

Understanding the Concept of Second Prescription in Homeopathy

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ABSTRACT

Homeopathy, a system of alternative medicine founded by Samuel Hahnemann in the late 18th century, operates on the principle of "like cures like" – a substance that causes symptoms in a healthy person can be used to treat similar symptoms in a sick person. One of the distinguishing features of homeopathic treatment is the concept of individualization, wherein each patient is treated as a unique case, and prescriptions are tailored to their specific symptoms and constitution. In some cases, particularly chronic conditions, a second prescription may be required to further address the patient's evolving symptoms and overall health.

Keywords- Second prescription, Aggravation, Miasma, Constitution, Homoeopathy.

I. INTRODUCTION

Need of Second Prescription:

Long experiment has taught us that the most difficult task for the healer to perform is the correct and timely administration of the second dose, either of the medicine given first or of another medicine.

The need for a second prescription arises when-

1. The first prescription was done well, but further relief is stopped.
2. New set of symptoms unrelated to the old ones appears.
3. There is an acute exacerbation of a chronic disease.
4. Symptoms disappear but there is no relief.
5. Symptoms disappear irregularly without following Hering's Law.
6. Miasma is active either alone or in combination. The disease has progressed from the functional stage to affecting the vital organs of the body.

Second Prescription:

Second prescription is presupposes that the previous remedy worked. According to Kent, there are three options for the second prescription; either repetition, antidote, to replenish.

The need for a second prescription in homeopathy arises when the initial remedy prescribed fails to produce the desired results or when the patient's symptoms change or evolve over time. Unlike conventional medicine, where a single medication is often prescribed for a specific condition, homeopathy recognizes that health conditions are multifaceted and dynamic, requiring careful observation and adjustment of treatment.

The process of selecting a second remedy involves a thorough reassessment of the patient's current symptoms, as well as a review of their medical history and response to previous treatments. Homeopaths pay close attention to subtle changes in the patient's physical, emotional, and mental state, as these can provide valuable clues about the underlying imbalances that need to be addressed.

II. MATERIAL AND METHOD

Different literature and journal of Second Prescription and Kent's philosophy Lectures on Homoeopathic philosophy.

Aphorism related to second prescription:

According to Dr. Hahnemann in aphorism 182-184, we have to prescribe the second more accurately suitable homoeopathy remedy in order to treat the sick individual in order to ensure cure.

Factors Influencing the Second Prescription:

Several factors may influence the choice of the second remedy in homeopathy:

Changed Symptoms: If the patient's symptoms have evolved or new symptoms have emerged since the initial prescription, a different remedy that matches the current symptom picture may be required.

Reaction to Previous Remedy: Evaluates how the patient responded to the first remedy – whether there was any improvement, aggravation, or no change in symptoms. This information helps guide the selection of the second remedy.

Constitutional Factors: Take the patient's overall constitution, temperament, and underlying susceptibility to certain diseases when choosing a remedy. A second prescription may aim to address deeper constitutional issues that contribute to the patient's health problems.

Miasmatic Considerations: In classical homeopathy, the concept of miasms – underlying inherited predispositions to specific diseases – plays a significant role in remedy selection. The second prescription may target the miasmatic influences that are contributing to the patient's illness.

Sequential Prescribing: A sequential approach to prescribing, where a series of remedies are prescribed in a specific order to address different layers of illness. The second prescription follows logically from the first, building upon the progress made with each remedy.

Complementary Remedies: A complementary remedy is chosen to complement the action of the initial remedy or to address symptoms that were not fully resolved. This approach aims to support the healing process by targeting different aspects of the patient's condition.

Constitutional Remedies: In cases where the initial prescription focused on acute or specific symptoms, a second prescription may involve a constitutional remedy. This remedy is selected based on the patient's overall constitution, personality, and underlying predispositions to promote deeper and more lasting healing.

Intercurrent Remedies: Intercurrent remedies are prescribed when there is a need to address new or acute conditions that arise during the course of treatment. These remedies help manage acute exacerbations, prevent complications, or support the body's response to acute illnesses occurring alongside chronic conditions.

Miasmatic Remedies: Miasms are underlying disease tendencies or inherited predispositions that influence the expression of illness. A second prescription targeting the

miasmatic background of the patient's condition may be necessary to address deep-seated or recurring patterns of disease.

Nosodes: Nosodes are homeopathic preparations derived from disease products or pathological tissues. They are prescribed as a second remedy when there is a history of past infections, vaccinations, or other disease-related factors that contribute to the current health status.

Antidotes: In some cases, the initial remedy may not produce the desired effects due to antidoting factors such as strong odors, certain foods, or environmental influences. A second prescription may involve selecting a remedy that is less susceptible to antidoting effects or addressing the underlying factors interfering with the action of the first remedy.

Palliative Remedies: Palliative remedies are prescribed to alleviate distressing symptoms or provide temporary relief while deeper-acting remedies are sought or as part of supportive care in advanced or terminal stages of illness.

