

Nosodes and Their Indications in Homoeopathy

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Abstract: *In homoeopathy, the choice of remedy is based on a consideration of the totality of an individual's symptoms and circumstances, including personality, behaviours, fears, responses to the physical environment, food preferences and so on. Dr. Hahnemann gives a fair idea on the importance of the constitution in Aphorism 5 of Organon of Medicine, wherein he states "Useful to the physician in assisting him to cure are the particulars of the most probable exciting cause of the acute disease, as also the most significant points in the whole history of the chronic disease, to enable him to discover its fundamental cause, which is generally due to a chronic Miasms. In these investigations, the ascertainable physical constitution of the patient (and intellectual character; his occupation, mode of living and habits, his social and domestic relations, his age, sexual function, etc., are to be taken into consideration. He mainly refers constitution to the inherent in the natural frame, or inherent nature of the individual. Hahnemann reviewed the use of miasms as homoeopathic remedies and pointed out that what Hering was suggesting was not the same old isopathic methods because the material used was potentised by the homoeopathic technique and given in minimal dose. This changes an ordinary isopathic substance into a homoeopathic remedy if used properly.*

Keywords: Constitution, Homoeopathy, Isopathy, Nosodes, Proving, Potentization

I. INTRODUCTION

The advent of Hahnemann's theory of the Miasms caused great interest in the chronic diseases and their anti-miasmatic remedies. One of the direct consequences of the publication of *The Chronic Diseases* was the development of the use of miasmatic organisms as potentized homoeopathic remedies. The earliest experiments with nosodes were carried out by Constantine Hering while he was in Surinam, Guiana, South America between 1827 and 1833. In the five years Hering spent studying plant and animal species, he paid special attention to the virulent snake and spider poisons as well as miasmatic substances. This was the time when Hering captured the Bush Master snake that supplied the first venom for the proving of Lachesis.

While nosodes are prepared from inactivated diseased products of human, animal or vegetable origin or cultures of micro-organisms, "Sarcodes" are remedies prepared from individual healthy organs or tissues, as well as from isolated bodily substances of human or animal origin.

In Hahnemann's mind the idea of using unproved disease substances on patients just because they suffered from the same contagion was far too limited. Hahnemann reviewed the use of Miasms as homoeopathic remedies and pointed out that what Hering was suggesting was not the same old isopathic methods because the material used was potentised by the homoeopathic technique and given in minimal dose. This changes an ordinary isopathic substance into a homoeopathic remedy if used properly.

The first generation of homeopaths who introduced the use of the nosodes were Hahnemann, Hering, Lux, Gross, and Stapf. Hering gathered a tremendous amount of firsthand experience in proving nosodes and applying idem remedies to acute and chronic disease in the field. Hering introduced all these new remedies yet he clearly pointed out their limitations when used by idem. All these isopathic preparations cannot be regarded as absolute specifics but only as chronic intermediate remedies which serve to stir up the diseases and render the reaction to the subsequently administered homoeopathic remedy more permanent.

Hering clearly stated that, if disease producing products are administered by idem they are only useful as intercurrent remedies which help to remove obstacles to cure and move the case forward. Their remedial action must be complemented by constitutional remedies within complete constitutional management.

Hence, the role of “Nosodes” though may be expansive, the basic and Prime remedial action is that of a “Constitutional” remedy. The major difference between Isodes and a homoeopathic nosode is that a homoeopathic remedy is proven on the healthy so its symptom picture and therapeutic range is greatly expanded. The idem prescription can only be used for the same condition it causes or its prevention. Once an isopathic substance is dynamised it becomes a pure homoeopathic potency. Therefore, it must be applied by the cardinal principles of homoeopathy if it is going to be used correctly.

II. CLASSIFICATION OF NOSODES

- 1. Basic Nosodes:** Psorinum, Bacillinum, Syphilinum, Medorrhinum and Carcininum.
- 2. Exanthem Nosodes:** Morbillinum, Parotidinum, Vaccinum, Pertussinum, Diphtherinum, anthracinum, Malandrinum, Variolinum and Influenzinum.
- 3. Isopathic Nosodes:** Streptococcinum, Pneumococcinum, Staphylococcinum, Malaria officinalis and pyrogenum.
- 4. Autogenous Nosodes:** secretions or discharges from the pathological tissues or organs of the patient self for the treatment (Tautopathy).
- 5. Intestinal Nosodes:** Dr. Bach and Dr. Wheeler.

Bach nosodes or Bowel nosodes: Bacillus proteus, Bacillus dysenteria coli, Bacillus morgan, Bacillus faecalis, Bacillus mutabile, Bacillus gaertner, Bacillus No 7.

