - confined to alimentary canal, and organs immediately connected to it, appears quickly - due to large doses.

*Peripheral* - Appear slowly (tardily) - due to small doses

e.g. a drug in 3x potency produces symptoms related to mostly the disturbance of alimentary canal but in 30th potency produces symptoms of bones, the skin, glands and thermic reactions. This is the level at which dyscrasia and cachexias are revealed.

### Determination of Dosages

Determination of the dosage depends on the nature of the drug to be proved. However, there are certain considerations which are sufficiently suitable for guiding rules. These are:

1. Any drug which in its natural state affects the vital energy but little will develop a proving only in high

\*\* (Adapted from Dunham's Lectures on Homoeopathy -the Science of Therapeutics)

potency (From an apparently inert substance, such as *Lycopodium*, *Carbo veg.* or *Graphites*)

2. Any drug which in its natural state disturbs the vital energy to functional manifestations only may be proved in a crude form. (Drugs having a very strong action upon the human economy in their natural state such as *Lobelia*, *Ipecac*, *Cicuta* or *Tabacum*.)
3. Any drug which in its natural state disturbs the vital energy to destructive manifestations should be proved only in a potentized form, such as *Mercurius* group which are actively poisonous in the crude form can be proved only in high potencies.
4. Strong medicines are liable even in small doses to produce changes in the health even in robust persons.
5. Those of milder power must be given in more considerable quantities.
6. In order to observe the action of the very weakest medicines, the subjects of experiment should be healthy persons who are delicate, irritable and sensitive.

#### **Disadvantages of employing large doses of medicines in proving, can be**

1. A danger of poisoning to the prover and threatening his life.
2. Appearance of primary effects in hurried confusion and with such violence that nothing can be accurately observed.
3. Appearance of secondary effects and their getting mixed up with primary effects.

In other words, we determine the plane of the drug we wish to use by considering the object we desire to attain. The object of the proving is to produce the characteristics of the drug as they manifest in diseased states.

Comparatively inert substances will produce no symptoms; at best a very few symptoms of low value in the crude state and these are not characteristic of the drug; either no symptoms are produced, or if per chance

a few symptoms are produced they are not strikingly peculiar of the drug. The inert substances are expelled from the body before they reach the dynamis of the system, the vital energy.

In the provings of active or corrosive poisons in low or crude state the same thing is true: they are valueless because the grosser irritating symptoms are the result of mechanical disturbance and the few strikingly characteristic symptoms of the drug are never observed. The corrosive are expelled very quickly in the crude state because of the violence of the action, and so do not influence the vital energy to produce characteristic symptoms, therefore the symptoms that are produced are of little value because they are common to all corrosive poisons.

Susceptibility of the patient or prover must be taken into consideration, this regulates and gives us direction as to the quantity of the drug to be taken. The greater the susceptibility less the quantity required to react upon the vital force; for if the organism is overwhelmed. Suddenly at first we may get only generic symptoms and so fail to obtain the characteristic symptoms and thus fail in our object. On the other hand if he is only moderately susceptible we may obtain valuable results from large doses. Our standard should be to use the dose and quantity that will thoroughly permeate the organism and make its essential impression upon the vital force and thus affect the functional sphere of his body.

This is best accomplished when a gradual impression is made, rather than a sudden onslaught as this we would bring into alarming picture because of violent functional disturbances; which certainly defeat our object. So when the first dose is followed with no marked symptoms; a second dose may be given, and then a period of waiting until some symptoms appear. If after the interval of waiting there is no appearance of symptoms another dose may be given. By this gradual introduction of the drug the system becomes pervaded by its action and tolerates it and responds to its specific impression and we obtain its characteristics.

#### **Precautions**

- a) During the whole period of the experiment the diet of the prover must be strictly regulated - it should be as much possible destitute of spices, of roots and all

- salads and soups. The diet should be of a purely nutritious and simple character, consisting of green vegetables.
- b) The prover must either be not in the habit of taking pure wine, brandy, coffee or tea, or he must have totally abstained from the use of these injurious beverages for a considerable time, some of which are stimulating and others medicinal.
  - c) The prover must be pre-eminently trustworthy and conscientious.
  - d) During the whole period of proving he must avoid over-exertion of mind and body, all sorts of dissipation and disturbing passions.
  - e) He should have no urgent business to distract his attention.
  - f) He must be very self-observing and introspective.
  - g) He must possess a sufficient amount of intelligence to be able to express and describe his sensations in accurate terms.
  - h) The medicines must be tested on both males and females in order to ascertain especially the changes in the sexual sphere.

**References**

1. C. Dunham - Lectures on Theory & Practice of Homoeopathy.
2. Hahnemann's Organon of Medicine, 6th Edition.

---

"In proving medicines to ascertain their effects on the healthy body, it must be borne in mind that the strong, heroic substances, as they are termed, are liable even in small doses to produce changes in the health even of robust persons. Those of milder power must be given for these experiments in more considerable quantities; in order to observe the action of the very weakest, however, the subjects of experiment should be persons free from disease, and who are delicate, irritable and sensitive."

*Organon of Medicine - Aphorism 121*  
*Samuel Hahnemann*

---