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Dr. D Mastanvali
Assistant Professor,
Department of Community
Medicine, Hamsa Homeopathy
Medical College, Hospital and
Research Centre, Telangana,
India

Dr. Chidem Sushmitha
2017 Batch, Hamsa
Homeopathy Medical College,
Hospital and Research Centre,
Telangana, India

**Dr. Chinthapally Venkata
Ramani**
2017 Batch, Hamsa
Homeopathy Medical College,
Hospital and Research Centre,
Telangana, India

Corresponding Author:
Dr. D Mastanvali
Assistant Professor,
Department of Community
Medicine, Hamsa Homeopathy
Medical College, Hospital and
Research Centre, Telangana,
India

Book review: A concise repertory of homoeopathic medicines by S.R. Phatak with an illustration of gangrenous ulcer case

Dr. D Mastanvali, Dr. Chidem Sushmitha and Dr. Ch Venkata Ramani

Abstract

Gangrene is necrosis of tissue associated with superadded putrefaction most often following coagulative necrosis due to ischemia. (e.g.-in gangrene of the bowel, gangrene of limb). on the other hand, gangrenous or necrotizing inflammation is characterized primarily by inflammation provoked by virulent bacteria resulting in massive tissue necrosis. Ulcer -Ulcers are local defects on the surface of an organ produced by inflammation. Some of the common types of ulcers are ulcers in legs due to varicose veins, intestinal ulcers in typhoid fever. Phatak repertory is one of the most reliable alphabetical repertories. It is aimed at reducing the difficulties to physician in every sense of word. It is a clinical as well as an alphabetical repertory.

Keywords: Phatak repertory, gangrene, ulcer, homeopathic medicines

Introduction

About the Repertory: This repertory working largely from Boger's synoptic key. In this repertory author has presented the important symptoms in simple language, so that everyone can grasp easily. Particularly, the format is very useful where the remedy's affinity is stated at the outset. The relative importance of each remedy is fixed in the physician's mind by comparing with the other remedies under the same rubric.

It is derived or is an alphabetical version of Boger synoptic key. Phatak repertory is one of the most reliable alphabetical repertories. It is aimed at reducing the difficulties to physician in every sense of word. It is a clinical as well as an alphabetical repertory. Though this book looks small but, it consists of massive content.

About the author: Dr. Shankar Raghunath Phatak was an allopathic doctor with MBBS degree. He had knowledge about Organon of medicine and Philosophy, Materia medica and various repertories. He is a follower of Boger, and this repertory is also called as an Extended version of Boger synoptic key.

Plan of the book: It has no strict philosophy. All the rubrics, sub rubrics, symptoms are arranged in an alphabetical manner. Remedies are indicated in front of each and every rubric. In this book, there is no symptom at a particular level. It has followed the concept of generalization. There is no chapters.

For e.g., Awkwardness in extremities by Dr. J.T. Kent, but in mind by Boger, but in Pathak no need not to search. We can search in alphabetic wise there as we can find the rubric. Modalities are represented as general modalities in CAPITALS, AGG or AMEL particular modalities as small letters Agg or Amel.

Story of the book: Dr. S.R. Phatak conceived the idea of preparing and arranging the repertory in one alphabetical order while discussing the uses of various repertories with the doctors who came to him for guidance and in the study of Homoeopathy. He felt that repertory should be concise, handy and useful for ready reference. It should reduce the difficulty of the physician in searching a rubric. Though the idea of preparing a repertory was in his mind, his fragile health has prevented him from doing it so. Mr. SL Kapadi, a friend

of Dr. S.R. Phatak, who knew about the idea, took the author's rough draft and notes of his Marathi repertory and came out with a skeletal copy of his repertory. The author arranged the work properly and made many additions. Then Dr. Homai, a merchant typed this hand-written copy. This copy was lying on author's table for nearly ten years. During this time many useful additions were made with the assistance of Mr. Kapadi along with author's son Dr. D.S Phatak went through all the sections, did the preliminary spadework and with the help of Mr. D.P Datay first edition was printed in September 1963 at Mouj Printing press.

This book is divided into 3 parts.

1. Preface.
2. Abbreviation and their remedies.
3. Repertory proper.

Preface

In the beginning of preface, he says "Prescribing in Homoeopathy is both science and art but it is difficult art".

Abbreviation and their remedies: For e.g., Abies Canadensis-Ab-c, Ziz for Zizia aurea.

Repertory proper

Editions: 1st edition: 1963

2nd edition: 1972

3rd edition: 2000

4th revised edition: 2005

Gradations: 1st grade: CAPITAL

2nd grade: *italics*

3rd grade: roman

Plan and construction

This Repertory is printed in 2 columns in each page. All the headings are arranged in alphabetical manner. Repertory begins with Abdomen, affections in general & ends in Zygoma. Number of main rubrics is 1971. Number of medicines-393.

Rubric construction: Location, sensations, affections in general.

Sides-Right, Left, Alternative sides

Extensions

Sublocations, sensations, concomitants are also given.

Arrangement of rubrics: Main rubric- First letter of rubric is CAPITAL BOLD.

Sub Rubric: Bold roman.

Sub Sub Rubric: Roman.

Pain is the separate rubric in this repertory. Remedies indicated after each rubric is less in number. So, we can get similimum easier.

