### International Journal of Research in Health and Allied Sciences

Journal home page: www.ijrhas.com

Official Publication of "Society for Scientific Research and Studies" [Regd.]

ISSN 2455-7803

Index Copernicus value 2016 = 68.10

# Review Article

## Susceptibility and Cancer: The Homoeopathic approach

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#### ABSTRACT:

The harmonious play of life when disturbed it leads to disease in the body, community, this may be disturbed by many factors, as Master Hahnemann has mentioned exciting causes, fundamental causes that derange vital force and produce diseases. The Homoeopathic approach to treat these disturbances, as per our Master Hahnemann is "Treat the sick not the Sickness" by easily comprehensible principles. The cancer in early stages can be treated as per the susceptibility of the patient with constitutional remedies but in case when pathology is advanced and less chances of reversibility are there, then remedies may be used as palliative according to present state of the disease and patient. The present paper discusses susceptibility of life and reasons to adopt Homoeopathic approach towards cancer cure. **Keywords:** Cancer; Homoeopathic approach; Susceptibility.

Received: 12 April, 2018 Revised: 2 May, 2018 Accepted: 8 May, 2018

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**This article may be cited as:** Singh C, Bhinda KC, Kumar P. Susceptibility and Cancer: The Homoeopathic approach. Int J Res Health Allied Sci 2018;4(3):110-112.

#### INTRODUCTION

Homoeopathy has a distinct approach to the concept of disease. The holistic approach Of Homoeopathy is by recognizing the sick as a whole rather than in terms of sick parts. It emphasizes the study of Man from his state of health, till it travels to state of presenting illness. The individualization needs background as per the § 3, so that the characteristic to the individual becomes clear. The Primary correlation of the health disturbances is based on the study of Anatomy - Physiology - Biochemistry etc. Knowledge of common evolution of the disease, its causation, manifestations, maintenance and prognosis details, Knowledge about factors which worsen and improve the disturbance, including medicines and non medical measures and respective possible response elucidation by application of measures. This develops a good quality in homoeopathic physician as sound clinician with adequate discrimination, sharp observation and conceptual clarity. He will then be able to mould an effective appreciation of the patient's picture utilizing the knowledge of medicine. 1-3

The fundamental quality of a living organism to react any sort of stimuli, distinguishes the living organism from non living. The general quality or capacity of the living organism is to receive a stimulus and to react accordingly.<sup>4</sup>

#### **Factors Responsible for Susceptibility**

Susceptibility is responsible for the continuous existence of life in world. Depending upon the level of susceptibility the living organism in the nature is adjusting itself to the surrounding environment.<sup>5</sup> Factors Responsible are:

- Heredity: Susceptibility is inherited from his parents. It depends on miasmatic background of the parents. It also influenced by mental condition and circumstances during production of sperm and ovum.
- Early and Late developmental Factors: May also influence the development of susceptibility. Early environmental factors involve condition pertaining to intrauterine life e.g. Worries, disease, tobacco smoking, Alcohal, Malnutrition etc.
- Late environmental Factors: Also affect the development of susceptibility. These involve the influence during childhood and adulthood, nutrition, any indulgence; smoking, tobacco chewing, alcohal, worries, anxieties etc.
- These both genetic and environmental factors influence the susceptibility of the individual.

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#### Factors Responsible for modification of Susceptibility

The factors which modify susceptibility are:

- Age
- Constitution and temperament
- Pathological Condition
- Cell injury and adaptation; Cells are the basic units of life. In healthy conditions the cells remain in accord with each other. In 1859, Virchow (Father of Cellular Pathology) first propagated the concept that diseases occur due to abnormalities at the level of cells. Virchow gave two major hypothesis: all disease come from other cells and disease is an alteration of normal structure and function of these cells.<sup>6</sup>

The knowledge and skill gained by giving accurate diagnosis on postmortem being applied to surgical pathology. Since then study of abnormalities in structure and functions of the cells in disease is the focus of attention in understanding of diseases. Cell Injury is defined as a variety of stress, a cell encounters as a result of changes in its internal and external environment. The response to stress depends on many factors viz: The type of cell and tissue involved and extent of type of cell injury.

