

## Review Article

# Significance of Past History in Homoeopathic Prescription with Special Emphasis on Hahnemannian Concept of Miasm

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### ABSTRACT

Ever since the beginning there has been a continuous evolution in all the aspects of life, may it be viruses, bacteria or humans. Homoeopathy has always emphasized on holistic treatment of the patient. The concept of holistic treatment did not only mean considering the mental and physical aspects of the individual but it had a deeper and scientific meaning which demanded an insight into the understanding of how and why does an individual suffer from a specific ailment or disease especially chronic and how is this related to the past illness or infections that he suffered from. This helps us understand the precursor of the chronicity which can be miasmatic or non-miasmatic in origin. When certain remedies come up as similimum in a case, there are various factors which help us to rule out remedies and select the most suitable similimum for the case. Dr. Hahnemann mentions the classification of remedies on the basis of their utility and miasm they can be used in. In his book —The chronic disease he mentions all such remedies with their classifications. Further, Dr. Boenninghausen mentions a huge list of antipsoric remedies in his Repertory of Antipsoric. When a remedy selected on this basis, it not only helps treat the present ailment, but also cure the case.

**Keywords:** Miasm, Chronic disease theory, Antimiasmatic medicine, Limbic system



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## INTRODUCTION

The global statistics of Evolution of Diseases depicts a graph with significant shift of prevalence of lifestyle and chronic autoimmune diseases in the 21 st century, as compared to the 19 th century which witnessed prevalence of infectious diseases, the main reason of mortality in that era.

In the 19 th century, the major diseases that prevailed were the group of infectious diseases like pneumonia, tuberculosis, enteritis, cholera, etc. But with the introduction of antibiotics, these were controlled well, not to end but to mark a new beginning of a new era of chronic degenerative diseases which has become a major concern to the health sector. But are these diseases exactly as we perceive them i.e. individual chronic manifestations or an

outcome of a more profound and deeper process that lies beneath. The different diseases that a person encounters in his lifetime, are they really different disease entities or a different manifestation arising of a common cause lying in the past which remains undetermined (the past history of illness) Our immune system is known to react to the insults it encounters and further preserve and store this encounter as a memory in order to ensure protection in case of an assault from the same pathogen. Study of molecular genetics has provided a new appreciation of the remarkable ability of microbes to evolve, adapt, and develop drug resistance in an unpredictable and dynamic fashion. Resistance genes are transmitted from one

bacteria to another on plasmids, and viruses evolve through replication errors and reassortment of gene segments and by jumping species barriers. This is how Research in the recent years has explained the concept of chronic diseases especially of an autoimmune character. Considering and treating such diseases as a new one would only lead us to a relief which would not last long and it will be only produced again with a new set of symptoms, this time to be more severe and sometime irreversible with a new disease name.

The law of “Similia Similibus Curantur” did a great justice in restoring the sick to health. But somewhere was insufficient to achieve cure which kept on alluding Dr. Hahnemann for a long time even after the discovery of the Law of Similars. This led him to research for almost twelve years to come out with the concept of Miasms and The Theory of Chronic Diseases.

He mentioned in his book, The Chronic Diseases- their peculiar nature and their homoeopathic Cure. Why, then, cannot this vital force, efficiently affected through Homoeopathic medicine, produce any true and lasting recovery in these chronic maladies even with the aid of the Homoeopathic remedies which best cover their present symptoms; while this same force which is created for the restoration of our organism is nevertheless so indefatigably and successfully active in completing the recovery even in severe acute diseases? What is there to prevent this?

Similarly, past history also includes the assessment of emotions based on the experiences of the past. The limbic system is one of the most evolved and unique system of humans which processes and store memories and determine our reactions on an encounter to a similar incidence in future.

The science of homoeopathy has always being held high for its consideration of a person as a whole and treating accordingly. Thus, to attain complete cure of chronic diseases, it is of prime importance to obtain the details of past history in terms of –

1. Past medical history for assessment of

miasmatic background and to understand the journey/evolution of disease in the individual.

2. Past life events for the assessment of emotional background

Past history: - It is the total sum of a patients health status prior to the presenting problem.

It includes

### **Past medical history & past life events**

In clinical medicine, the patients past and present which may contain relevant information bearing on their health past, present, and future. The medical history, being an account of all medical events and problems a person has experienced is an important tool in the management of the patient. Past Medical History helps in understanding course of symptoms, journey of disease, diagnosis, relevant diagnostic tests, which in turn plays a major role in finding the correct similimum. Past Life Events helps in understanding the sensitivity and reaction of the person to different events which he/she had to face, thus helping in understanding the personality of the patient.

When we say ‘Miasm’ we mean ‘Cause’, the aetiology of acute and chronic disease” says Grosso A.J. While to trace the Cause one needs to find the detailed PAST HISTORY.

### **Significance of past history as written by Dr Hahnemann in the chronic disease**

It was a continually repeated fact that the non-venereal chronic diseases, after being time and again removed homoeopathically by the remedies fully proved up to the present time, always returned in a more or less varied form and with new symptoms, or reappeared annually with an increase of complaints. This fact gave me the first clue that the Homoeopathic physician with such a chronic (non-venereal) case, yea in all cases of (non-venereal) chronic disease, has not only to combat the disease presented before his eyes, and must not view and treat it as if it were a well-defined disease, to be speedily and permanently destroyed and healed by ordinary homoeopathic remedies, but that he has always to encounter only some separate fragment of a more deep-seated original disease.

