



SCABIES AND HOMOEOPATHY

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Abstract – Scabies is a contagious skin infestation caused by the *Acarus, Sarcoptes scabiei*. The infestation causes considerable discomfort and can lead to secondary infection. Scabies spreads in households and environment where there is intimate personal contact. Although it can affect individuals at any socioeconomic level, those who live in poverty or in overcrowded conditions are at much risk for scabies and with the help of appropriate homoeopathic medicines we treat scabies.

Keywords – Homoeopathy, Scabies, Homoeopathic medicines

Introduction-Scabies is an itchy skin rash caused by *sarcoptes scabiei*. They need to scratch may be stronger at night. It is contagious and spread quickly through close person to person contact in a family, child care group, school class, nursing home or prison.¹

Clinical features¹

- Itching worse at night
- Wavy, thin tunnels made up of tiny blisters or bumps on the skin
- In adults and older children scabies is most often found
 - ❖ Between the toes and fingers
 - ❖ Armpits
 - ❖ Around the waist
 - ❖ Along the insides of the wrists
 - ❖ On the inner elbow
 - ❖ On the soles of the feet
 - ❖ Around the nipples
 - ❖ Around the belly button
 - ❖ Around the genitals and in groin area
 - ❖ On the buttocks
- In infants and young children, common sites of scabies usually include
 - ❖ Fingers
 - ❖ Face, scalp and neck
 - ❖ Palms of the hands
 - ❖ Soles of the feet

Homoepathic medicines

Anthrakokali -Useful in skin affections, papular like eruption with a vesicular tendency especially on scrotum, also on hand, tibia, shoulders and dorsum of feet.² Eruptions decrease with the full of the moon. Increased activity of the skin purulent pimples, like papules, with considerable itching appearing during the night and disappearing in the daytime; dropsy.³

Arsenicum album – Inveterate cases; eruption in the bends of the knees; pustular eruption, burning and itching; better from external warmth.⁴ Aggravate at night and application of cold water. Scabies has a tendency to alternate with bronchial asthma.⁵

Carboneum sulphuratum – Scabby eruption, moist, worse after scratching. Smarting eruption. Itching pricking here and there all over. Itching aggravate at night, in a warm bed. Sticking in the skin after scratching. Burning of the skin after scratching. Excoriation after scratching. Excrescences.⁶

Carbo vegetabilis- Dry eruptions almost all over the body especially worse on extremities. Itching < after undressing at night. Scabies can occur after abuse of mercurial salts. Concomitant symptom like dyspepsia, belching, passing flatus. Once infection takes place acrid, bloody, foul discharge. The pus smells like asafoetida. Presence of excessive burning in the lesion which is worse by local application of heat as well as cold.⁵

Causticum- After suppression of the itch by sulphur or mercury; yellowish colour of face, warts on the face; involuntary urination when coughing, sneezing or walking; sensitive to cold air.⁴ Excessive itching of whole body at night, also when secondarily infected there is presence of humid vesicles oozing corroding pus.⁵

Croton tiglium- Itching and painful burning, with redness of skin; formation of vesicles and pustules; desiccation, desquamation and falling off of the pustules. Eruptions on genitals, vertex, temples, extremities. Skin become sore if scratched > gentle rubbing.⁵

Hepar sulphur- Eruptions that resemble scabies are present on fold of skin, hands and feet. Eruptions are pustular, crusty, oozing a foul, old cheese like discharge. Skin is extremely sensitive to cold air. The itching is worse at night > warm application. Presence of scabies in an individual where eruptions are suppressed by mercury.⁵

Lobelia- Pricking itching of skin all over body.⁴

Lycopodium clavatum- Eruptions on scalp, extremities, genitals and abdomen. Eruptions are yellowish, brow, moist and purulent. Itching and burning <By warmth > cold application especially, itching while burning > local heat. GI concomitant like weak digestion, craving for sweets, flatulent should help one to prescribe the drug.⁵

Mercurius- Fat itch, especially in the bends of the elbows, if some of the vesicle become pustular; itching all over, <at night when in bed; insomnia from itching; diarrhoea; pustules and eczematous eruptions complicate the case.⁴

Psorinum- Inveterate cases, with symptoms of tuberculosis; also in recent cases, with eruptions in the bend of elbows and around the wrist; repeated outbreak of single pustules or boils after the main eruption seems all gone, or when suppressed, it is an excellent remedy to bring it out again.⁴

Rhus venenata- Vesicular eruption resembles erysipelas. The appearance of skin is dark red. Itching > hot water.⁵

Selenium metallicum- Itching in folds of skin, between fingers and about joints, especially ankle joint. Prolonged oozing from parts which have been scratched. Frequent tingling in circumscribed parts of skin, with great provocation to scratch.⁷ Dry, scaly eruption in palms, with itching. Hair falls out from brows, beard and genitals. Itching about finger-joints and between fingers; in palms. Vesicular eruption between fingers.²

Sepia officinalis- Eruption is predisposed to crack and ulcerate as soon as it appears. Itching and burning sensation <evening, open air > warm room. Scabies come periodically every spring. It is also useful in those cases of scabies previously treated by sulphur.⁵

Sulphur- Main remedy; voluptuous tingling itching in the bends of joints and between fingers; as soon as he gets warm in bed, with burning and soreness after scratching; skin rough and scaly, with formation of little vesicles and pustules; glandular swellings.⁴ It is one of the supreme remedy in homoeopathy which is used for maltreated, obstinate, suppressed cases of scabies, as a result of irritational homoeopathic treatment or when mercurial or sulphur ointment are used to suppress the lesion.⁵

Sulphuric acid- When itchiness of skin and single pustules appear every spring; after imperfectly cured itch.⁴

Discussion and conclusion

Scabies is considered to be a common skin infection in the field of dermatology and people affected by an unbearable and uncontrolled itch, causing distress and insomnia and leading to the creation of coping strategies in search for breathing space. Scabies has an impact on everyday life, caused by social withdrawal and due to guilt, fear of rejection and feeling of shame and a negative impact on daily life, affecting one's ability to work so with the help of homoeopathic medicines we can stop further progression of disease and improve the quality of life. There are above given specific medicines which are used for the treatment of scabies.

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