Most of the diseases in organs are caused by derangement at cellular level. Derangement or disorders like inflammation, growth, destruction etc. are due to defense mechanism of cells. <sup>6</sup> (

Response of normal cell; Increased functional demand

<u>Adaptations</u>: Atrophy, Hypertrophy, Hyperplasia, Metaplasia, Dysplasia –

Stress Removed: Reaction - Normal Cell Restores

2. When stress is mild to moderate: (Reversible Cell Injury) Adaptation : Degeneration, Intracellular Accumulation

Stress Removed: Reaction - Repair and Healing

3. When the injury is persistent: (Irreversible Cell Injury) Adaptation: No any Reaction – Cell Death

#### **Etiology of cell injury**

The Cell injured by

- Genetic Causes include developmental defect, cytogenetic defect (chromosomal abnormalities), single gene defect, multifactorial inheritance disorders.
- Acquired causes consist of hypoxia and ischemia, physical agents, chemical agents and drugs, microbial agents, immunologic agents
- Nutritional derangements
- Aging

- Psychogenic diseases
- Iatrogenic factors
- Idiopathic diseases

When normal cell is under stress, it adapts. When limits of adaptive response to stimulus are exceeded, cell injury occurs. If in a case of constant stimulus the adaptations are not sufficient to establish 'homoeostasis', cell injury occurs.<sup>6</sup>

Hahnemann<sup>7</sup> has put down the cause of disease as injurious influences on an organism about 200 years ago (§ 73). Defense as per modern science; the inflammatory and irritative pathologies seem to emanate from Physiological defense. The growth pathologies seem to emanate from Constructive defense. The destructive pathologies seem to emanate from the Destructive defense.

### Homoeopathic View<sup>8-10</sup>

- Psora is equivalent to physiological defense response.
- Sycosis is equivalent to constructive defense response.
- Syphilis is equivalent to destructive defense response.

All human cells are derived from the zygote (the fertilized ovum) a single totipotent stem cell capable of producing all cell types. During development organs and tissues are formed by the integration of four closely regulated processes: 10

- Cell division
- Migration
- Differentiation and
- Programmed cell death

These processes continue in adult life by small population of stem cells capable of self – renewal. These cells can also differentiate to maintain repair the tissues in which they are found. Dysfunction in any of these processes may lead to disease. <sup>10</sup>

Disturbed Homoeostasis impairs IMMUNITY and causes physical as well as mental symptoms according to the susceptibility of the person. Thus in Homoeopathy: cause or ailments from is very common in prescribing similimum (i.e. Genetic Constitution Similimum).<sup>11</sup>

Genetics of common diseases; Many common disorders, such as diabetes, atherosclerosis, hypertension cancer, osteoarthritis, inflammatory bowel disease and osteoporosis have an important genetic component but are not caused by single mutation.<sup>12</sup>

The result of genetic testing is beginning to have an impact on diagnosis, prognosis and therapy for common diseases, and this tends to expand significantly in the years to come. Gene therapy: Attempts to replace or repair mutated genes (gene therapy) in human have met with very limited success so far.  $^{\mathrm{12}}$ 

Stem cell therapy and regenerative medicine: The identification of adult stem cells and the ability to purify and maintain such cells in vitro offer very exciting therapeutic potential. Adult stem cell therapy has been in wide use for decades in the form of bone marrow transplantation. The embryonal stem cells derived from the early blastocyst can be taken and used to regenerate differentiated tissue cells.<sup>12</sup>

Recent advances in genome science have revealed mechanism of cooperation among species. Administration of immunosuppressive therapy to patients with malignant tumours and transplanted organs making them susceptible to infections. The harmonious play of life when disturbed it leads to disease in the body, community, this may be disturbed by many factors, as Master Hahnemann has mentioned exciting causes, fundamental causes that derange vital force and produce diseases.

#### Conclusion

The Homoeopathic approach to treat these disturbances, as per our Master Hahnemann is "Treat the sick not the Sickness" by easily comprehensible principles. The cancer in early stages can be treated as per the susceptibility of the patient with constitutional remedies but in case when pathology is advanced and less chances of reversibility are there, then remedies may be used as palliative according to present state of the disease and patient.

Thanks to Master Hahnemann for giving a Rational system of medicine: HOMOEOPATY which aims at bringing back the normal Susceptibility of the sick.

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