

# STREPTOCOCCAL INFECTIONS AND THEIR HOMOEOPATHIC MANAGEMENT

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## ABSTRACT

Streptococcus is a group of nonmotile, nonspore forming gram-positive cocci arranged in chains. They are a part of normal flora of humans and animals. They resemble a string of small pearls under the microscope. There are three classifications of Streptococci. Out of the three classifications b-hemolytic streptococci is the most pathogenic type. Incubation period is from 2-5 days. Streptococci infect mainly the pharynx, skin, causing pharyngitis, impetigo, gangrene and scarlet fever. There are many Homoeopathic remedies which can completely cure streptococcal infections. Some of the Homoeopathic remedies are mentioned in this article.

**Key words:** Streptococci, Homoeopathy.

## INTRODUCTION

Streptococcus is a large group of nonmotile, nonspore forming, catalase and oxidase negative, spherical gram-positive cocci arranged in chains. They are part of the normal flora of humans and animals. They are responsible for a wide range of invasive and noninvasive infections. Under a microscope they resemble a string of small pearls.

## Classification: 3 categories

### Table 1: Classification of Streptococci<sup>[1]</sup>

Alpha-hemolytic streptococci	Cause hemolysis and greenish discoloration. Known as streptococcus viridians.
Beta-hemolytic streptococci	Most pathogenic streptococci belong to this group.
Gamma streptococci	Fecal streptococci or enterococci.

Group A b-hemolytic streptococci (GAS) are known as Streptococcus pyrogens. It causes suppurative infections chiefly of upper respiratory tract (pharyngitis) and skin, impetigo, scarlet fever, necrotizing fasciitis, Streptococcal Toxic Shock Syndrome.

Streptococcal pharyngitis is highly communicable and usually results from contact with respiratory tract secretions of an infected person. It affects all age groups but is more common in school aged group 5-15 years. The disease mostly occur during late autumn, winter and spring.

Incubation period 2-5 days.

## Clinical manifestations

### Table 2: Clinical manifestations<sup>[1]</sup>

Pharyngitis	Throat pain, fever, chills, headache and malaise. 3-14 years age groups are mostly affected. Most common site for GAS infection.
Impetigo	Second most common site for GAS infection. Face and legs are the most infected areas. Honeycomb like crusts are present.
Scarlet fever	Rash blanches on pressure. Rash begins around neck, underarm and groin and then spreads to trunk and extremities. Tongue is usually coated and gives a strawberry appearance.
Necrotizing fasciitis	Also called streptococcal gangrene. An acutely progressive, severe deep seated infection.
Streptococcal toxic shock syndrome	Hypotension, multi organ involvement. Skin lesions are present. Severe and rapidly progressive illness.

## Diagnosis

Culture on sheep blood agar is considered the gold standard in the diagnosis of GAS.<sup>[1]</sup>

## HOMOEOPATHIC MANAGEMENT

### Table 3: Homoeopathic management of Streptococcal infections<sup>[2]</sup>

Remedy	Symptoms
Wyethia helenoides	An excellent remedy for follicular pharyngitis. Constant clearing and hemming; no relief from clearing. <sup>[2]</sup>
Viola tricolor	Impetigo; intolerable itching. Eruption, particularly over face and head, with burning. Itching aggravates at night. Eczema impetiginoides of the face. Urine; copious; cat-like odor. <sup>[2]</sup>
Duboisia myoporoides	Scarlet fever. Red spots floats in the field of vision. <sup>[2]</sup>
Borhrops lanceolatus	Gangrene; Haemorrhage from every orifice of the body. Broken-down, haemorrhagic constitutions. Worse in left side. <sup>[2]</sup>

## REFERENCE

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