

Homoeopathic Therapeutic Approach for Toxic Reactions to Stings and Bites of Insects with a Short Case Report

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ABSTRACT

Insect bites generally do not require treatment unless it is troublesome. Poisonous insects and venomous snakes need quick treatment and also severe allergic reaction – “anaphylaxis” from bites of bees, wasps, should be immediately taken care of, as they may lead to difficulty in respiration and other systemic troubles. This article deals with the therapeutic approach for allergic reactions to insect stings and bites with a short case report.

Key words: Insect stings, Bite, wound, allergy, anaphylactic reaction, Homoeopathy, Therapeutic approach.

INTRODUCTION

Insect bites are common and causes minor irritation unless the symptoms become severe. The common symptoms of insect bite are itching, swelling, redness, stinging and burning pain, which goes away if reaction is mild. Few insects like bees, wasp, and spider causes severe allergic reactions.

Pathogenesis: There is mild reaction on exposure to inset bite for the first time. After repeated exposure eruptions like wheals, hives, urticarial rashes are seen due to the contactant proteins present in the saliva of the insect. The mechanism involved is type I and IV hypersensitivity

reaction. In type I hypersensitivity reaction wheal is seen, where as in type IV hypersensitivity reaction papules are formed.

Signs and Symptoms:

1. Sudden onset of itching and pain. Later on, there is swelling and redness.
2. Solitary, grouped or generalized erythematous, edematous swelling or papules are seen depending on the insect.
3. Skin excoriation at the site of lesion due to continuous scratching.
4. Stings can be present at the infected site, which should be removed.
5. Occasional secondary bacterial infection due to the presence of bacteria in the insect.
6. In Idiosyncratic patients following symptoms are seen: Angioedema, Tachycardia, Respiratory distress, Hypotension, Wheezing, Anaphylactic shock.

Treatment: For mild cases treatment is not required, the symptoms subside by its own. Anti-histamines, steroid creams and painkillers may be required. For severe cases hospitalization may be required.

SOME RUBRICS WITH REMEDIES FROM SYNTHESIS 9.1, REPERTORY

1. Wounds, bites → Apis Mellifica, Arnica, Arsenicum Album, Cedron, Echinacea Angustifolia, Hepar Sulph, Lachesis, Ledum Pal, Senega in 2nd grade
2. Poisonous animals → Apis, Arsenicum Album, Causticum, Cedron, Echinacea Angustifolia, Ledumpal, Lachesis, Latroductus Mactans, Lyssinum, Senega, Tarantula Cubensis in 2nd grade. Gentiana lutea, Ledum Pal in 1st grade.
3. Cat bites → Ledum Pal in 2nd grade.
4. Red discoloration of wound after insect bite → Latroductus Mactans in 3rd grade.
5. Dog bites → lyssinum in 1st grade.
6. Scorpions of → Euph.Po, Guaco in 3rd grade.
7. Snakes of → Lachesis, Ledum Pal in 1st grade.
8. Spider of → Tarentula Cubensis in 2nd grade.
9. Prophylaxis to snake bites → Euphorbia Polycarpa in 2nd grade.
10. Ticks of → Calc Phos in 3rd grade.

HOMOEOPATHIC THERAPEUTICS:

Apis Mellifica: Allergic reaction to bites. Urticaria. Lymphangitis, with marked swelling and redness is seen. Sudden onset of enormous dropsical swelling. Sensation as if- stinging, burning, lancinating. Aggravation by heat. Ameliorated by cold applications. Concomitants- thirstlessness. Objective signs- part appears red, shiny, puffed up.

Arsenicum Album: Sudden onset of symptoms with rapid progress. Ailments from stings, venomous animals. Sensation- intense burning like fire. Aggravation from cold applications. Amelioration by warmth, heat. Concomitants- fear, anxiety, restlessness+++ , prostration+++ . Thinks he will die, no use of taking medicine.

Caladium Seguinum: Erysipelas inflammation at site of mosquito and insect bites, and they burn and itch intensely. Aggravation from warmth; cold water application ameliorates itching.

Echinacea Angustifolia: Snake bites and stings of poisonous insects. Venom infection. Bites of rabid animals. There is sense of fear and pain about heart. Drowsiness+++ . Sepsis, and lymphangitis, much sloughing at wound, becomes gangrenous, offensive discharge from wound. Useful for local cleansing of wound and as an antiseptic wash.

Euphorbia Polycarpa: It is best antidote to snake-poison. Its use also renders the body immune to the influence of the snake venom, and thus as a prophylactic. Relation- Euphorbia Prostata which was used by Indians as an infallible remedy against bites of poisonous insects and snakes, especially the rattle-snake.

