



Review Article

Immunity Vs Idiosyncrasy: Homoeopathic Approach

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ABSTRACT

The immune system is one of the most complex and intriguing systems of the human body. Immunity is always considered beneficial however; the protective mechanisms may at time become harmful, especially when the body attempts to eliminate antigens from the system. Disease such as allergies and asthma are part of the harmful effect of the immune system. IDIOSYCRASY: Dr. Hahnemann used this term for hypersensitive patients, in Organon of Medicine; in the aphorism 116-117 Master Hahnemann has mentioned that there is a category of peculiar corporeal constitutions, which are otherwise healthy but are prone to become morbid from certain things, which seems to produce no impression or change in many other individuals.

Key words- Hypersensitivity, Antigen

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INTRODUCTION

The Homoeopathy has a distinct approach to the diseases; the wholistic approach by considering the sick as a whole not in terms of parts as sickness. It stresses the study of an individual as man in disease. There are different factors which are responsible for the derangement in man to be diseased. The immune system is one of the most complex and intriguing systems of the human body. Immunity is always considered beneficial however; the protective mechanisms may at time become harmful, especially when the body attempts to eliminate antigens from the system. Disease such as allergies and asthma are part of the harmful effect of the immune system.

The Immune System

The unique ability and primary aim of the immune system, consisting of lymphocytes and antibody molecules, is to distinguish between self and non-self, and Lymphocytes are an indispensable part of immune system; they are broadly categorized into B-lymphocytes and T-lymphocytes. Those lymphocytes, which have not been in contact with their antigen, are called naïve cells. When B-lymphocytes are stimulated by antigen, they are transformed into plasma cells, which synthesize antibody and this is called a human immune response. Antigen stimulation of naïve T-lymphocytes cause them to differentiate into activated T-Cells, which

secrete a series of biologically active proteins, cytokines and which is termed a cell-mediated immune response. T-lymphocytes are further categorized as T helper, T suppressor and T- cytotoxic cells. T helper cells, which are divided into the Th1 and Th2 categories and their signal proteins, the cytokines, control the entire immune response. They play an important role in IgE synthesis and activating inflammatory cells in the IgE – mediated allergic reaction. T cytotoxic cells, or T effector cells, kill antigen-containing cells by direct contact and by release of cytokines.

The term *hypersensitivity* indicates a specifically increased response, depending upon a reaction between antigen and antibody or sensitized lymphocytes, leading to symptoms and morbidity. The term allergy is used when an antigen, which is not harmful in itself, causes an immune response and reaction, which gives rise to symptoms and disease in a few predisposed individuals only. An antigen, which induces an IgE response, is called an allergen.

HOMOEOPATHIC VIEW POINT

Idiosyncrasy

In the aphorism 116-117 Master Hahnemann has mentioned that there is a category of peculiar corporeal constitutions, which are otherwise healthy but are prone to become morbid from certain things, which seems to produce no impression or change in many other individuals. In the foot note 95 Master Hahnemann gave an example that few persons are apt to faint from the smell of roses and fall into many other morbid, and sometimes dangerous states from partaking of mussel, crabs or the roe of the barbell, from touching the leaves of some kinds of sumach, etc. *“To the latter category belong the so-called idiosyncrasies, by which are meant peculiar corporeal constitutions which, although Otherwise healthy, possess a disposition to be brought into a more or less morbid state by certain things, which seem to Produce no impression and no change in many other individuals...But this inability to make an impression on every one is only The capability of the vital force that animates the organism to be influenced- by it the obvious derangements of health in the So-called idiosyncrasies cannot be laid to the account of these Peculiar constitutions alone, but they*

must also be ascribed to These things that produce them, in which must lie the power making the same impressions on all human bodies, yet in such a manner that but a small number of healthy constitutions have a tendency to allow themselves to be brought into such an obvious morbid condition by them. That these agents do actually make.”

Hahnemann’s Therapy of Chronic Diseases and Allergy

B. K. Sarkar in his commentary on Organon of medicine has written on page 361 that Hahnemann’s ideas regarding the theory and nature of chronic diseases are further corroborated by the modern investigation in the field of Allergy.

