A SUCCESSFUL APPROACH IN MANAGEMENT OF FILARIAL LEG ULCER WITH HOMOEOPATHY: A CASE STUDY

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ABSTRACT

Filariasis is a type of parasitic disease caused by Filarioidea roundworms. These diseases are spread by black flies and mosquitoes which feed on human blood and was the first disease revealed to be spread by mosquito bites. This belongs to the group of diseases called helminthiases. Elephantiasis or lymphatic filariasis develops when parasites become lodged in the lymphatic system. The most prominent symptom of elephantiasis was edema with thickening of the skin and underlying tissues. This report validates the successful treatment of homoeopathic medicines in Filarial leg ulcers and also the external aid of cleaning and dressing using homoeopathic antiseptic calendula in promoting granulation and healing of ulcers was proved. After around 2 months of follow-up of respective homoeopathic medications, the ulcer is almost healed and potentiated the cure.

KEYWORDS: Filarial foot ulcer, Homoeopathy, Natrum Muriaticum, Roundworms

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INTRODUCTION:

According to the WHO, there are 120 million cases of filarial lymphoedema in 81 countries, with the majority occurring in tropical and subtropical regions. India is responsible for 41% of the 120 million filarial lymphoedema cases. Lymphoedema and its complications are a major public health concern in tropical and subtropical regions.1,2

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Lymphoedema has no proven medicinal treatment. The goal of treatment is to reduce or delay the progression of swelling and to prevent infection. This is usually implemented through the use of skincare, external pressure (bandaging or hosiery), isotonic exercise, and massage. The main complications are ulcers of the chronic lymphoedema leg. Even though the surface ulcers appear small, the sinus tract extends deep and contains a lot of necrosed tissue. Maggots will form in the deep cavity. The current case report of filarial leg ulcer was undertaken to determine the efficacy of homoeopathic medicines for the treatment of this condition, as a cost-effective means of reducing the incidence of excision of the ulcer along with sinus tract as a combined debulking procedure.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Patient Information

The 54 years old female patient known Filariasis for 7 years got admitted in Sarada Krishna Homoeopathic Hospital, Kulasekharam on 08/07/2016 with complaints of recurrent attack of fever, swelling, pain and ulcer in the posterior part of the left leg with oozing from the ulcer. Discharge is offensive and serosanguinous in nature.

Associated Symptoms

Enlargement of inguinal lymph nodes.

Medical History

Regular dressing and allopathic management for the same complaint for the past two years. Known Dyslipidaemia for 4 years and also taking allopathic treatment too.

Family History

Sister: Diabetes Mellitus, Hypertension

Clinical Findings

Physical Examination

Conscious, obese, not pallor, not icterus, not cyanosed, no generalized lymphadenopathy. Pulse: 68/min; BP: 124/90 mm of Hg.

Local Examination
Location of the ulcer: posterior part of the left leg. Number: Multiple, Margins: irregularly defined. Size: largest one 14 x 7 cm. Floor: Covered with Slough. Edge: punched-out edge. Depth: .8 cm. Shape: irregular in shape.

**Provisional Diagnosis**

Filarial leg ulcer

**Final Diagnosis**

Filarial leg ulcer

**Therapeutic Intervention**

Homeopathic evaluation of symptoms was done as per following Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No</th>
<th>Common</th>
<th>Uncommon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Swelling</td>
<td>Breathing difficulty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Painful Ulcer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Oozing of fluid from ulcer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Itching</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>R/A of fever with inguinal lymph node enlargement</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Evaluation of Symptoms**

Swelling, Painful Ulcer, Oozing of fluid from ulcer, itching, R/A of fever with inguinal lymph node enlargement and Breathing difficulty

**Miasmatic Interpretation**

Chronic Intermittent disease, Psoric in origin. In which two or three morbid states alternate at uncertain intervals.

**Totality of Symptoms**

Swelling, Painful Ulcer, Oozing of fluid from ulcer, itching, R/A of fever with inguinal lymph node enlargement and breathing difficulty.
Repertorial / Non- Repertorial

Non- Repertorial approach based on the totality

RESULTS

Prescription

Rx Arsenicum Album 30/1 D (stat).

Basis of Prescription

Swelling, painful ulcer with oozing and breathing difficulty.

Potency Selection

As per the disease pathology and patients’ susceptibility 30\textsuperscript{th} potency of Arsenicum album is selected.

Progress

The progress and follow up was as per Table 2 and Fig 2.