Hypericum: Insect bites in nerve-rich areas. Punctures wounds. Surrounding part inflamed with neuritis: Radiating and shooting pain sharp cutting pains along the course of the nerve. Touch aggravation.

Lachesis Muta: Snakebites or envenomation by highly poisonous insects or spiders. Bad effects of poison wounds. Dark non-coagulable bleeding from the site of bite, copious, difficult to control. Bluish discoloration of the part. Sensitive to touch and pressure. Excessive painfulness of the condition. Worse night. Better locally with warmth applications. In general heat aggravation. Concomitant- fear of snakes, suspiciousness.

Ledum Pal: Bites of any type -dog bites, cats, snakes, where bleeding is minimum and the teeth penetrate deeply. Also for simple stings and insect bites. Scorpion bites. Infections and inflammation from every mosquito bite. Pains are sticking, tearing, throbbing, and intense itching at site. Aggravation from heat of bed, warmth, scratching. Pains ameliorated by cold applications, ice water. Concomitants- Objective sign- Coldness of effected part.

Leucas Aspera: also called as Drona, in case of snake bites, Mother-tincture is to be applied both externally and internally, 10 - 15 drops per dose, every 15 - 20 minutes interval, until the patient feels better. In case of scorpion bites also its action is noticed undoubtedly - the burning pains disappears within very short period.

Lyssinum: Bites of animals, rabid or not when the animal is vicious. There is bluish discoloration at wound. Itching of the part, aggravated by warmth, scratching. Helps to heal wound rapidly. Mental symptoms developed after bites. Lyssinum may be used also as prophylactic for hydrophobia. The effects of bites of non-rabid dogs have been removed by this nosode.

Rhus tox: Septic conditions. Area is Inflamed, Red, swollen, and itching. Cellulitis may develop. Erysipelas, Urticaria may occur because of allergy to bite. Intense itching ameliorated by hot water applications and rubbing.

Senega: it is traditionally used to antidote Snake-bites in many parts of India, especially rattlesnake bite. Heaviness and vertigo, dazzling vision, constriction sensation of esophagus, thirst, nausea, mucous vomiting, colic, scalding, frothy

urine, irritation of the larynx, and general debility which are seen after snake bite are relieved by this medicine.

Tarentula Cubensis: Bites and stings with marked burning and stinging pains. Purplish appearance of part with intense atrocious burning, stinging pains with restlessness. Intense sensitiveness of the part to touch. Night aggravation of pains. Intense prostration and perspiration.

Vespa: Bees and Wasp sting. Anaphylactic reaction. Angioedema. Wheels, macules. Soreness, Stinging, burning pains as if pierced with red hot needles. Intense swelling, redness and heat at wound region. Dreadful itching. Aggravation from heat, ameliorated with washing the part with cold water.

Urtica Urens: Insect bites and stings. Stings of jellyfish or medusa. Urticaria caused by allergic reactions to insect bites. Burning, prickling and itching type pains, better from constantly rubbing.

CASE REPORT

On June 20th 2023, A female of age 31 years visited OPD with complaints of swelling and redness on left leg for one day.

Causation	Location	Sensation	Modalities	Concomitant
Insect bite	Left posterior compartment of leg	Itching Burning pain	> Cold application	Nil

Past History: Nothing specific

Family History: nothing specific

Physical generals: Appetite and Thirst Normal, Bowels and Bladder Normal, Sleep and Dreams Normal, Thermals- Hot patient.

General physical Examination: Normal

Local Examination:

Inspection: Localized Redness and swelling seen at two sites on Left posterior compartment of leg

Palpation: Rise of temperature at the site of insect bite.

Diagnosis: Insect bite.

Acute Totality:

1. Causation: Insect bite
2. Burning pain
3. Better by Cold application
4. Hot sensation at the infected site.
5. Thermally Hot patient

Based on the Acute totality Apis mellifica 200 was selected

Final Prescription: Apis mellifica 200 thrice a day for 3 days

Follow up:

Date	Symptoms	Remedy
23/07/23	Swelling, redness and itching was reduced	Pl 1 dose



DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Homoeopathic system has wonderful remedies for insect bite and stings. The case presented here is an acute case of insect bite. Based on the acute totality, Apis 200 was selected, as Apis is hot remedy, complaints are better by cold application. Repeated doses were given as instructed by Dr. Hahnemann in aphorism no.251 of sixth edition of Organon of Medicine. Apis is a well indicated remedy for all the allergic reactions of insect bites like urticaria, erysipelas, edematous reaction, anasarca. Thus, the utility of Homoeopathy for insect bite and its reaction is vast.

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