

## A STUDY OF LESSER KNOWN DRUG ANTHRAKOKALI

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### ABSTRACT

The present study was undertaken with an objective to verify the symptoms available in the literature, to complete the drug picture and to explore the full potential of a lesser known partially proved drug – Anthrakokali. The study converse 1704 patients registered during the period from April-1985 to March 1999 of which 944 were male and 760 female. One thousand nineteen patient (59%) improved, 281 (16.49%) shown no improvement while 404 (23.4%) did not report. Trial was conducted in 6C and 30C potency and both have been found equally effective in acute as well as chronic affection. Although drug has shown its action in all the affections but it has special affinity to skin manifestations and has emerged as an antipsoric drug. Study confirms that the symptoms available in the literature are reliable indication of drug a number of new symptoms have also been observed during trial which have been mentioned as additional symptoms.

### INTRODUCTION

Homeopathic prescription is made by matching the symptoms of patients to the symptoms of drug. A symptom is said to be complete when it has location, sensation, modalities and concomitants. There are number of lesser known partially proved drugs mentioned in Homeopathic literature but the available symptomatology are so scanty, fragmentary and incomplete that at times, it becomes very difficult to draw clear picture of the drug and consequently to match with

symptoms of diseased person. Council has undertaken Clinical Verification Programme with an objective to verify the available symptoms and to complete the symptoms to its whole extent also to observe the other symptoms and to which are found to be relieved by drug during trial.

The study of the drug 'Anthrakokali' has been undertaken in the light of above aims and objects. The drug was discovered by Joseph Polia in 1935. It was prepared by dissolving Anthracitecoal in boiling Caustic Potash and was proved on many people but in superficial way.

### MATERIAL AND METHOD

The trial was concluded on the patients of all age group of both sexes attending O.P.D. of this Unit. The drug Anthrakokali was procured from M/s. Economic Homoeo Pharmacy in sealed bottles in potentised form. A thorough case history was recovered in respect of individual patient. The prescription was made by matching the symptoms of a patient with the symptoms of the drug available in the literature. As the drug is not fully proved, only the basis of group of symptoms or at times on few symptoms it was prescribed. Drug was administered in 6<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> potencies twice/thrice daily for a period of 3-7 days according to individual cases under study. With relief of symptoms drug was withdrawn and the patients were kept on placebo. Cases reporting with no relief or any change, the drug was repeated in the same manner.

## RESULT

The trial was conducted on total of 1704 patients registered during the period from April 1985 to March 1999 of which 944 were male and 760 female. One thousand nineteen patient (59%)

improved, 281, (16.49%) shown no improvement while 404 (23.4%) did not report.

It was found to be effective in acute as well as chronic skin manifestations and improvement in respect of individual symptoms is shown is as follows:

Prescribing symptoms (Additional symptoms are mentioned in bracket)	Source*	No. of patient prescribed	No. of patients relieved
Small popular reddish eruption on Whole body with itching < night	01,02,04,09	483	377
Itching < night	01,02,09	479	393
Itching < night (>by cold application)	01,02,09	26	22
Itching < sweat (<Hot weather)	02,09	1	1
Scratching followed by burning	09	88	77
(Pus or blood like discharge on scratching)		32	27
Itching < night, warmth of bed, perspiration	01,02,09	22	22
Small redish eruption over body with itching < warmth of bed, > Scratching followed by burning	01,02,09	19	16
Vesicular eruption over body (with oozing of watery discharge)	04	343	275
Vesicular eruption with itching < at night	01,04,09	29	20
Vesicular eruption with itching (< summer)	01,04,09	161	134
Pustular eruptions with itching < night	01	8	7
Eruption oozing watery discharge on scratching	04	5	5
Blackish eczematous eruption with itching < night	01,02,09	5	5
(Ringworm like eruptions on face, wrist and other parts of body)		4	4
(Ringworm on hip and groin with vesicular eruption and itching < night		2	2
Small popular eruptions on groin and private parts	04	208	168
Boils with tenderness	04	21	21
Boils-small, bloody	04	12	12
Red vesicular eruptions all over body	04	103	101
Small red pustular eruptions over Whole body with itching < night	01	20	16

<b>Prescribing symptoms (Additional symptoms are mentioned in bracket)</b>	<b>Source*</b>	<b>No. of patient prescribed</b>	<b>No. of patients relieved</b>
(Coppery eruption on both legs with itching < at night, warmth)		43	30
Red pimple eruptions on whole body < winter	09	96	81
Itching with burning < night	01,02,03,09	69	52
(Cough dry and spasmodic)		102	89
Stool-loose, 2-3 times a day, semisolid	01,02,03	7	3
Flatulence with heaviness of abdomen	01,02,03	29	18
Constipation- (Stool dry, hard, and scanty)	03	59	48
Constipation-alternate with diarrhea	03	3	3
Urine scanty with burning	01,02,03	22	18
(Frontal head ache)		40	40
(Pain extremities < night)		60	56
(Hoarseness of voice)		12	10
(Leucorrhoea thick white discharge)		11	11
(Acidity with heartburn)		13	13
(Weakness)		13	13
(Vertigo)		7	7
Thirst increased, desire for cold water	02,04	20	17
Severe itching < warmth of bed, perspiration	02	22	22
(Easily susceptible to cold)		2	2
(Running nose-thin watery nasal discharge)		4	4
(Desire for warm food and salt)		45	43
Anorexia	01,02,03	22	20
Sore throat	02,03	9	9
(Bleeding piles)		5	5

