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## REVIEW ARTICLE

# Modern Observation on Disease Susceptibility In Hahnemann's Concept of Dissimilar Diseases

Sathish Kumar.V\*, Chandrahasan C.M, Suja. S. P and Priyanka P.S

Department of Repertory, Sarada Krishna Homoeopathic Medical College, Kulasekharam, Tamilnadu, India

\*Corresponding Author's Email: [sathishskhmc@gmail.com](mailto:sathishskhmc@gmail.com)

### ABSTRACT

Homoeopathy, an alternate system of medicine, based mainly on similar principle of 'Similia Similibus Curentur' means that cure must be taken by the drugs that produce similar effects on living being. The similar concept made a viable therapeutic method and consequent cures. The query of Homoeopathic physician of yore led to three possibilities when two dissimilar diseases meet together, either repulsion of the new disease or suppression of existing ailment or formation of a new complex of diseases. This concept of dissimilar diseases needed an explorative study on modern victims. This investigation resulted with many research papers related to genetic chromosomal diseases and other diseases. Many studies are being conducted in recent times on the increased resistance or hereditary susceptibility in people of certain genotype to some Infectious diseases. This suggests that mutations that takes place in a chromosome and resulting change in enzymatic activities in patients with genetic disorders can prevent certain infectious diseases. Though, there are numerous studies in this field, they need further clarification. It is interesting to note that the explanations given by modern medicine in relation to genetic and infectious diseases was anticipated by the pioneer of Homoeopathy Samuel Hahnemann a century ago.

**Keywords:** Dissimilar diseases, Genetics, Homoeopathy, Infections, Resistance Susceptibility.

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### INTRODUCTION

A unique Researcher and Scientist Dr. Samuel Hahnemann explained in his Organon of Medicine about the relationship of similar and dissimilar diseases. The relation of similar diseases have been explained in his invention of new system of medicine. When two similar diseases meet together, curative effect of former one have been proven. For example –small pox and ophthalmia where small pox produce Ophthalmia in severe cases but when small pox cures ophthalmia completely when inoculated. Likewise, small pox and dysentery, cow pox and red areolar pimples, small pox and cow pox, small pox and testicular swelling, measles and whooping cough, measles and herpetic eruption, amaurosis and scalded head, small pox with deafness and dyspnoea, etc. This similar principle influenced the inventor and thereby the explanation of principle 'Similia Similibus Curentur' meaning 'Lets Like be Treated by Likes'. When two dissimilar diseases meet each other the three possibilities of suppression or repulsion or formation of complex diseases occur [1].

Hahnemann's vitalistic concept connects the world of modern genetics through conceptual and functional similarities of homoeopathic chronic miasm with the biological representation of disease causing epigenetic modification [23]. In a study called paradigm of molecular biology it is said that the vital principle in homoeopathy is similar to the characteristics and properties of genome like self-organisation, action of opposition and reduction which in turn preserves the state of health and in maintaining life[24]. In Immunology, there are instances where resistance or proneness can be demonstrated in patients with some disease states towards other types of diseases, e.g. reduced or increased susceptibility towards infectious diseases in people of a certain genomic makeup. This article discusses a possible scientific explanation of repulsion of two dissimilar diseases [2].

Genetic variations contributes to susceptibility to infectious disease in human population. Now a days it is more falling on towards children. Susceptibility to infection and many other human diseases (including diabetes and ischemic heart disease) arises from the complex combination of environmental, pathogen and host genetic factors. This plays a role in determining both susceptibility to particular microbes and the course of infection[3, 33].

### **INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

Infectious diseases, the major burden of the people of all socio-economic status, are the foremost cause of death even in recent well organised and well equipped era. It has major impact for the governing agency and also medical interpreters. Including disorders caused by organisms such as bacteria, viruses, fungi or parasites which may be highly harmful. In some instances, certain diseases protect from some other diseases. These diseases are due to interaction between environment, affecting organism and host factors such as genetic, hormonal, etc. which decides the susceptibility of an individual and course of particular infection [3].