If the miasmatic substance is not potentized, or transmuted in some way, it is often an extremely dangerous method. The modern vaccines have more in common with crude isopathy than Homoeopathy because they are unpotentized. This limits their usage to the treatment and prevention of one single disease condition. On the contrary, a homoeopathic nosode has been proven so it can be used as part of the greater materia medica. This allows it to be prescribed more accurately as well as to be applied in many different situations.

When a nosode is administered by the totality of the symptoms it is a constitutional simillimum just like the mineral, plant and animal remedies. The nosodes belong to a genus of primitive miasms which are the first life forms on our planet and symbiotically related to the development of the first plant algae. The minerals are the first remedies on the developmental chain followed by the miasms, fungi, lichens, fern allies, ferns, gymnosperms, dicotyledons and monocotyledons, and finally, the animal remedies. The nosode genus group has a very special place in Classical Homoeopathy.

Hahnemann wanted the nosodes to be well proven before they are entered in the materia medica. He was quite concerned that Homoeopathy might become mixed with isopathy which gives remedies solely by causation. Swam, who is given credit for introducing contemporary Medorrhinum and Syphilinum, was asked if it was correct to use unproven nosodes. He replied that 100's of years of suffering these genus diseases, and their complications, provided a "natural proving".

This rather controversial answer does have some merit. It is obvious, however, that the most characteristic indications of the nosodes are those that have come out in provings or on patients under treatment. Nevertheless, there are specific ways that the miasms disease-tune the vital force producing a characteristic group of symptoms. Hering noticed that certain characteristic symptoms are associated with the indications of miasmatic intercurrents and nosodes. Just as the homoeopath who works with families of remedies recognizes the symptoms of the plant, mineral and animal remedies, Hering recognized the characteristics of the nosode family picture. These characteristics includes indications of the miasms concomitant to lack of vital reaction to well-chosen remedies; constant changing of symptoms after administering remedies; fragmented pictures of several constitutional remedies and one-sided miasmatic pathology with few characteristic symptoms.

One's attention may be called to the use of a nosode when the patient no longer progresses under the influence of a constitutional remedy because well-chosen remedies do not act, hold, or only change the symptoms. Another important indication for the nosodes is a 'never well since syndrome' when it can be traced to a chronic Miasms such as

suppressed gonorrhea or a suppressed skin disorder, etc. A miasmatic block in the case can also produce one-sided states with a lack of symptoms yet the general history or indication of the miasms is in the background.

The nosode group characteristics are a signal to investigate the chronic miasms and map their signs and symptoms as well as looking closely for the symptoms of the major nosodes and anti-miasmatic remedies. Normally one will find objective signs and subjective symptoms that will individualize the remedy if it is indicated. Over the years the use of nosodes as chronic intercurrents has proved of assistance to constitutional treatment if used correctly.

