

VISCUM ALBUM*

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Viscum Album is a half parasite which grows on host trees. The types of Iscador preparations are classified in relation to the:-

- i) Host tree
- ii) Location of the tumour
- iii) Sex of the patient suffering from the tumour e.g. "Viscum Mali" is for females and "Viscum Quercus" is for males.

The ASH ANALYSIS of the mistle-toe has revealed that it has the following elements, particularly potassium. It also contains Calcium, Silicea, Magnesium and Phosphorus and these all are prominent Cancer remedies in Homoeopathy. It also contains rare elements, i.e. Nickle and Manganese.

Rudolph Steiner has observed correlation between metals, organs as well as planets e.g. planet Mercury is related to metal mercury and the intestines and glands.

Ash analysis of the mistletoe, differs, depending upon the host tree. In Ash analysis of the mistletoe which grows on Oak tree, content of magnesium will be more or less, than in mistletoe which grows on any other tree. Different moon phases are also taken into consideration. The whole idea is, the man is a microcosm of the great macrocosm and man is the miniature copy of the whole universe, therefore, whatever forces are contained in the universe are also contained in man. The planets Mercury, Venus and Moon have an effect on the mistletoe plant.

The "Viscum Mali" has the highest content of Potassium. "Viscum Ulmi" has the highest content of Calcium.

Evolution of mistletoe differs in summer and winter months. When the rest of the plant kingdom sleeps, the mistletoe is awake. Its leaves are evergreen and they contain light within themselves.

Doctrine of analogy says that mistletoe grows in all directions like a tumour. Mistletoe leaves has two surfaces-upper and lower. The berries ripen in November-December. There is harmonious symmetrical

growth of a pair of leaves at the end of stem and its both surfaces cannot be differentiated like carcinoma.

There is asymmetrical and hazard, disharmonious, chaotic growth. The leaves do not metamorphose but they retain their cotyledon form and remain on the bush for 3-4 years. So there is a continuous growth of the plant, a sort of an everlasting life. Mistletoe can grow even in darkness. In the life cycle of the mistletoe, there is a certain bird known as MISTLETHRUSH which distributes mistletoe. They eat the berries in January-March which remain for 8-10 min. in the intestines of birds and the last part of it is dropped out from the droppings. Berries have got viscus green sticky covering. These birds swallow the outer layer but wipe the sticky mass of pectin from their peaks by rubbing them against the branch of the tree and then further evolution takes place.

The mistletoe contains the following ingredients:-

1. *Polysaccharides* especially Galactose and Glucose; these have an action on neutrophils.
2. *Viscum acid*—It has tumour-inhibitory polysaccharides.
3. *Protein fraction*—Three varieties of proteins are present which has a tumour-inhibitory action. It consists of three amino acids in specific configuration, and important amino acids are proline and argenin which are not found in other plants.
4. *Toxomelin*—It also has tumour-inhibitory action.
5. *Phytotoxin*—It has antigenic properties.
6. *Cancerostatic specific protein complex*.
7. *Bacteria*—lactobacilli.
8. *Benzoic Acid and Cinnemic acid*.
9. *Lectins*—They are hydrophil antibodies found in the mistletoe extract with specific affinity to tumour cells. Under the electron-microscope it has been possible to observe labelled lectin agglutinating and destroying cells in blood samples. Lectines are of three types; total lectin acts better than isolated lectin.
10. *Anti-BVA Substance* is a spectrum of hydrophil

*Paper presented at the Workshop on Cancer on 18th July, 1987, organised by Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy.

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antibody-like substance which agglutinates specific blood samples of B group and part of A and O groups. It acts antigenically. It killed all tumour cells within 30 min. whereas 20% Ascitic cells still persisted in mice.

11. *Aconite* a poisonous substance and it is yet to be found out whether this substance kills the tumour cells or is bound to agglutinin.

Wester had identified three fractions of proteins from mistletoe:-

- i) Tumour activity on cell cultures, in vitro, by a fraction of *Viscum* protein.
- ii) Another fraction of *Viscum* protein which has a toxin action on experimenting animals.
- iii) Third fraction has specific tumour-inhibitory action and it contains the highest pattern of three amino acids which has got cancerostatic action.

Cytostatic activity of all these protein fractions has been found to be higher than other drugs used in treatment of Cancer.

Mode of Action of Iscador

It has been found that Iscador preparation stimulates an immune response at Cellular level while it is minimal at humoral level. It has been established that the stimulation of thymus growth in animals has increased and liver and spleen has been found to be enlarged. With the stimulation of thymus, there is dramatic increase in thymocytes with the hypertrophy of T-cells-dependent para-cortical zones in the lymph glands.

Iscador is both cytostatic and immuno-genic.

Experiments have been done in animals as well as in cell cultures and they have standardized the extract in terms of necrosis units. Extract of the mistletoe shows necrotizing actions only in high concentrations. It shows 50% higher activity than *Helleborus*. It produces necrosis in dilutions of 1:80,000 and also produces a destructive effect on carcinoma.

Mode of Administration: Normally Iscador is given peritumoural and not intra-tumoural.

Recently, Iscador has been used locally for malignant pleural and peritoneal effusions. After aspiration of fluid, take 10 cc of ascitic or pleural fluid, and add 1-2 ampoules of 5% Iscador Q in males and Iscador M in females. If lymph nodes metastasis is present, use Iscador M with mercury and if no metastasis but generative organs are involved, use Iscador M with *Argentum*. As a result of this treatment, aspiration of fluid is carried out less frequently. In a case of a Parsi lady who had suffered from carcinoma breast with metastasis, also developed pleural effusion; this vanished

after Iscador instillation into the pleural cavity.