The infectious disease had increasing mortality and morbidity since recent years[15, 19]. The environmental agent also had increasing risk of infectious disease like cold induced and heat induced infection, etc. [16, 17, 19]. The sex of the person also decides the epidemiological affection of infection [18, 19]. Due to increasing morbidity, the therapeutic intervention becomes expanding year by year. For these therapeutic intervention, the susceptibility of individual and organism becomes extinguished [19, 20, 21].The infectious diseases are grouped into Respiratory tract infections, Septicaemia, Urinary tract infections, infections of heart, Tuberculosis, Bacterial meningitis, Gastrointestinal tract infections, Hepatobiliary disease, perinatal infections, Mycoses, etc. [19]Individuals with certain genetic diseases have some resistance towards major life threatening diseases like HIV, malaria, Hepatitis B, Cholera, Tuberculosis, etc. Homoeopathy is the ideal treatment which can be effectively applied as prophylaxis to gain resistance for all new and emerging infectious diseases thus regaining vitality to minimise the chronic complications of diseases [22].So these infectious diseases also seem to have some influencing hereditary or genetic factor operating. This needs further exploration.

### **MOLECULAR MECHANISMS IN RESISTANCE TO INFECTION IN GENETIC DISEASES**

Two genetic disorders which can alter susceptibility in certain infectious diseases are studied. Firstly, Resistance to Plasmodium parasite in relation with Sickle cell anemia is studied. Sickle cell disease is caused by a mutation in the Hb-Beta gene found on chromosome 11. This genetic mutation lead to change in single amino acid residue of the protein sequence. [2, 5].

This mutation results in fiber formation of red blood cells causing individual hemoglobin molecules to stick together leading to the formation of Hemoglobin S. The Protective effect of individuals with HbS against *Plasmodium malaria* was suspected before 60 years. Studies concluded that erythrocyte containing HbS might be less supportive to Plasmodium growth than normal red blood cells. It is also said that HbS shows reduced consequences by reducing the display of the parasite encoded protein *P. falciparum* Erythrocyte Membrane Protein-1 (PFEMP1). This Infected red blood cells with HbS causes reduction in adherence capacity of it to the capillary endothelium finally removing it from the circulation [2, 6]

Secondly, Cystic fibrosis and its relation with cholera is been studied. Cystic Fibrosis is a recessive inherited disease which causes mutations in a gene on chromosome 7 which is been inherited from the parents. This mutation in the gene makes a protein called CFTR (cystic fibrosis transmembrane regulator). Mutations can lead to defective protein production by loss of functional CFTR, Improper location of CFTR in a cell, defect in channel opening and finally defect in ion conduction through CFTR. These CFTR are cAMP and Protein kinase A regulated Chloride channels which in turn regulates various ion channels. In a Murine Model study, it is concluded that heterozygous mouse with mutated CFTR is susceptible to cholera toxin than those with normal CFTR. This is because of reduction in chloride ions. In fact, recently a thiazolidinone-type CFTR blocker has been shown to reduce cholera toxin-induced ion and fluid secretion in mouse intestine this in turn resist vibrio cholera in person with mutated CF gene [2, 7]. Thus thiazolidinone CFTR blocker CFTR in h-172 prevented cAMP and cGMP-induced ion/fluid secretion in rodent and human intestine without affecting intestinal fluid absorption. Some Recent studies shows that fluid secretion in the intestine caused by viral diarrhoea may involve mechanisms such as Ca<sup>2+</sup>-mediated Cl channels, although the function of CFTR in fluid secretions still remains unknown and is to be studied in h172 in suitable animal models [8].

### SUSCEPTIBILITY OF INDIVIDUAL AND DISEASE

In Homoeopathy, the susceptibility of an individual is emphasised. Susceptibility indicates the degree of vulnerability or reactivity of the individual, when subject to any external influence. It is mainly based on the age, sex, occupation, seat and intensity of disease, previous treatment taken by an individual and hereditary factors [1]. Does existing Disease in an Individual alter his susceptibility to other illnesses? It appears that due to the disease's pathology, the susceptibility of an individual changes accordingly. The pathology at different levels like tissue, cellular, hormonal, gene may play a role in developing resistance or hyper susceptibility to some diseases.