The following facts are worth noting:

(1) An organism once inoculated, remains, forever, in a state of hypersensitivity and responds with varying symptoms of a local and general nature to renewed contact with even minute doses not only of the original but also of a similar or related antigen e.g., a typhoid fever serum agglutinates also paratyphoid bacilli; an infection with measles predisposes to tuberculosis; sensitization by Koch’s bacillus increases the susceptibility to streptococcal and staphylococcal infections.

(2) The pathogenic (anaphylactic) type of responds may be likened to what happens when the sensitized organism responds with symptoms of illness to a renewed contact with the exogenous pathogenic factor.

(3) The immunity type of response may be considered as analogous to the effect of the Isopathic or homoeopathic remedy which is supposed to raise the body resistance to infections by vital stimulations.

In the light of these facts Hahnemann’s contention appears quite logical and understandable that in the train of one original infection a never ending stream of all sorts and kind of ailments ensues, particularly so when factors of mixed infections and the effects of drugs and suppression add their complications to the picture.

So we can take Psora in the sense of an original sensitization, which results in various phenomenon of hypersensitivity, one of which happens to be a lowered resistance for the invasion of microorganisms. Hahnemann

emphasizes that the abuse of drugs also establishes a disturbance of the human economy. All extra human factors, drugs, improper foods, bacteria; physical forces alike, being potential disease producer are also capable of creating miasmatic state- namely, a continued steady progression, under various guises, of the original pathology or a weakened resistance to the original or a similar infecting agent. The bacterial invasion is secondary to the miasmatic disposition derived from the mental and emotional configuration or from the chronic hypersensitivity resulting from earlier sensitization.

The internal hypersensitivity is the pertinent factor; only a constitutional treatment can be of real help.

About 200 years back Dr. Hahnemann has mentioned the causes of disease as injurious influences on an organism in the organon of medicine. He also advised in detail the method of treatment of such type of cases. Regarding causes he wrote in the aphorism 73 *“as regarding acute disease, they are either of such a kind as attack human beings individually, the exciting cause being injurious influences to which they particularly exposed. Excess in food, or an insufficient supply of it, severe physical impression, chills, overheating, dissipation, strains, &c., or physical irritation, mental emotions, and the like, are exciting causes of such acute febrile affections; in reality, however, they are generally only a transient explosion of latent Psora.”*

In aphorism 4 of organon of medicine he wrote that *“the physician is a preserver of health & he should know about that things which deranges the health causes disease”* further in aphorism 5 he wrote that *“It is useful for the physician to study the whole history of patient for to discover the most probable cause of acute disease as well as the fundamental cause which is generally due to a chronic miasm.”*

In aphorism 7 he has given the instruction to remove the exciting or maintaining cause the *causa occasionalis*.

In aphorism 79 & 80 he talks about chronic miasm of *Psora* which announces itself by a peculiar cutaneous eruption with intolerable itching and which is the fundamental cause and producer of numerous or innumerable

form of diseases. Transient explosion of latent *Psora* gives rises to acute diseases as reaction to injurious influences (Para 73), which end in recovery or death e.g. acute inflammatory diseases e.g. Pneumonitis, bronchitis, and appendicitis.

In the same aphorisms he also talks about *Sycosis* the Condylomatous diseases (diseases of growths) and *Syphilis* the venereal diseases with Chancre (diseases of destruction).

Dr. Hahnemann proposed this theory of chronic diseases after 12 years of toil and experience. He declared it was his ‘greatest discovery without which even discovery of science of Homoeopathy was incomplete. In chronic disease on page 34 Hahnemann wrote that there are only three miasms. Hahnemann’s miasm of *Psora*, *Sycosis*, *syphilis*, has its root in the “defensive response of a cell” to injurious influences and *Psora* is the first reaction to stimulus and all diseases start with *Psora* so it is the only real fundamental cause and all the diseases of *Sycosis* and *Syphilis* are based on *Psora* which is the mother of all miasm.

CONCLUSION

The cause of disease is not outside the patient, and the so called external circumstances that immediately precedes the disease and looks like the cause is really an exciting cause only. The true cause of disease is in the patient himself.

Psoric diseases are characterized by altered sensibility, irritability and acute inflammation. In psoric diseases of respiratory tract- Rhinitis, pharyngitis, tonsillitis, bronchitis tracheitis, pneumonitis, pneumonia etc. and Hypersensitivity of trachea causing asthmatic bronchitis, spasms, are common allergic manifestations.

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