

MAGNESIUM: A CLINICAL SYMPTOM FOR VERIFICATION

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A clear case of *Magnesia mur.* had a strong craving for salt, which disappeared within one month of the administration of the remedy. This was accompanied by an overall improvement in the complaints for which *Magnesia mur.* had been given.

The Repertories as well as the source books of Homoeopathic Materia Medica do not list this symptom in the pathogenesis of *Magnesia mur.* I therefore suggest this symptom as a clinical symptom to be verified by the profession.

Similar experiences are solicited.

Case Report

A girl aged two years, was brought in for consultation on 29.9.78; the following symptoms were recorded:

(a) frequent attacks of acute tonsillitis with fever of about $102^{\circ} < 10-12$ midnight < 4 a.m.

(b) Severe constipation, with no urge for stool; the stool was hard and ball-like.

She had urinary infection in 1977. Complained of crying before urination. There was a slight swelling below her eyes. Urine examination confirmed it to be a chronic urinary infection, as it showed 12-15 pus cells/HPF.

The child was lean, tall, intelligent, asocial, unusually obstinate for her age, and given to weeping.

She craved for *sweets, salt*, fruit and fish, and detested meat.

She was a *hot* subject. She used to get fever of $102^{\circ}-103^{\circ}$ during dentition.

DISCUSSION

In this case, *Lycopodium* and *Magnesia mur.* came up for differentiation. The *obstinacy*, so marked as to be a *fixity*, the constipation with no urge, and hard, ball-like stool, the craving for *sweets*, aversion to meat, and the night aggravation pointed clearly to *Magnesia mur.* as the constitutional remedy. The craving for salt was ignored as an accidental symptom.

Date	Observation	Interpretation	Action
29.9.78	Cold+tongue creamish coating posteriorly	Acute respiratory phase	Merc. c.f. 30, BD, 3 days
2.10.78	Cold >	Acute phase over	Mag. mur. 200 (1) Placebo
6.10.78	Bowels > straining?	Remedy acting; intercurrent to facilitate action	Tub. bov. 1M (1) Placebo

Date	Observation	Interpretation	Action
10.10.78	> ³ Appetite > Straining > freely passing urine every 4 hours	>	Placebo
18.10.78	Urine not passing freely, 2 days	Block	B. coli 200 (1)
19.10.78	Fever 18th: 101° 19th: 100°	Acute urinary phase	Pulsatilla 30 4 hourly
23.10.78	No fever; bowels not moving	Chronic phase	Mag. mur. 200 3 P HS
27.10.78	Bowels > 24th, 25th 26th, but 27th = 0; straining +; yesterday asked for salt at table, but did not eat it. Weight up by 2 lbs.	Action stops when remedy omitted. Repetition reqd.	Mag. mur. 200 7 P HS
30.10.78	Cold 2 days; fever last night	Acute respiratory phase	Merc. i.f. 30 4 hourly
3.11.78	Cold > bowels > but hard	Chronic phase	Mag. mur. 200 7 P HS
10.11.78	> ³ straining > irritability > appetite > no craving for salt	Overall improvement; intercurrent remedy to maintain the improvement	Tub. bov. 1M (2) Placebo

Patient reports periodically and is maintaining the improvement.