Some examples of genetic diseases and resistance to infectious diseases-- e.g. Haemoglobinopathies and Malaria, Cystic fibrosis and Cholera, Tay-Sachs disease and Tuberculosis [25,26], Mycotic Abortions and phenylketonuria [27]; disorders of glycosylation and infection by enveloped viruses [28,29]; Neimann-Pick C1 Disease and infection by filoviruses [30,31]. Approximately 3-5% of the population affecting ~ 80 different autoimmune diseases. A disease can be classified as autoimmune, if the immune response to a self-antigen causing the disease pathology [32]. Also exist some auto-immune disorders and metabolic disorders with altered susceptibility-- Myasthenia gravis and Rabies, Hemosiderosis and Typhoid fever, etc. [2]

### CONCEPT OF DISSIMILAR DISEASE IN HOMOEOPATHY

In Homoeopathy, the nature's law of cure purely explains that only similar disease can cure a disease, whereas two dissimilar diseases either suppress or palliate or together form a complex disease. Cure is not possible in such conditions. In Organon of Medicine, Master Hahnemann explained about 'what happens when two dissimilar diseases meet' in aphorisms (35 – 42). [1]

Three possibilities may happen when two dissimilar diseases meet inside an organism. First possibility, if the older disease is stronger, the newer weaker disease is repelled and not allowed to enter inside the organism. For example, both patients and carriers of cystic fibrosis may have genetic resistance to secretory diarrhoea. It can be argued that Cystic fibrosis is a more grave and serious disease than secretory diarrhoea [11].

Second possibility, the stronger newer disease can easily enter the organism and suspend the older disease. For example, the natural immunosuppression of measles may cause remission in nephrotic syndrome, and that of leprosy prevents psoriasis [11]. In aphorism 36 of Organon of Medicine, it is mentioned the existing stronger disease repels the weaker disease. If the two dissimilar diseases meeting together in the human being be of equal strength or if the older one be the stronger, the new disease will be repelled by old one from the body and not allowed to affect it. The stronger repels the weaker. He cannot be attacked by the new disease to which that person is exposed, even if it is equally strong in nature, because the earlier disease is dissimilar in nature [10].

Hahnemann mentioned in Organon of medicine that he itself saw the mumps immediately disappear when cow pox was inoculated in the person. And after cow pox was cured, again inflammation starts in parotid and submaxillary glands start and completed the course. So with all dissimilar disease, stronger suspends weaker, but they never cure one another [1].

Third possibility, the newer dissimilar disease joins the older one and form double complex disease [9]. Hahnemann states, patient suffering with a chronic disease will not be affected by simple autumnal dysentery or mild epidemic [11]. He lists various cases that were observed by fellow (allopathic) physicians of that time and were published in various medical journals. For example: "the pulmonary phthisis remained stationary when the patient was attacked by a violent typhus, but went on again after the latter had run its course." He then concludes: "thus it is with all dissimilar diseases; the stronger suspends the weaker (when they do not complicate one another, which is seldom the case with acute diseases), but they never cure one another" (§38) [1].

Hahnemann recommended treating this "complicated disease" with the specific remedies for the very diseases that make up that "complex disease". There is not just one symptom totality in a complex disease, and we would need to distinguish: which symptoms belong to disease A and which belong to disease B. So we would need to form a symptom totality A and a symptom totality B and choose a remedy for each of these symptom totalities, and then treat the patient with the remedies A and B in timely alternation. It makes sense to change them according to the condition in which the patient is, depending from what s/he suffers the most at the present moment [12].

In cases of complex diseases, a patient may suffer from two or even three dissimilar diseases simultaneously, i.e., there may be two or even three internally altered vibrational patterns at a time, together with their specific symptom totalities. According to Hahnemann, we would need to treat that

condition with two or three remedies in timely alternation, each of them being specific for one of the coexisting diseases [12].

According to J. T. Kent, if the chronic disease is stronger than the epidemic disease, that is if it has an organic hold upon the body, it cannot be suppressed. In this case, the older chronic disease which is stronger, will not allow a weaker epidemic disease to attack. This is the relation of an acute dissimilar disease to the chronic disease of severity [13].

## CONCLUSION

Homoeopathy is the holistic system of Medicine with its own philosophy. Our Master Dr. Samuel Hahnemann with his analytical and logical mind has contributed many observations related to dissimilar diseases. This Review reveals that there is material evidence for Hahnemann's observations on dissimilar diseases for e.g. the chromosomal abnormality in certain genetic diseases leads to variable activity of proteins and enzymes which determines the resistance or increased susceptibility to infectious diseases. The concept of hereditary Susceptibility to disease has been discovered years ago by Samuel Hahnemann which Hahnemann termed as Miasm. In the view of Homeopathic principles molecular changes are the ultimate of dynamic derangement in the homeostatic functioning of the organism. There is still a need for authentic research correlating Genetic diseases in relation to the dynamic concepts of Homoeopathy.

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