Table 2: Follow Up and Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Symptoms</th>
<th>Remedy</th>
<th>Reason for Prescription</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>09/7/16-</td>
<td>Swelling persists 1. Silicea 0/3- 1 DOSE (stat)</td>
<td>Rx</td>
<td>Pain and sensation as if some worm inside the affected leg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14/7/16</td>
<td>Pain and sensation as if some worm inside the affected leg</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ulcer persists</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Oozing of fluid slightly better</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Offensiveness feels better</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Inguinal lymphadenopathy better</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Breathing difficulty better</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Symptoms</td>
<td>Rx</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. 15/7/16</td>
<td>Swelling persists&lt;br&gt;Itching and irritation persist&lt;br&gt;Watery discharge persists&lt;br&gt;Ulcer persists&lt;br&gt;Sleep disturbed due to pain</td>
<td>Based on itching and irritation on the ulcer, sleeplessness.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3. 21/7/16</td>
<td>Fever better&lt;br&gt;Pain in left leg increased&lt;br&gt;Abdominal pain better&lt;br&gt;Sleep disturbed</td>
<td>Given as an intercurrent remedy, lymphadenopathy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. 22/7/16-28/7/16</td>
<td>Pain in left leg better&lt;br&gt;Abdominal pain better&lt;br&gt;Fever relieved&lt;br&gt;Sleep better</td>
<td>Sensitiveness while C &amp; D</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. 29/7/16</td>
<td>Fever present&lt;br&gt;Inguinal lymph node enlarged&lt;br&gt;Shivering present&lt;br&gt;Itching present&lt;br&gt;Sleep disturbed&lt;br&gt;Temp: 101°F</td>
<td>Based on the acute totality. Complaints persist</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. 30/7/16-13/10/16</td>
<td>Fever relieved&lt;br&gt;Ulcer pain better&lt;br&gt;Itching better&lt;br&gt;Offensiveness present</td>
<td>As there is no desirable action totality was reconsidered and life space investigation is elicited. Following symptoms were considered: Grief, weeps while case taking Intermittent fever, chilliness, blisters are seen while C &amp; D. [Fig 1]</td>
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</table>
Life Space Investigation

The patient was born in a poor family. She has Four siblings. She ran away from her home with her loved one at the age of 19 and got married. After that she had no contact with her parents and siblings. She is very much worried as she cheated on her parents. She said that still, that regret follows her. She weeps in between the case taking.
Discussion

In this case, after giving Arsenicum album the desirable relief has not been seen, so again we consider the totality and selected Silicea as the indicated remedy. The main indication is pain and sensation as if some worms inside the ulcer. As the itching and irritation on the ulcer persisted and also the patient had sleeplessness, again we consider totality and selected Arsenicum album. Initially, there is no pain while dressing the ulcer, but now while dressing she had severe pain, because of pain she does not allow to do the dressing. So again, we considered the totality and Hepar Sulph came as the indicated remedy. Rise of temperature due to recurrent mixed infection favours the prescription of intercurrent nosode Tuberculinum.

4 For further follow up of the case and improvement to effect a cure, Hahnemann says in aphorism 171 to give several antipsoric remedies in succession one after another after the completion of the action of the previous remedy.

5 So, the medicines Pyrogen and Rhus Toxicodendron has been selected as per the acute totality correspondingly but there was no desirable result and finally Natrum Muriaticum was given as the constitutional medicine which maintained the good prognosis of the case. In this case study, one can find out the positive results of years standing filarial leg ulcer which disagrees to heal by the conventional system, has almost healed and also exemplify Homeopathy in treating the neglected cases.

Conclusion

The Filarial leg ulcer is one of the serious complications of Filariasis. It is a non-healing type of ulcer which is very difficult to manage without surgical intervention. But in this case, here Homoeopathy and its perspective in managing the Filarial leg ulcer case is proven.

Patient’s Perspective

It was quite annoying of my condition, became done of the treatment which I have undergone. There was constant burning pain and the discharge is so unbearable for me. so I started taking homeopathic medicines for a few months which was suggested by my neighbour, Initially, I was uncertain of my cure but once I started taking medicine, I got a
hope of me responding to it. I thank all the doctors who reassure my health status and well-being.

**Informed Consent**

The patient provided written informed consent for the publication of this report. The patients understand their identity will not be revealed.

This case was reported according to Equator network HOMCARE guidelines.

**REFERENCES**