III. NINE WAYS TO ADMINISTER THE NOSODES

1. The first indication for the nosodes is when the mental, physical generals and particular symptoms are characteristic of the proving of the remedy. This makes the nosode a **CONSTITUTIONAL REMEDY**. An example of this would be the use of Syphilinum in a person who fears the night because of the suffering it brings, fears going insane, despairs of recovery, has delusions that they are dirty, tainted, or impure causing them to compulsively wash their hands, etc. The symptoms confirm both the miasmatic diagnosis and the simillimum. In such cases the derangement of the vital force occurs in such a manner that it takes the symptoms of the nosode. In some cases, this state may or may not be directly linkable to the corresponding miasma. Others are born with this tendency due to the inherited miasms.
2. The second condition for using a nosode is when **WELL CHOSEN REMEDIES DO NOT ACT, HOLD, OR JUST CHANGE THE SYMPTOMS**. This is usually caused by the chronic miasms such as psora, sycosis, pseudo-psora, and syphilis. This is one of the reasons why it is important to know what miasms are in the background of a constitutional syndrome. Otherwise, the prescriber may think they are choosing the wrong remedies and further confuse the situation by picking more and more new ones. An example of this usage of a nosode is Psorinum's keynotes: Lack of reaction; when well-chosen remedies fail to act, especially in those who are extremely sensitive to cold, suffer from profuse sweating, filthy smell, dirty looking skin, and tend to be very pessimistic about their recovery, etc. Another example of this rubric is Tuberculinum's keynote: When symptoms are constantly changing and well-selected remedies do not improve, especially in those who have light complexion, narrow chest, lax fiber, low recuperative powers and constantly catch cold. There may also be fear of cats, dogs, and animals in general, a desire to travel, and a deep discontented state with a tendency to curse, swear, and a desire to break things, etc.
3. The third way to use a nosode is when there is a **LACK OF SYMPTOMS**. There are times when there are very few symptoms by which to prescribe. These are often one-sided cases where a strong inherited or acquired Miasms has repressed the ability of the constitution to show symptoms. Other than the signs related to the pathology of one or another of the miasms, the symptoms in these cases are not very characteristic of any chronic remedies. This may be a chronic state caused by a miasmatic dyscrasia. Vide the discussion of Tuberculinum in Kent's Lectures: "It seems from looking over the record of many cures that this remedy has been given many times for just that state on a paucity of symptoms, and if the records can be believed, it has many times balanced up to the constitution in that anemic state, where the inheritance has been phthisis. It is not the best indication for Tuberc., but where the symptoms agree in addition to that inheritance, then you may have indication for the remedy." There are two things that may happen after the ingestion of a nosode for such a condition. First, the symptoms may improve and bring the constitution toward the state of health. Second, the symptoms of the patient may become more plentiful as the suspended layers within the constitution become more active. The new state allows the homoeopathic practitioner to prescribe a chronic remedy based on the newly arising syndrome and advance the case forward.
4. The fourth condition for using a nosode is when a person has not recovered from a miasmatic infection, and its suppression. This state is called "**THE NEVER WELL SINCE SYNDROME**" (NWS). An example of this condition is the use of Medorrhinum in a person who has a history of sycosis from which they have never recovered. Perhaps a new layer of disease has been added to their constitution by a suppressed gonorrhea that changed both their physical health and personality. They no longer manifest the symptoms of a constitutional

remedy because the acquired miasms has become the active layer and suppressed their natural temperament. Once they may have been of sharp intellect, clear memory, and of a calm nature, but all that has changed for the worse. Now they have become very hurried as if time passes too slowly, they can't follow the thread of a conversation because they are losing their memory, and they've become fearful of the dark, superstitious, and suffer from delusions that someone or something is always behind them. This last symptom is very indicative of the paranoid suspicious state of sycoosis as it represents a subconscious fear that something is going on "behind their back" and is about to "get them".

The never-well-since syndrome can also be applied to acute miasms. There are times when a person has never fully recovered from an acute illness or miasms. The unresolved acute state still has an effect on the vital force as it has formed a layer within the constitution. If this imbalance is strong it will become the dominant layer and repress the older weaker symptoms. This is often caused by acute miasms like influenza, diphtheria, measles, mononucleosis, and whooping cough from which the patient never really recovered. Of course, a proper chronic remedy may remove the effects of an unresolved acute miasms, but when it does not, a nosode of the offending miasms will often cure. Nosodes for these acute miasms are available from homoeopathic pharmacies under names like Influenzinum, Diphtherinum, Morbillinum, Pertussin, etc.

5. The fifth way to use a nosodes is WHEN PARTIAL PICTURES OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL REMEDIES MANIFEST YET NO ONE REMEDY COMPLETELY FITS THE CASE. Such cases seem to be fragmented and disorganized, but, this pattern is characteristic of the miasms and nosode group. An investigation of the miasms behind the fragmented picture may reveal the symptoms of the nosode family. Differential analysis will quickly show which miasms is involved and what nosode may remove the state. Such an intercurrent often improves the state of health and regularizes the natural symptoms pattern. After the nosode has done all it can do the symptoms will point more clearly toward a constitutional or anti-miasmatic remedy. In this way a nosode can bring order out of chaos and clarity out of confusion.
6. The sixth way for using a nosode is WHEN A MIASMIC LAYER OBSTRUCTS THE PROGRESS OF A CONSTITUTIONAL REMEDY that was improving the patient. This use of a nosode is called a miasmatic intercurrent. Suppose one has a patient whose symptoms point to an inherited pseudo-psoricmiasm and the case works out to fit Pulsatilla perfectly. This is all coherent because Pulsatilla is a strongly anti-tuberculin medicine as well as the individual's constitutional remedy. After several months of solid improvement, the patient begins to relapse with the same symptoms, and to one's great surprise, the Pulsatilla no longer works. Although there is no change of symptoms calling for a new remedy, the old remedy has become completely ineffective. If the underlying symptomatology shows the tubercular miasm, the homoeopath can try to unlock the blocked case with a tubercular nosode, such as Tuberculinum. In the above example the tubercular nosode sets the stage for the reintroduction of the Pulsatilla by re-sensitizing the vital force.

