

Letter to the editor

In the Spring *Journal* appeared an account entitled, "An Acute Case of Trismus In A Young Boy." Dr. Timothy Fior, whose case it was, decided the child had an early case of *Clostridium tetani* or "Lockjaw" based on the fact a seven year old boy, who had suffered from a cold for a week, woke up one morning complaining of jaw pain. He had difficulty moving the jaw, including opening his mouth. Because the boy had jabbed his finger into a staple three days earlier, Dr. Fior made the assumption he was infected with *Clostridium tetani*.

Dr. Fior did say, "Diagnosis is made by culturing the wound," and went on to write that the culture infrequently grows the organism. Dr. Fior did not culture the puncture wound; presumably there was nothing to culture. Nevertheless, he felt sure he had a case of *Clostridium tetani*.

I do not agree. Many viral illnesses, which routinely produce fever and cough, also routinely will throw out other, not so common symptoms. Viral illnesses have a Houdini-like ability to assume many forms, producing unexpected symptoms throughout the body. The boy could have just as well developed a stiff neck, which would not have equated to meningitis; he could have had a protrusion of an eyeball, involuntary stool, and so on. (Incidentally, *Belladonna* produces and cures all those symptoms). Because viruses are so Promethean, one might pause before invoking a potentially lethal bacterium such as

Clostridium tetani. Incidentally, how common is it for *Clostridium tetani* to reside on a staple in a desk drawer?

This kind of diagnosing, I fear, would simply be laughed at, by an Infectious Diseases specialist.

Dr. Fior went on to write, "*Belladonna* was chosen as it covered the rapid onset of symptoms." We do not know that. The child woke up with his jaw symptoms. They could have come on slowly or quickly over the previous ten hours. *Belladonna* symptoms come on, typically, in a few minutes. So, Dr. Fior chose a symptom based on an assumption. And where was the keynote symptom of red, hot face with colder hands and feet? He wrote the child had "trismus." Perhaps, perhaps not. He did have pain in the jaw and limitation of jaw movement. Does that constitute trismus? The other symptoms he prescribed *Belladonna* on were: "red face with fever with aversion to uncovering and no thirst, glassy eyes, whimpering and desire to be held"—common symptoms, hardly characteristic of *Belladonna*. Nonetheless, the boy improved after *Belladonna*, which was gratifying. I would much prefer, however, to see cases reported where the symptoms prescribed on are more characteristic of the remedy given. We need material which is teachable. The fact that a homeopathic medicine cures or palliates is fine, but to publish a case it should, in my opinion, be worthy of being taught.

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Abstract: We are fortunate to be able to continue our series of clinical case histories presented by Dr. Geukens. Both of the following cases are actually the same patient, presenting with two distinct pathologies—heart disease and cancer of the bladder. The keynote symptom in the first instance, when the patient suffered angina, was the remarkable amelioration produced by strenuous exertion, leading to the prescription of *Rhus toxicodendron*, which acted thoroughly. Subsequently, the patient developed cancer of the bladder, that occurrence suggesting that even after a correct homeopathic remedy has been prescribed, a patient may subsequently contract a cancerous condition. The symptoms of the patient then—burning dysuria, involuntary stools, and dreams of dancing—led to the prescription of *Gambogia*, with very gratifying results.

Keywords: angina pectoris, heart disease, bladder cancer, burns, *Rhus toxicodendron*, *Gambogia*, *Cantharis*.

Case 1: Heart Disease

Male, 63 years old

(Note: Comments in italics are Geukens's observations about the cases.)

This is not a first consultation; this is a patient who has been in treatment for many years. The first consultation was sometime in the eighties. He worked in a coal mine and had an accident. His head was struck by a stone. Since then he suffered from vertigo and epileptic attacks. He took Tegretol. I treated him and he was able to stop Tegretol. This story follows.

Consultation: 26 August 1986

A (Alfons): "Marcel, we will repeat your story once again. You came here the first time with a very big problem on 24 of June. A few months prior, you were on holiday. Tell me what happened then?"

P (Patient): "We were in Spain, weren't we?"

WP (Wife of patient): "Yes, we were in Spain, and he was complaining about pain. We were sitting on a terrace and he didn't feel well. It was the same problem that he had earlier when he fell down all the time. He was trembling and I thought it was so strange. 'What's wrong with you?' I asked him. He said, 'I have pain in my arm.'"

A: "In which arm?"

P: "My left arm."

WP: "Yes, he said he had pain and it was really important the way he put his hand down, this way or

that way. Then I called a doctor."

A: "This was in Spain?"

WP: "Yes, in Spain, in a hotel. We had the doctor come and he thought it was not normal that he had so much pain in his arm. He said, 'If it is not better tomorrow, inform me and then we will take him to a specialist for a cardiogram of his heart.'"

A: "Marcel, what did you feel exactly?"

P: "It was as if my arm was paralyzed. I couldn't move it."

A: "Did you have pain somewhere else?"

P: "Yes, here I also had pain."

A: "Where?"

P: "Here, in my heart."

A: "Wait. Show me where you had pain? Yes, in your heart. And did this pain extend somewhere?"

P: "Yes, and I felt so strange."

A: "And did the pain extend from your chest to your arm?"

P: "Yes, it was at the same time."

A: "And your arm, it was as if it was numb?"

P: "I couldn't move it."

A: "As if it was numb?"

P: "Yes."

A: "So, as if your arm was asleep?"

P: "Yes."

A: "All right. So he went to see a doctor and then he got medicines."

WP: "Yes, but he didn't take them right away."

