

## MONOGRAPH ON CARBO VEG.

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The first time I came across the Carbo veg. action was when dissecting a World War I gas mask as a little boy. There was a charcoal filter built in as an absorbent, in order to neutralize poisonous gases.

For industrial purposes, as well as for medical therapeutics the charcoal from plants such as tea leaves was well known and widely used.

In between the molecules of the carbon are interspaces geared to readily absorb and detoxify acids, proteins and alkaloids. The use of charcoal is as old as diarrhoea in men.

But how does Carbo work in high potency above D 24, when there is no more material substance within interspaces, but only biological energy and dynamism?

The general defense mechanism of the body is set in motion by Carbo, possibly via the reticulo-endothelial system, whose detoxification action, like in the liver, and the storage qualities of this system are enhanced.

In homoeopathic treatment we give Carbo veg. when residual intoxication is present, or chronic toxic conditions persist. That means, most follow-up treatment after severe diseases calls for Carbo veg. In the recent flu epidemic I couldn't have been without Carbo, and I heard patients say it worked like a miracle drug. But not only flu sequelae are an indication for Carbo, but also asthma, emphysema, chronic ulcers, as for instance *ulcera cruris*, C V A, rheumatic heart disease and many more.

However, a collapse condition with shortness of breath, small pulse and air hunger needs Carbo quickly, which in this case not only stimulates detoxification but also is a vehicle for oxygen. The desire for cool air, the cyanosis, are leading symptoms. I know one pharmaceutical homoeopathic company in Germany, which combines Carbo and Veratrum as circulatory booster for shock in traffic accidents. But who would dare to give such a concoction in a case of car accident shock here? Unfortunately we give Demerol or morphine for combating pain, thus lowering the blood pressure even further down. The quickest way is to give glucose, plasma or blood intravenously, a method Hahnemann could not have known.

Carbo should be given from 30x up. I have never seen any results coming from Carbo 3x or 6x for collapse or detoxification.

A field where Carbo might work in low potencies would be gastritis, hyperacidity and gas trouble. An indication is hoarseness, when it comes as a fatigue syndrome of the larynx in the evening after exposure to damp weather. As you well know, the voiceless waking in the morning with bronchitis is cured by Causticum, naturally it takes 2 to 3 days to clear it.

Carbo has a place in the treatment of asthma. The exhausted oldster stooped forward, clasping both arms on the side of his chair, is helped with Arsenicum alb.; painful pleuritic involvement needs Bryonia. But to start with, one can differentiate between Sulfur, Psorinum in allergic patients, and Carbo to clear old leftovers, such as chronic nephritis, ulcers, etc.

In asthmatics with bronchial casts of thick phlegm and exhausted fatigue, a trial with Carbo might help.

The chilliness of the patient is another leading symptom, although he wants cold air to breathe and to feel. The acrocyanosis and cold feeling on knees and elbows wakes him up out of his sleep.

The Carbo case surely should not overload his already poisoned system with further toxins, such as tobacco and alcohol. These civilization poisons give him dyspepsia, haemorrhoids, aphthae, and so forth, and may be cured with Carbo 30 or 200. If the patient is chronically debilitated with all the above mentioned symptoms, then eventually a couple of doses of China may be interjected as an alternate remedy.

Meteorism is mainly in the upper abdomen in the Carbo veg. picture, also contributing to the so-called gastrocardial symptom complex of Roenild causing extrasystole following heavy meals.

Carbo veg. is a remedy to use to start the treatment for food poisoning, especially if the patient is nauseous as soon as he tries to sit up in bed, the morning after.

Summarizing Carbo veg.:

- (1) A chilly remedy, damp skin, cold breath and extremities.
- (2) A remedy for collapse in severe illnesses, C V A, typhus, myocarditis, heart palpitations, requesting: "Open the windows, please."
- (3) Pulmonary edema
  - (a) with ventricular failure
  - (b) due to asthma
  - (c) due to chronic nephritis.
- (4) Hyperacid gastritis, low potency, tympanic abdomen.
- (5) Stomatitis aphthosa and gingivitis.
- (6) Chronic venous congestions and capillary cyanosis, such as:
  - (a) hemorrhoids, when they are chronic, thrombosed and oozing.
  - (b) ulcera cruris (where there is also Calc. carb. to be used).

The pain is always burning. The secretions smell bad. The bleeding is congestive.

Stools: tenesmus, diarrhoea, anal burning.

Periods: too early, too much, odorous, painful to start.

The condition gets worse toward evenings, after fatty food, in damp, warm climate.

The condition gets better by fresh air from outside, and by eructations.

Mind: disinterested because of cerebral hypoxia.

Cough: when going from warm to cold room (Bryonia if on entering warm room).

The headaches are postprandial and occipital. The entire head feels extended.

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