

A CASE OF BREAST ABSCESS CURED WITH STRAMONIUM

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After about twelve days of normal delivery, Mrs. S., a primipara, aged 25 years, noted some redness in the medial quadrant of the left breast, while nursing the baby. Along with that she got 104°F temperature with bodyaches and thirst. On examination, a lump was palpated in the medial quadrant of left breast with a little tenderness over it.

Belladonna, Bryonia etc. were taken without any relief. She was given allopathic treatment. Fever came down but redness remained the same.

She remained fever free for two days and got it again with the pattern of 101°F at 6 a.m., gradually increasing during the day, and by evening reaching up to 104°-105°F. Along with that the redness of breast also started increasing and covered the whole medial side of left breast. On palpation hard lump of the size of hen's egg was felt.

She didn't take any treatment for about ten days. But kept on emptying her breasts with breast pump after feeding the baby each time and also tried hot fomentations of various kinds like of neem leaves, mustard oil etc. without any relief. But the condition aggravated a lot and there was extensive cellulitis with enlargement of the left breast about three times the size of the other side. The colour was bright scarlet red and it was very hot to touch.

Now, she was very depressed and worried of her condition. She consulted a surgeon who suggested operation at an early date. This caused more depression as she had already undergone major surgery for benign teratoma of the left ovary only about four and a half months back (during her pregnancy). So she decided to take homoeopathic treatment. An eminent homoeopath was consulted.

At the time of treatment, the complaints were as follows:

Fever 101°F at 6 a.m., 104°F-105°F at 4 p.m. which continued till 9-10 p.m. Thirst for cold water, after long intervals. Backache, restlessness during high fever. Sleep, appetite, stools, urine, lochia etc. all normal.

Mental symptoms: lot of depression and irritability.

On examination affected breast was found about three times bigger than that of the adjacent side; colour: bright scarlet red.

On palpation very hot to touch, a hard lump felt in medial quadrant of the breast.

Rhus tox, Silicea, Phytolacca were tried without any relief.

Lachesis in high potency was also given due to its peculiar indications: affections of left side, as previously left ovary was affected and this time, the left breast.

As a result, the milk supply was reduced, considerably without any other change in temperature or breast condition.

The case was restudied. Seeing the size and colour of the breast, i.e. the severity of the condition, it was observed that there was not much pain as such, except discomfort in moving the left arm, or lying on left side due to such increase in size of the breast. This was a marked symptom which was not noticed earlier.

So, on this very characteristic *painlessness* of the abscess Stramonium 30 was prescribed, to be taken every 4 hours.

To her great astonishment, about one hour after taking the first dose, the fever started falling and came to normal the next morning. Generally also she was quite cheerful.

She kept on taking Stramonium 30 every four hour and after 3-4 days, a purulent discharge of dirty yellowish brown colour started coming out from the lower quadrant of left side. The discharge continued for 2-3 days, the breast became reduced in size and looked rather a bit smaller than the adjacent one. The colour also became normal.

The hard lump was still persisting which took about two months to resolve with Calcarea fluor.

After full recovery she consulted the surgeon again for his advice who remarked: You have completely saved yourself from the agony of operation.