The great extent of this disease is shown in the new symptoms appearing from time to time; so that the Homoeopathic physician must not hope to permanently heal the separate manifestations of this kind in the presumption, hitherto entertained, that they are well-defined, separately existing diseases which can be healed permanently and completely. Through this he clearly mentioned that considering all these diseases separately and treating them, would only give a relief to be followed by some other form of disease which could be more severe. But that the original malady sought for must be also of a miasmatic, chronic nature clearly appeared to me from this circumstance, that after it has once advanced and developed to a certain degree it can never be removed by the strength of any robust constitution, it can never be overcome by the most wholesome diet and order of life, nor will it die out of itself.

The now set in chronic disease cannot be corrected by mere changes in lifestyle, diet and health conditions. Thus, we can understand why the so-called lifestyle diseases cannot be cured even by strict changes in lifestyle.

He, therefore, must first find out as far as possible the whole extent of all the accidents and symptoms belonging to the unknown primitive malady before he can hope to discover one or more medicines which may homoeopathically cover the whole of the original disease by means of its peculiar symptoms. By this method he may then be able victoriously to heal and wipe out the malady in its whole extent, consequently also its separate members; that is, all fragments of a disease appearing in so many various forms.

As mentioned so precisely, if the history taken in such a detailed manner can help us understand the true picture of the diseased individual and cure would be sure.

### **Significance of past medical history to understand the journey of disease in modern era**

Significance of medical past history

What Dr. Hahnemann mentioned so

correctly in the era where no scientific advancement had taken place, holds true even in today's era if understood rationally. With the discovery of antibiotics, vaccinations we have been successful to eradicate many diseases many new diseases are emerging varying in names and character. During a viral or microbe infection, if that organism shares cross-reactive epitopes for B or T cells with the host, then the response to the infecting agent will also attack the host, causing autoimmune disease. A variation on this theme is when a second, third, or repeated infection(s) shares cross-reactive B or T cell epitopes with the first (initiating) virus but not necessarily the host. In this instance, the secondary infectious agents increase the number of antiviral/anti host effector antibodies or T cells that potentiate or precipitate the autoimmune assault.

Perhaps the difficulties met in identifying the etiologic viruses are due to the long lag time between the initial causal infection and onset of clinical disease. More surprisingly, infections may also protect from autoimmune diseases.

Chronicity (Miasm) in the body sets under following condition:

1. Frequent episodes of acute infection - MIASMATIC
2. Interference with the normal healing process in the form of chemicals and antibiotics-Non-Miasmatic
3. Antigen is homologous to the normal cell - MIASMATIC
4. Inflammatory agents such as silica dust, metal, wood splinters which are foreign to body cannot be removed-Non-Miasmatic

By this process it leaves a residual effect in the organism and chronicity continues.

Examples: -

#### **1. Type 1 diabetes**

Miasmatic Cause – Virus (enterovirus, rubella, mumps, rotavirus, parvovirus & amp ;cytomegalovirus.

Non-Miasmatic Cause – Cow's milk, cow's milk based infant formula in childhood in first 3months (foreign protein homologous to pancreatic cells causing auto-immune

response)

2. Streptococcal infection causing throat infection leading to rheumatic heart disease, rheumatic arthritis, nephritis etc.

The morbidity and mortality from infectious diseases during the first three quarters of the 20th century. However, the appearance of AIDS, the re-emergence of TB (including multidrug-resistant strains), and an overall increase in infectious disease mortality during the 1980s and early 1990s

provide additional evidence that as long as microbes can evolve, new diseases will appear.

Another example of this can be the re-emergence of *Treponema endemicum* from its former form which was known as *Treponema Palladium*.

### Significance of Life Events

If this is to be understood in the era of modern science where the understanding of the human brain has been evolved by numerous studies, we can appreciate how scientific our founder was to discover such a healing art which studied the diseased individual in aspects of his body and mind.

The human brain comprehends and stores all the memories it encounters through its unique LIMBIC SYSTEM. A person is not born with a specific nature but evolves according to the events he encounters. This system acts as the center of emotions, behavior, and memory. It is also a contributor to the control of reactions to stress, attention and sexual instincts. It comprises a set of complex structures anatomically divided into the limbic cortex, cingulate gyrus, parahippocampal gyrus, hippocampal formation, dentate gyrus, hippocampus, subauricular complex, septal area, hypothalamus, and amygdala. "The hypothalamus, the anterior thalamic nucleus, the cingulate gyrus, the hippocampus and their interconnections, constitute a harmonious mechanism which may elaborate the functions of central emotion as well as participate in the emotional expression."

Processing of data perceived through events encountered takes place in following steps:

1. Encoding, 2. Consolidation, 3. Storage, 4. Retrieval

### CONCLUSION

From the rational understanding and concurrence of the principles laid by Dr. Hahnemann to the advancement of medical research, the fundamentals of cure for chronic diseases can be determined. Any of the chronic, degenerative or even autoimmune diseases analysed by a precise and detailed investigation of the history of each and every ailment of the individual from the childhood would

help to establish a scientific correlation of both. This along with the mental, emotional, intellectual and social behavior (comprises the personality or constitution) would help us select the most appropriate similimum for the case. This will further help in the selecting the mode of treatment/prescription to be given as the details of each homoeopathic remedy with its utility is being done through thorough proving.

1. Non Miasmatic treatment  
2. Miasmatic treatment – anti-psoric, anti-sycosis, anti-syphilis.

Thus, understanding the Past Life events will help in individualizing the case and reach to the perfect similimum, thus attaining complete cure for all Chronic Diseases.

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