

Review Article

Efficacy of Homoeopathic Remedies in Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis

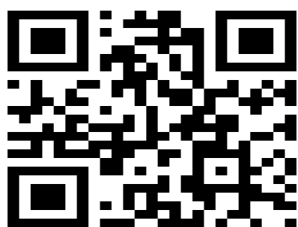
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ABSTRACT

The term “juvenile rheumatoid arthritis” describes a heterogeneous group of chronic inflammatory arthritis, that begin in childhood and are quite distinct from adult rheumatoid arthritis. Arthritis (joint inflammation) arising in children under the age of 16 years is referred to as juvenile rheumatoid arthritis. Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis is also known as juvenile idiopathic arthritis. Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, in some cases, limits itself after running a short course while in others, it may become chronic. To determine the distribution of the interleukin-10 flanking region haplotypes in children with arthritis and in control by homoeopathy.

Keywords: Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, homoeopathy, management



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INTRODUCTION

Chronic, inflammatory, systemic disease which may cause joint or connective tissue damage and visceral lesions throughout the body characterized by fever, rash, hepatosplenomegaly and arthritis in children. It is a persistent inflammatory arthritis (>6 weeks) that begins before age 16 for which no specific cause can be found.

Etiology

Exact cause is unknown.

Evidence points to autoimmune etiology.

Associated with physical or emotional stress.

Age: Under 16years of age.

Sex: Common in girls.

Clinical features

Symptoms-

Onset acute or insidious

Fever

Swelling and pain in joints

Poor appetite.

Loss of weight

Child refuses to walk without being able to

explain why

Irritability

Listlessness

Signs-

Fever remittent

Rash on trunk, limbs as patches of erythema.

Hepatomegaly.

Splenomegaly

Affected joints hot, tender and swollen.

Effusion of joint

Limitation of joint movement.

Investigations

Blood-

Hb %: Low

TLC:20000-50000/cu mm

DLC: Increased polymorphs.

ESR: Raised.

Rheumatoid factor: positive (15%)

ANA: positive (25%)

X-ray joint:

Soft tissue swelling

Loss of joint space

Irregularity of joint surface

Periosteal new bone formation

Growth disturbance

Homoeopathic Management

Homoeopathy treats the person as a whole. It means that homoeopathic treatment focuses

on the patient as a person, as well as his pathological condition. The homoeopathic medicines are selected after a full individualizing examination and case-analysis, which includes the medical history of the patient, physical and mental constitution etc. A miasmatic tendency (predisposition/Susceptibility) is also often taken into account for the treatment of chronic conditions. The medicines given below indicate the therapeutic affinity but this is not a complete and definite guide to the treatment of this condition. The symptoms listed against each medicine may not be directly related to this disease because in homoeopathy general symptoms and constitutional indications are also taken into account for selecting a remedy. To study any of the following remedies in more detail, please refer materia medica.

Homoeopathic Remedies

1) Abrotanum: Inability to move. Marasmus of lower extremities only. Soreness and lameness worse mornings. Gout in wrists and ankles. Inflammatory rheumatism before swelling begins. Marasmus of children with marked emaciation, especially of legs, the skin is flabby and hangs in folds.

Alternate constipation and diarrhoea: lenteria.

2) Aconite: Arthritic and rheumatic drawing and tearing pains, especially in the limbs. Acute and violent pulling in the joints and the bones, mitigated by the heat of a bed . Contraction of the tendons, and stiffness in the flexor muscles of the limbs. Cramp like contraction of several limbs.

Aconite is generally indicated in acute or recent cases occurring in young persons, especially girls of a full, plethoric habit who lead a sedentary life, persons easily affected by atmospheric changes, dark hair and eyes, rigid muscular fibres.

3) Apis: Oedematous. Synovitis. Felon in beginning. Knee swollen and stuff. Feel too large. Rheumatic pain in back and limbs. Tired, bruised feeling. Numbness of hands and tips of fingers. Hives with intolerable itching. Oedematous swellings. Adapted to the strumous constitution, glands enlarged, indurated; scirrhus or open cancer. Women, especially widows; children and girls who,

though generally careful, become awkward, and let things fall while handling them.

4) Arsenicum Album: Acute drawing pains in the arms and in the hands. Swelling of the arms, with blackish pustules of a putrid smell. Acute drawing pain in the night, beginning from the elbow and extending to the armpits acute pulling and shooting in the wrists. Cramps in the fingers. At night, sensation of fullness and swelling in the palms of the hands. Excoriation between fingers. Hard swelling of the fingers, with the pain in the finger bones. Cramp in legs. Acute drawing pains in the hips, extending to the groins, the

thighs and the sometimes even to the ankle bones, with uneasiness, which obliges one to the move the limb constantly. Tearing in the tibia. Rheumatic pain in the legs. Paralytic weakness of the thigh. Pains, as from a bruise in the joint of the knee. Affections of the shin-bones. Fatigue in the legs and the feet. Pain in the fleshy part of the toes, as if they were galled by walking. Great prostration, with rapid sinking of the vital forces; fainting. The disposition is- Depression, melancholy, despairing, indifferent, anxious, fearful, restless, peevish, easily vexed, irritable, sensitive.