III. ACCORDING TO DR. KENT

Dr. James Tyler Kent (1849–1916) was a prominent homeopath known for his contributions to homeopathic philosophy and practice. Kent's approach to second prescriptions follows the principles of classical homeopathy, emphasizing the selection of a single remedy based on the totality of symptoms and the individualization of treatment. Here's an overview of how Kentian homeopathy might approach second prescriptions:

Totality of Symptoms: Kent stressed the importance of considering the totality of symptoms – physical, mental, and emotional – when selecting a homeopathic remedy. A second prescription according to Kentian principles involves reassessing the patient's case in its entirety, taking into account any changes or developments since the initial prescription.

Dynamic Case Analysis: Kentian homeopathy views health and disease as dynamic processes, with symptoms representing the body's attempt to restore balance. A second prescription is guided by a dynamic understanding of the patient's case, considering how symptoms have evolved over time and any new manifestations that have emerged.

Characteristic Symptoms: Kent emphasized the significance of characteristic symptoms – those that are peculiar, unique, or defining of the individual's condition. In selecting a second remedy, attention is given to identifying characteristic symptoms that differentiate the patient's case and lead to the most similar remedy.

Miasmatic Considerations: Kent classified diseases into miasmatic categories, such as psora, sycosis, and syphilis, based on their underlying disease tendencies. A second prescription may involve considering the miasmatic background of the patient's condition and

selecting a remedy that addresses the deeper miasmatic influences contributing to their illness.

Hierarchy of Symptoms: Kent advocated for prioritizing symptoms according to their hierarchy and significance in the case. Symptoms that are more central, peculiar, or strongly expressed hold greater importance in remedy selection. A second prescription involves reevaluating the hierarchy of symptoms and identifying key indicators for the new remedy.

Repertorization: Kent pioneered the use of repertories – systematic indexes of homeopathic remedies and their associated symptoms – in remedy selection. A second prescription may involve repertorizing the patient's current symptoms to identify the most appropriate remedy based on the repertorial rubrics and the *materia medica*.

Individualization: Central to Kentian homeopathy is the principle of individualization, tailoring treatment to the unique characteristics and needs of each patient. A second prescription reflects this individualized approach, taking into account the patient's constitutional type, susceptibility, and overall health status.

Potency and Dosage: Kent recommended selecting the potency and dosage of the remedy based on the patient's sensitivity, vitality, and responsiveness to treatment. A second prescription may involve adjusting the potency or dosage regimen to optimize the therapeutic response and facilitate healing. The action of the first remedy determine that which kind of second prescription needed.

There are many problems that must be solved, or failure may follow

1. How long shall I watch and wait?
2. Is the remedy still acting?
3. Is the vital reaction still affected by the impulse of the remedy?
4. How long shall the returning symptoms be watched before it is necessary to act?
5. Is the diseases acute or chronic?
6. Why second prescription is more difficult than first?
7. Why so many patients are benefitted when first going to the physician and thereafter derive no benefit?

The change which occurs in the totality of symptoms after the first prescription signifies everything.

If Aggravation of Symptoms Follow: -

- a) If there is general improvement of the patient, It means well
- b) If there is decline of the patient, the cure is doubtful.

If Amelioration of Symptoms Follow: -

If the patient does not feel good, the improved symptoms are the facts upon which to doubt recovery. Here disease is incurable and every

remedy may palliate his sufferings but, cure does not come.

If the first prescription has been continuously given the returning image of the disease must be very unreliable. We can trust the symptoms constituting the picture only when the remedy has been fully exhausted.

If the first prescription was the similimum, the symptoms will return – and when the symptoms return – they call for the same remedy.

The above rule is almost free from exception if the remedy is antipsoric. If the prescribed remedy is only similar enough to the superficial symptoms, the image comes back is altered, resembling another remedy, due to which the case is sometimes spoiled. When the picture comes back unaltered except by the absence of few symptoms the remedy should never be changed until a still a higher potency has been given.

- 1) Proper Time to Change
- 2) Avoid Haste
- 3) Wait And Observe
- 4) Improper Action
- 5) Remedies Suitable to Follow
- 6) Careful Records

IV. CONCLUSION

Understanding of second prescription is very important because the whole future of the patient is depended upon the judgment that the physician arrives when patient comes for the second prescription. So, it is very important that how physician interprets the action of the first remedy and current state of the patient. The goal of choosing this topic is to understand the importance of the concept of the second recipe and its precise application in everyday practice. In this study, the usefulness of the second prescription is shown to show good results in both chronic and acute diseases. This study showed that the utility of the second prescription is good rather in chronic cases for a radical cure. The study will thus be useful to all homeopathic physicians as a candle light in the initial phase of their practice. With this goal in mind, the study demonstrated that the second prescription is needed to cure the patient, which is the whole and only mission of the homeopathic physician. So, I would like to conclude that the second prescription is important in both acute and chronic cases. But in chronic cases, its effectiveness is higher.

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