

## IMPORTANCE OF MIASMS IN HOMEOPATHY

**Rakesh Sharma**

Faculty of Homoeopathic Science, Jayoti Vidyapeeth Women's University, Jaipur

The susceptibility of the individual is influenced by external factor (meturic and telluric) and results in derangement of the weaker parts of the human economy. This brings changes in the patho - physiological frame of the individual and produces diseases in the human body. In some of the chronic cases, even a well indicated remedy fails to give the desired result. So, miasmatic diagnosis is important in the treatment of chronic diseases for the purpose of removing any acute diseases & accelerating the mode of cure or removing any hindrances or suppression. The highest and ideal cure with the complete annihilation of disease is only possible through the employment of constitutional anti-miasmatic remedy.

**Keywords:** Miasm, psora, syphilis, sycosis, chronic diseases

### **Description:**

In aphorism 5 Dr. Hahnemann himself states that the fundamental causes of the chronic diseases, which is due to chronic miasms.<sup>1(i)</sup> In aphorism 72 Hahnemann divided the diseases into acute diseases and chronic diseases and states that “They (chronic diseases) are caused by dynamic infection with a chronic miasm.”<sup>1(ii)</sup>

The classification of diseases done by Dr. Hahnemann is based on the chronic miasms. Introducing this classification of diseases is one of the remarkable discoveries for the entire homoeopathic fraternity. When Hahnemann found this clinical classification of diseases it was considered most relevant for the purpose to draw the attention to the differential points in the clinical picture of the chronic type of diseases.<sup>2</sup>

Miasm is any noxious emanation or polluting factor which is inimical to life and is also dynamic in nature. The word “miasm” means the effect of the minute, invisible biological agents (microorganisms) on the vital force of the living organisms which is manifested through the symptoms and is also carried to the future generation. Dr. Hahnemann described three miasms and also classified them as venereal and non-venereal miasms on the basis of their origin.<sup>2</sup>

After many years of his practice, Dr. Hahnemann noted that some of the diseases got easily and naturally cured with the homoeopathic medicines. But at the same time he was disheartened to know that some of these patients used to come with their old symptoms or with the other new symptoms. So, he studied in depth and concluded that the obstacles in curing these diseases are due to the miasms which he named as psora, syphilis and sycosis.<sup>2</sup>

Psora- In aphorism 80 Dr. Hahnemann defines psora as “the psora, the only real fundamental cause and producer of all the other numerous, I may say innumerable, forms of diseases” It is the fundamental cause of all the diseases and creates abnormal functions of the body. For example, hysteria, mania, madness, epilepsy and convulsions, caries, gout, haemorrhoids, jaundice, cyanosis, dropsy, amenorrhoea. <sup>1(iii)</sup>

Sycosis- In aphorism 79 Dr. Hahnemann states that “Sycosis (the condylomatous diseases), equally ineradicable by the vital force without proper medicinal treatment” <sup>1(iv)</sup>

Syphilis- In aphorism 79 Dr. Hahnemann explains syphilis as “a chronic miasmatic diseases, which when uncured ceases only with the termination of life”<sup>1(iv)</sup>

### **Miasms and Pathology**

Dr. Hahnemann relates pathology with the miasms in aphorism 74 as “...the vital force is sometimes weakened to an unmerciful extent, sometimes, if it do not succumb, gradually abnormally deranged (by

each substance in a peculiar manner) in such a way that, in order to maintain life against these inimical and destructive attacks, it must produce a revolution in the organism, and either deprive some part of its irritability and sensibility, or exalt these to an excessive degree, cause dilatation or contraction, relaxation or induration or even total destruction of certain parts, and develop faulty organic alterations here and there in the interior or the exterior (cripple the body internally or externally), in order to preserve the organism from complete destruction of the life by the ever-renewed, hostile assaults of such destructive forces.”<sup>1(v)</sup>

**Miasmatic expression and its reaction**

Man has exposed himself to different type of stressors from the environment including physical, chemical, emotional, biological, spiritual, religious, socio-cultural, economic, political objects and sleep and dreams also. These environs may become the causative factors or the maintaining causes or the modifiers of the diseases which helps in its development from psora to syphilis.<sup>3</sup>

Whenever the constitution of the person gets affected to these stressors, the environmental scanner gets into the operation for sizing up the situation according to the tentative responses till the most suitable and appropriate one is selected and developed its reaction pattern. This phase is also identified as the phase of the diseases.<sup>3</sup>

**Miasmatic expression according to Dr. Samuel Hahnemann**

In aphorism 204 Dr. Hahnemann states- “in the case of psora the scabious eruption, in syphilis the chancre or the bubo, and in sycosis the condylomata.”<sup>1(vi)</sup>

**Miasmatic expression according to Dr. Herbert A Robert**

Dr. H. A. Robert compared metabolism and the tissue reaction of the body with the miasms relating them with the disturbed assimilation.