**\* Source of Literature of these drugs**

1. Clarke's Material Medical
2. Herring's Guiding Symptom
3. Allen's Encyclopedia
4. Boericke's Materia Medical
5. CCRH Quarterly Bulletin Vol. 9 (1&2) 1987

The drug was administered in 6C and 30C potency according to the magnitude of the symptoms and has been found effective in both the potencies.

### DISCUSSION

The drug prescribed on the basis of symptoms mentioned in the literature has relieved the patients, removed the majority of symptoms and alleviated the suffering, thus confirming that the symptoms available in literature are the most reliable indications of the drug. Besides prescribing symptoms, the additional symptoms exhibited by the individual patient were also relieved. These additional symptoms are either entirely new symptoms or a part of prescribing symptoms with regard to location sensation, modalities and concomitants.

As the miasmas are the root cause of all the dynamic disease, from analysis of symptoms, it is quite obvious that drug covers all the three basic miasma and Psora. Psora in particular has been found predominant.

Table showing Miasmatic Expression of Symptoms

Symptoms	Miasm
Small popular reddish eruption on whole body with Itching < night	Psora
Itching < night	Psora
Itching < night (> by cold application)	Psora
Itching < sweat (< Hot weather)	Psora
Scratching followed by burning	Psora
(Pus or blood like discharge on scratching)	Psora
Itching < night, warmth of bed, perspiration	Psora
Small redish eruption over body with itching < warmth of bed, > scratching followed by burning	Psora
Vesicular eruption over body (with	

Symptoms	Miasm
oozing of watery discharge)	Psora
Vesicular eruption with itching < at night	Psora
Vesicular eruption with itching (< summer)	Psora
Pustular eruptions with itching < night	Psora
Eruption oozing watery discharge on scratching	Psora
Blackish eczematous eruption with Itching < night	Psora
(Ringworm like eruptions on face, wrist and other parts of body)	Sycosis
(Ringworm on hip and groin with vesiculareruptions and Itching < night)	Sycosis
Small papular eruptions on groin and private parts	Psora
Boils with tenderness	Psora
Boils-small, bloody	Psora
Red vesicular eruptions all over body	Psora
Small red pustular eruptions over whqle body with itching < night	Psora
(Coppery eruption on both legs with itching < at night, warmth)	Syphilis
Red pimpler eruptions on whole body < winter	Psora
Itching with burning < night	Psora
(Cough dry and spasmodic)	Psora
Stool-loose, 2-3 times a day, semisolid	Psora
Flatulence with heaviness of abdomen	Psora
Constipation- (Stool dry, hard, and scanty)	Psora
Constipation—alternate with diarrhoea	Psora
Urine scanty with burning	Sycosis
(Frontal head ache)	Psora
(Pain extremities < night)	Syphilis
(Hoarseness of voice)	Pseudo psora
(Leucorrhoea thick white discharge)	Psora

Symptoms	Miasm
(Acidity with heartburn)	Psora
(Weakness)	Psora
(Vertigo)	Psora
Thirst increased, desire for cold water	Psora, Syphilis
Severe itching < warmth of bed, perspiration	Psora
(Easily susceptible to cold)	Psora
(Running nose-thin watery nasal discharge)	Psora
(Desire for warm food and salt)	Sycosis, Psora
Anorexia	Psora
Sore throat	Psora
(Bleeding piles)	Sycosis

The old school at Vienna Hospital studied this drug in 1841 on 800 patient suffering from tatter without remarkable result but the present study reveals effectiveness of the drug in general and skin manifestations in particular, on large number of cases.

It is worth mentioning that the drug picture of Anthrakokali has resemblance with polychrest drug "Sulphur" in symptoms like itching < at night, warmth of bed and scratching followed by burning. It has also been observed that when Sulphur is administered to the patients having skin ailments, often brings out severe aggravation which causes great amount of suffering to ailing

individual, while the administration of anthrakokali in similar conditions often followed by relief of the symptoms with no visible aggravation or aggravation of very mild nature. This helps in the prescribing of this drug more safely. Further more, the relapse of the symptoms is follow up cases had not been reported.

### CONCLUSION

The objective of the study is achieved as regard the prescribing symptoms, completion of the symptoms in the whole extent, observance of new symptoms thereby completing the drug picture. The drug emerged as an antipsoric drug, immensely effective in both acute as well as chronic skin affections.

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