Symptom evaluation

Although it is derived from Boger synoptic key it's many sources of Phatak repertory. In this book, he has given more and more importance to modalities especially to causative factors. Since when the complaints has started. Then, latter

comes general modalities, concomitants, desires, aversions and the mental rubrics come later. So, this repertory helpful to refrain the mental error.

Special features

1. Extended version of Boger synoptic key, so many pathological generals are given, remedies for particular rubrics have been reduced.
2. The direction of symptoms is given separately.
3. There are many diagnostic rubrics are given like measles, pneumonia, malaria, bronchitis, and also drug abuse of in general as given as main rubric.
4. Under desire mind rubrics are given, like desire for beautiful things. Under aversion both mental and food aversions are given like aversion to bed, aversion to cheese.
5. Few cross references are given.
6. Causation- Cause of disease given under aggravation. E.g., Operation, surgical after aggravation, laparotomy after aggravate, forceps delivery after aggravate.
7. Clinically helpful rubrics are present in Phatak repertory like Milestones, Walking, Talking, Dentition delay, fontanelles delay given in particular rubric children, infant.
8. Rubrics are special to Phatak repertory are aero plane flying in aggravation, birth mark, blood pressure high.

Limitations

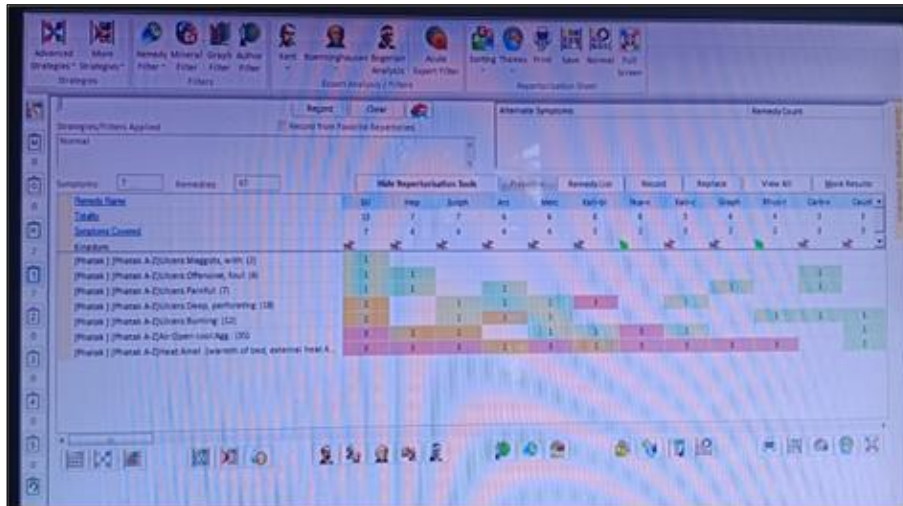
1. Characteristic particulars are not well represented.
2. Not for the cases rich in mental symptoms.
3. No full remedy indexes.
4. Rubrics and remedies are minimized.

Case illustration: A case of Gangrenous ulcer Patient aged 54 years came with complaints of Non-healing ulcer on lateral side of right leg with burning pain, offensive discharge, crusting and maggots' infestation. Discharge is thick yellow, very offensive. Heaviness feeling of leg with burning pain. Cause is Prick injury over scarred skin later developed small eruption with severe itching and also due to poor access to the wound care. Complaints < open air, cold air, cold application. > Covering the wound. Sleep disturbed and thermally he is chilly patient. On examination there is Redness, Inflammation of skin, offensive, thick yellow discharge of the wound. Warmth on touch.

Reportorial totality

1. Ulcer, maggots, with
2. Ulcer, Offensive, foul
3. Ulcer, Painful
4. Ulcer, Deep, perforating
5. Ulcers, Burning
6. Air, open cool agg
7. Heat amel

After doing repertorisation using Phatak repertory got Silicea, Sulphur, Merc sol, Hepar sulph, Ars.alb, Merc sol, Kali-bi, Nux-vom, Kali-c, Graph.



Prescribed remedy: Silicea 1M/1Dose.

1. 1st follow up: Discharge reduced, burning pain reduced, wound healing not started. Prescribed Silicea 1M/1Dose.
2. 2nd follow up: Size of the wound slightly reduced. Prescribed Sac lac.
3. 3rd follow up: Size of the wound reduced by 50%. Prescribed Sac lac.
4. 4th follow up: Wound healed. No fresh complaints.



Fig 1: Before prescription of Silicea 1 M/1 Dose



Fig 2: Follow up 2



Fig 3: Follow up 3



Fig 4: Follow up 4

Conclusion

Ulcer it may be non-healing or gangrenous with many causative factors, the scope of Homeopathy based on individualization with the use of proper repertory which can direct for selection of the proper simlimum. The main aim of this article is to show the use of Phatak Repertory which has exact rubrics which makes us easy to find the exact simlimum. Many diagnostic rubrics, pathological generals are present in this repertory. So, it is easy to find the remedy. A case report was added which illustrates the

considerable improvement of the patient with gangrenous ulcer treated with homoeopathy by using a proper compass-"Phatak Repertory".

The patient was also experienced the betterment of general wellbeing after an effective homeopathic treatment

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