5) Belladonna: Pains in the joints and bones. Rheumatic pain flying from one place to another place. The pains are aggravated chiefly at night, in the afternoon towards 4pm. The least touch and sometimes the slightest movements aggravate sufferings. Some of the symptoms are aggravated, or make their appearance after sleep. Jerking in the limbs, muscular palpitations and shock of the tendence. St. vitus dance. Sensation in the muscles, as if a mouse were running over them. cramp spasms, and convulsive moments, with violent contortion of the limbs, convulsive fits, with cries, and loss of consciousness, epileptic convulsions, drawing back of the thumbs. Renewal of the spasms by the least contact, or from the glare of light. Burning in the inner parts. Attacks of immobility and of spasmodic stiffness of the body, or of some of the limbs, sometimes with insensibility, swelling of the veins, bloatedness and redness of the face, pulse full and quick, with copious sweat. Spasms

in the single limbs, or of the whole body, in children, during dentition. Adapted to bilious, lymphatic, plethoric constitutions; persons who are lively and entertaining when well, but violent and often delirious when sick.

6) Bryonia: Over- sensitiveness of the senses to external impressions. Rheumatic and gouty pains in the limbs, with tension, rose from motion and contact. Tension, drawing pains, acute pullings and shootings, especially in the limbs, and chiefly during movement, with insupportable pains on being touched, sweat of the part affected, and trembling of that part when the pain diminish. Stiffness and shootings in the joints, on being touched and when moved in the evening pain as from fatigue, in the limbs, with paralytic weakness. Torpor and numbness of the limbs, with stiffness and pain of fatigue. Pale, tense, hot, swelling. Red, shining swelling of some parts of the body, with shooting during movement. Pain, as from a bruise, or of subcutaneous ulceration, or as if the flesh were detached from the bones. Dragging, with pressure, on the periosteum. It is best adapted to persons of a gouty or rheumatic diathesis; prone to so called bilious attacks. Bryonia patients are irritable, inclined to be vehement and angry; dark or black hair, dark complexions, firm muscular fibre; dry nervous, slender people.

7) Calc. Carb: Pain as if sprained; can scarcely rise; from over lifting. Pain between shoulder blades, impending breathing. Rheumatism in lumbar region; weakness in small of back. Curvature of dorsal vertebrae. Nape of neck stiff and rigid. Rheumatoid pains, as after exposure to wet. Sharp sticking, as if parts were wrenched or sprained. Weakness of extremities. Swelling of joints, especially knee. Arthritic nodosities. Leucophlegmatic, blond hair, light complexion, blue eyes, fair skin; tendency to obesity in youth. Psoric constitutions; pale weak, timid, easily tired when walking. Disposed to grow fat, corpulent, unwidely. Children with red face, flabby muscles, who sweat easily and take cold readily in consequence. Large heads and abdomens; fontanells and sutures open; bones soft, develop very slowly. Curvature of bones,

especially spine and long bones; extremities crooked, deformed; bones irregularly developed. Head sweats profusely while sleeping, wetting pillow far around.

8) Chamomilla: Cracking in joints, with pain in them as if bruised. Pain in periosteum in limbs with paralytic weakness. Convulsive single power in hands and feet, though without corresponding weariness. Persons, especially children, with light brown hair, nervous, excitable temperament; child exceedingly irritable, fearful; quiet only when carried; impatient, wants this or that and becomes angry when refused, or when offered, petulantly rejects it.

9) MEDORRHINUM: Rheumatic pain in top of left shoulder, worse from motion, occasional little darts of pain if kept still. Rheumatic pain in (right) shoulder and arm. Cracking of joints, especially elbows. Much pain in the left arm. Cracking of joints, especially elbows. Much pain in left arm, cannot hold a paper, veins become enlarged, worse raising arm. Trembling of arms and hands. For persons suffering from gout, rheumatism, neuralgia and diseases of the spinal cord and its membranes- even organic lesions ending in paralysis- which can be traced to a psychotic origin.

10) Rhus tox: Hot, painful swelling of joints. Pains tearing in tendons, ligaments and fasciae. Rheumatic pain spreads over a large surface of nape of neck, loins and extremities; better motion. Soreness of condyle of bones. Limbs stiff, paralysed. The cold fresh air is not tolerated; it makes the skin painful. Tenderness about knee-joint. Loss of power in forearm and fingers; crawling sensations in the tips of fingers. Tingling in feet. Adapted to persons of Rheumatic diathesis; bad effects of getting wet, especially after being over-heated.

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