Miasm	Other name	Keyword	Accentuation	Characteristics of metabolism	Tissue reaction	Psychological state
Psora	Itch mite	Deficiency	Functional	Under assimilation, outward loss	Unimpaired structure	Anxiety neurosis
Sycosis	Fig-wart	Excess	Infiltration and deposits	Over assimilation, inward retentiveness	Overgrowth	Obsessive states
Syphilis		Disorganised	Ulcerative	Self-assimilation, inner and outer disruption	Deformity	Psychosis

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**Miasmatic expression according to Dr. Subrata Kumar Banerjee**

Miasm	Keyword	Criteria
Psora	<div style="text-align: center;">                     Irritation                      /          \                      Physical          Mental                      e.g. itching          e.g. anxiety, fear,                      alertness                 </div>	Lack, scanty & absence e.g. atrophy, anaemia, ataxia, anorexia etc.

Sycosis	Incoordination		Hyper e.g. hypertrophy, hyperplasia, hypersexuality, excess working
	Physical Proliferation absentmindedness e.g. tumours, fibroids, warts & any growths.	Mental or excess e.g.	
Syphilis	Destruction & degeneration		'Dys' and irregular manifestations e.g. dystrophy, dysplasia, dysphagia
	Physical e.g. ulceration, pus formation & necrosis.	Mental e.g. suicidal tendencies	
Tubercular	Dissatisfaction		Alternating, periodic, one-sided and vague manifestations i) Alternation- e.g. constipation alternates with diarrhoea. ii) One sided diseases- e.g. insomnia, anorexia, migraine, etc
	Physical e.g. Person craves sugar but this makes him sick	Mental e.g. wants new clothes, changes occupation, studies	

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### Miasmatic prescribing

The skill of a homoeopathic physician is to recognize the surface miasm i.e. miasmatic diagnosis of the case through the surfacing of symptoms. The remedy they select should not only cover the symptomatic totality as manifested through the surfacing of symptoms but also the miasmatic totality. By such a prescription, which covers the miasmatic dyscrasia of the person, the chances of recurrence are eradicated and the axiom ‘rapid, gentle and permanent cure’ is encompassed.<sup>5</sup>

### Utility of miasmatic diagnosis

Miasm in each case will help a homoeopathic prescriber in the following ways:

- (i) A deep acting anti-miasmatic medicine helps to open up a case, where there is a scarcity of symptoms due to various physical, emotional or iatrogenic suppressions
- (ii) Anti-miasmatic remedy covers the psychic essence, nature and character of the individual in absence of any recognisable totality and opens up the case.
- (iii) In prescribing one should include the surface miasm of the case in the consideration of the totality, as miasm, the dyscrasia of the person, constitutes a major part of that totality. The totality of symptoms cannot be said to be total until and unless the selected remedy covers the miasm.
- (iv) To evaluate the necessity of a change in the plan of treatment or a change of remedy.
- (v) To evaluate the homoeopathic prognosis of the case.
- (vi) To fulfil Hahnemann's instruction of cure as ‘rapid, gentle and permanent’.
- (vii) Anti-miasmatic medicines help to clear up the suppressions; clear up the presenting symptoms from their root and clear up the susceptibility to get infection and thereby strengthening the constitution.<sup>5</sup>

### Conclusion

Thus the distinct notion on miasms described by the different stalwarts guide us to understand the concept of miasms from different point of view. The theory of miasms helps in understanding the future course of

the diseases and is also helpful in selecting the potency and repetition. This knowledge guide the physician to understand the block which prevent the well indicated remedy to act thoroughly. So, the miasmatic theory is a principle, which when applied correctly improves the quality of prescription and the quantity of better result especially in the chronic diseases.

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