

Chlostridium perfringens

Commentary

My first case in using this remedy illustrates very well my approach to pioneering the use of a virtually unknown remedy particularly a nosode with little or no information.

It was a case of a 6 year old girl who had a severe case of Epidermolysis bullosa. Epidermolysis bullosa (Weber-Cockayne syndrome) is a group of inherited disorders in which massive blistering of the skin develops in response to minor trauma. The mother was very protective of the child and her younger 3 year old sister, since both had suffered from this inherited disorder all their life . Both children would get large blisters on their feet after walking a short distance and also on their hands and also waist from slight friction. The mother would curtail their activities and could be seen in my local community pushing them around in a carriage or cart.

The 6 year old child, of this case report, also presented in a peculiar way in the interview. She entered the interview wearing a hooded jacket and kept it on for the whole interview, (even though the temperature outside was mild and interview room warm). She did not make any eye contact with me and for the most part played quietly by herself facing the wall, away from me. When she did turn to talk with the mother, I could see that she was very pale and had a rather strained and morbid expression on her face.

Prior to seeing me for this first consultation, she had had her case taken by a good homeopath who was a student of mine. I had consulted on her case at that time and suggested *Mancinella*, (the sap from the tree can cause severe blistering on the skin). The *Mancinella* helped significantly, but for only a period of about 6 months and repetition failed to garner any more positive response.

She also had diarrhea from a very young age. The mother said that “when she was a baby she would always have her knees up and diarrhea shooting out her legs”. She was also getting continuous stomach aches and had been treated for “parasites” by a naturopath. She also had an abdominal hernia as a baby repaired by surgery.

The mother also said that she was very attached to her mother (and sister) and that there was a very intense connection between mother and her. When I asked the child about this the child said, “I know why but I’m not going to tell you.”

She was home schooled. She was a very intense, moody child, “not very cheery” but could focus on one project for long periods. She could slip into states of helplessness where she then becomes whiny or argumentative especially with her sister.

The mother said the child “has a connection with people who are dying”. She insisted on visiting frequently at the hospital with her dying grandmother and being there when her grandmother died. The mother thought she supported her well during this and was OK afterwards. The grandmother’s cancer was diagnosed during the pregnancy of this child. The mother was in a state of horror when told the news.

I knew from my experience, that the child was not going to fit into well known homeopathic remedies or even many of the groups of unusual remedies that I was familiar with. I also knew that this disease was treated homeopathically in an imperfect way and I wanted to set out to understand some of the roots of this crippling hereditary condition. So I studied this case, no, more accurately I contemplated about the whole child as well as the nature of the disease for a number of months actually. During this time I could see the mother either carrying the child or wheeling her around. My heart was continually moved by this and yet I was having difficulty in choosing a remedy that would be deeply curative. I decided to give this even deeper contemplation and also think in a more creative way. I wanted to find something in nature that

that could cause the problem and also encapsulate something of the child's general state. When I think of this more underlying problem, I always keep in my mind's eye the picture of how the patient presented in the interview; maintaining a real sense of the patient in a visceral way.

As well, since I had some response from a first remedy made from a plant, I was now looking for an underlying causative or miasmatic agent and a reflection of this chronic disease in an acute disease. I looked in the direction of a nosode or an infective agent, also because the disease has been around for some time taking away more current and modern underlying causative agents such as radiations and toxic metals and other modern chemical agents.

I wanted to find something that would in an acute disease cause a great blister like swelling as well as diarrhea. I looked, searched through various options. Then what came to me was gangrene, anaerobic bacteria which in gas gangrene creates a huge blister and also caused food-borne illness with severe diarrhea. I felt that if we see how this same type of acute pathology is translated into a chronic condition then we could see its similarity to diseases where there is chronic blistering. Not only that, when I thought of the child covering herself and rather dark personality it seemed to match what I could conceive of the general mental and emotional state of a homeopathic remedy made from an anarobe like *Clostridium perfringens*, (which was made but not homeopathically proven). As well *Clostridium perfringens* is a food poisoning agent and thus covers the chronic diarrhea aspect.

I am pleased to say the child responded beautifully to one dose of *Clostridium perfringens* 30c. She has been virtually blister free and hood free for over 5 years and her personality is now cheery and well-balanced.

There is a similarity in this remedy to known homeopathic remedies that have blistering as a key aspect- particularly remedies like *Mancinella* and *Cantharis*. I now know that *Clostridium perfringens* follows these two remedies. In the Mind section of the Repertory, what symptoms do these known remedies share? The main symptoms is "Mind, delusions possessed" or "Mind possessed of the devil". In the *Clostridium perfringens* patient there is a feeling as if they are possessed by something dark- they appear "gothic", horror filled similar to the chronic *Cantharis* patient who I have found likes to wear black clothing and is rather dark in their demeanor. In *Mancinella* there is still an innocence to their being but they have a tendency to be attracted to black magic. I have also experienced and written in the first focus guide that in *Mancinella* and other Euphorbiaceae the mind is elastic and easily "blistered" reflecting what can happen on a physical level.

I have found that the patient who needs *Clostridium perfringens* likes to wear a hat or something covering the head. They also are rather reluctant to reveal something of themselves and would remain enigmatic and dark. It is also a state where we see a "gothic" type personality where the person is attracted to horror and also death similar to many of the homeopathic remedies made from fungi. In fact all Clostridiales are good miasmatic remedies related to or following fungi homeopathic remedies.

I have had more good success treating individuals with Epidermolysis bullosa with homeopathically prepared *Clostridium perfringens*. But I do not have enough patient experience with this disease to say whether other types of *Clostridium* made into homeopathic remedies would achieve a similar result or that different patients with Epidermolysis bullosa may need a different type of *Clostridium*.