Two things may happen after the introduction of the miasmatic intercurrent. The nosode may move the case forward by removing the active symptoms. When this happens, it is best to stay with the nosode as long as the improvement lasts. If this improvement ceases the remaining symptoms may be treated with the former chronic remedy. If the patient does not show any improvement on the nosode after a sufficient amount of time, the former chronic remedy should be re-introduced. Under these conditions the previous remedy often acts just as dramatically as it did the first time it was given. This effect has been witnessed by many experienced homoeopaths over and over again. Although the miasmatic intercurrent may not radically improve the case by itself, it can cause the patient to become re-sensitized to their original constitutional remedy. There are times when this technique is extremely useful.

7. The seventh way for using a nosode is when the remedy is RELATED TO THE DISEASE GENUS. An example of this method is Clark's use of Pertussin (Coqueluchinum) against whooping cough. Clark once wrote, "I have found in this nosode a specific for a large proportion of cases of this disease. It should be given every four hours to begin with, and if it does not cut short the case in a few days, or materially modify its severity, another remedy may be chosen from the following."

Another area where the Isodes may be of use is in the case of complications caused by vaccines. In this case a nosode of the offending vaccination may be appropriate to remove the side-effects of an immunization. Closely aligned with using idem is the use of remedies to desensitize a person to specific allergies. Most individuals are allergenic to more than one antigen at a time so the chronic remedy, with or without a miasmatic intercurrent, is usually much more effective. Nevertheless, in some very stubborn allergies where this is not the case, the isopathic method may prove a useful adjuvant. The use of organs and glandular preparations (organotherapy&hormonotherapy) is also based on idem. This includes remedies like Thyroidinum, the dried thyroid of the sheep, and Adrenalin, the internal secretion of the suprarenal glands. This method has also proved useful in some cases of thyroid disease.

8. The eighth way of using a nosode is for HOMOEOPATHIC PROPHYLAXIS to prevent specific infectious diseases. An early example of this was Boenninghausen's successful use of Variolinum to prevent smallpox. Nosodes may also be used as a method to protect children from the miasma they have inherited through their parents. James Kent stated in his Lectures on *Homoeopathic Materia Medica*: "If Tuberculinum Bovinum be given in 10m, 50m, Cm. potencies two doses of each potency at long intervals, all children and young people who have inherited tuberculosis may be immune from their inheritance and their resiliency will be restored.". This, of course, relates to children who show symptoms of the TB miasms such as nervousness, temper tantrums, emaciation, anemia, swollen glands, frequent colds, etc.
9. The ninth way of using a nosode is as a homoeopathic remedy made from the patient's own disease substances. This is called the AUTO-NOSODE. This method has sometimes helped patients when nothing else seems to work. Hahnemann once had a patient suffering from phthisis that was not responding to well-chosen remedies. This led him to prepare an auto-nosode made from the saliva of the patient. Auto-nosodes have been made from sputum, blood, urine, pus, leucorrhoea, exudates from skin eruptions, and microbes from cultures of the patient, etc. This is often tried when nothing else works. Nevertheless, with observation homoeopaths should be able to develop the characteristic symptoms of the auto-nosodes.

3.1 Contra-indications of Nosodes

1. In the active phase of acute disease
2. In the explosive stage of miasms
3. During the active phase of recurrent attacks.
4. In an infectious stage i.e., do not use Tuberculinum in established tuberculosis.

3.2 Characteristics: (Physicals)

- All nosodes are indicated whenever there is a family history.
- In chronic diseases
- Tendency towards malignancy
- Suppressed or ill-treated skin disorders
- All nosodes crave alcohol.
- Profuse perspiration with relief of symptoms.
- Offensiveness
- Hemorrhages
- Chronic catarrhal condition of the lungs
- Marked tachycardia.
- Remarkable action on glandular system
- Cancerous conditions
- Trembling, intense nervousness.

IV. CONCLUSION

One can see from many of these indications that a good knowledge of the acute, half-acute and chronic miasms is very important in understanding the use of nosodes. As they are disease products knowledge of disease goes hand and hand with their usage. The study of the acute, half-acute and chronic miasms, and their action on the system of mass defense, is an important part of classical Homoeopathy. Some modern homoeopaths no longer pay any serious attention to the miasms and do not study the nine ways to use nosodes. Some are Neo-Kentian prescribers, but they do not seem to understand that Kent studied the miasms and used nosodes in various ways depending on the circumstances. It seems at this time, however, the miasms are making a necessary come back as they are an integral part of homoeopathic pathology.

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