For brain tumours, it should be used orally as it stimulates an inflammatory response and thus increases the intracranial pressure, unless the V-P Shunt is carried, when parenteral Iscador can be given.

Results of Different Experiments

- In treatment of 280 cases 67% were found to be influenced by Iscador and 14% were healed.
- In another experiment, tumour diminished in 51% and healed in 43% i.e. 94% tumours were influenced by this preparation.
- Experiment in Rabbits has shown inhibition of the formation of metastasis.
- Iscador showed in leukaemia 32% tumour inhibition.
- *Viscum album* was experimented by Muller in transplantation tumours and showed positive effects.

Reactions After Administration of Iscador

- There is an absolute increase in granulocytes series with a shift to the left.
- Slight lowering of the alkaline granulocyte phosphatase. Elevation of serum iron level and lowering of serum copper level.

These reactions are expression of regeneration and occur approx. in 24 hours and then swing back to original position.

Histopathological Findings Observed in Cells and of Animals Treated with Iscador

- i) Increase in the connective tissue.
- ii) Increase in the necrosis
- iii) Peripheral granulation tissue deposited around the nests of tumour cells.
- iv) Central necrosis in the tumour organised to the connective tissue and the budding capillaries.
- v) Infiltrating growth of the control tumours.
- vi) Increased lymphocytes in proportion to the quantity of Iscador.
- vii) Sharp demarcation like the bank of a river and encapsulation by the connective tissue.
- viii) Resolution of the growth and formation of multinucleated giant cells.
- ix) Marked hyperplasia of immune-competent organs. No toxic changes have been observed in the remaining organs.

Symptomatic clinical observation: There has been occasional regression of tumour. Recurrences have been reduced. Prolongation of life has been observed. Reduction in pain has also been observed. Stimulation of defence mechanism in general. Patient psychologically feels better and quality of life improves. Tumour growth

remains static. Inoperable tumours became more defined.

Under Iscador therapy there is an increased tolerance to Radiotherapy and Chemotherapy, as their side effects are reduced particularly a sudden fall in leucocyte count. Skin lesions are fewer than usual.

Another form of therapy is also used which is called Biofeedback technique. By this method patients' inner nature is observed and defence forces are stimulated. Psychotherapy is also given.

When patient has had radiation and chemotherapy, the mesenchymal reactivity is reduced and therefore response to Iscador is less. Pre and post-operatively, Iscador has been given to activate body's defence mechanism and to prevent secondary dissemination during surgery. In precancerous stage, Iscador gives good results and prevents formation of Cancer e.g. in Kraurosis Vulvae, Ulcerative Colitis, Peptic Ulcer, Chronic Fibrocystic Disease of the Breast, etc.

Reversal of course of the malignant tumour has been observed under Iscador, particularly in Cancer of rectum, bladder and vocal cord. In these cases regression occurs in certain stages. The malignant papilloma turns benign and then it becomes chronic cystitis (inflammatory response) and then back to normal; such reversal process does not occur in chemotherapy.

Bleeding can occur under Iscador treatment as tumour dissolves. In such condition, give homoeopathic drugs, like *Ficus religiosa*, and others as indicated.

A strange growth in the scar tissue of operation is also an exteriorization phenomena of Iscador.

Mistletoe has been used in folk medicine for the expulsion of the placenta. In a case of post-mature pregnancy, delivery took place within hours with Iscador. In two cases of carcinoma stomach, patient under Iscador gave a sensation as if a baby is quickening in womb (psuedocysis). Another case gave a sensation of as if a lump of ice were in abdomen.

Iscador can also be used in non-cancerous conditions,

e.g. in chronic diseases with depleted vitality, convalescence after acute illness, etc.

In cases of leukaemia extract of pineal gland is being used. From spiritual point of view, pineal gland is situated at the centre of the brain and is known as third Eye of Shiva. It is considered to be a seat of spiritual consciousness in man. It was highly developed in earlier human races. It has atrophied with development of the logical faculties. There were occasional reports in newspaper wherein China and Russia, boys could see tumour of liver. They also give Cobalt and Argentum in cases of leukaemias.

Strength and Dosage— Different strength of preparations are given. Usually dosages are given in serial form, from 4 to 3 to 2 to 2%, 3% and then 5% when given orally give 14 to 21 drops, increasing one drop daily, and then reducing it likewise.

Iscador is part of the total management of Cancer cases and other measures include diet regulation, positive thinking, psycho-therapy, physical exercises and so on.

Psychological environment is one of the important factors in the genesis of cancer.

The socio-cultural and philosophical-religious milieu in which a man is born, and the value systems inhibited in life determine the behaviour pattern. It also has an impact on his physiological and biological functions, as evidenced, by psycho-somatic medicines. Prolonged psychological tension and chronic worries often precedes the onset of tumours, as evidenced in the anamnesis of the patients, and in some study, the term *Cancer-Psyche* has been postulated. Philosophically, the roots of disease are in the minds of men.

Contraindications for Iscador

1. Avoid during pregnancy
2. Avoid during menses.
3. Avoid during very high temperature.

"No amount of experimentation can ever prove me right, a single experiment can prove me wrong".

Isaac Newton