P: "Oh, I had so much pain. In the evening they went with a taxi..."

WP: "Yes, in the evening at about eleven o'clock I went to the pharmacist and he gave me the medicines, and then you took a tablet and got an anti-pyretic. Then you were doing better."

P: "Yes, then I had to run to the toilet."

WP: "Yes, but this is a habit."

P: "Then I had to run to the toilet and I had vertigo."

WP: "Yes, he didn't feel well. The doctors said, 'If it is not better tomorrow, I will go with him to a specialist.' But we want to go home on Thursday, and we had an appointment here with you on Tuesday. I said, 'It makes no sense to blow up this case; it is better to go to Hechtel.' And then we came here on Tuesday, with the idea; well, yes,..."

A: "We had an electrocardiogram made by a colleague and he could detect ischemia. So, indeed it was a kind of a lack of oxygen in the heart because of the fact that the arteries around the heart probably were a little bit arteriosclerotic; there was some calcification. Also, at that time you were coughing, especially at night."

WP: "Yes, very much. All night long."

A: "During the day you didn't cough?"

WP: "Yes, also."

P: "But not much?"

WP: "No, but when you smoked a cigarette, you did."

A: "When he smoked a cigarette, he did. But anyway, more at night?"

WP: "Very much. Very often I got up to lie on the sofa at night. I just tell it the way it was."

A: "During the day you coughed less. Then you also had pain in the region of the heart after eating."

P: "Yes. When I had eaten."

WP: "Yes, but he hasn't had it anymore."

A: "Yes, but wait; I'm talking about that period. It is important to know what he had at that time. So, pain in the region of the heart after you had eaten."

P: "Yes, then I got this."

A: "And also pain in the evening."

P: "Yes."

A: "At that time it was strange, was it not, that when you were working in the garden, you didn't feel anything at all."

P: "No, nothing, as long as I was busy, I didn't feel anything at all."

WP: "No, nothing all day long."

A: "Nothing; this is strange."

WP: "Indeed, all day long he is in the garden. Last week he cut a tree in the woods to put against the beans in the garden. I was moaning about that. I said, 'Man, you are crazy. Such a big tree.' Last week he also went to the 'tris.'"

A: "What is this?"

P: "The slagheap, the heap in Beringen."

WP: "He brought two sacks with coal home. I said, 'I think you have gone crazy.'"

A: "From this slagheap?"

WP: "Yes, he felt well, he said."

P: "Just let me be busy."

He was already in treatment before he went to Spain. This is a long story. This woman is always talking; he has nothing to say; that's why he always goes away. She is Lachesis. Her daughter, a Sepia, is married to a man whose case I recorded on video—a beautiful case: he wore his hair like a woman and he had attacks of gout at night at two o'clock. He was cured beautifully with Pulsatilla. This Sepia-woman and this Pulsatilla-man had their first child, a healthy child. When the child was four, five months old, he had to have his vaccinations. The moment the child got the vaccination he gave a shriek, and since then the child has been decerebrate; since then he has been like a vegetable and has convulsions. I have tried to treat this child for eight, nine years, but I haven't been able to help it. At that time I didn't prescribe nosodes; I tried to prescribe only on the basis of the symptomatology of the convulsions. At the age of about ten years the child got a fever and died at home. This is the kind of case one never forgets. It was a completely healthy child and the moment it got the vaccination, a shriek and, boom, completely gone. Of course, since then I'm afraid of vaccinations which are given with an injection. Half a year later a woman came to me in a real Natrum muriaticum-state. Her child was healthy, got a vaccination, and eight days later she found her child dead. These are sad stories, stories causing one to become afraid of vaccinations. With this child, whom she found dead in his bed, I have the impression that it must have been in an Opium-state. Opium is also a big story. When something happens during the pregnancy where the woman really becomes anxious because of an accident or a big fight; for example, when a husband hits

his wife, and she becomes very anxious, it will be transmitted to the child.

Mind, AILMENTS, fright, accident; from sight of an (S.R.: ACON., calc., OP.)

Besides it is typical that during the delivery Dolantin (pethidinehydrochloride—a morphine derivative) is injected. This woman came to me and said, 'I have one boy and my second child died of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.' I examined this woman and it was clearly Natrum muriaticum. After three, four months she was very happy. I prescribed Sulphur for her husband. They did their homework and they produced a child. Then she came to me and she was pregnant. Afterwards I gave her Natrum muriaticum a few times and then there was the delivery. I told her, 'Please, no Dolantin. The delivery has to happen spontaneously.' 'Yes, yes.' But at that time it was like this—now it is not like this anymore—but at that time only rich people married rich people. If your father was a doctor, then you married a rich daughter of another doctor, and so on. So it was a closed circle. The nephew of the woman's husband was a gynecologist. She was obliged to have her delivery in the hospital where the gynecologist was working. This man was very dictatorial. 'I don't want any injection', she said. 'I do what I want,' was his reply. So injections were given. One month after the delivery she comes with her child and a monitor. 'Well, my child stops breathing during sleep, and when he doesn't breathe longer than 20 or 30 seconds, the alarm goes off.' This is a typical Opium-case.

Respiration, ARRESTED, sleep, during (S.R.: am-c., cadm-s., Carb-v., Cench., dig., Grin., guaj., Kali-c., Lac-c., Lach., lyc., Op., samb., Sulph.)

For sure I have had about ten such cases, at least. The child is always tired; for example, when he breastfeeds, he becomes sleepy. 'He always wants to sleep.' 'During his sleep the breathing becomes slower and slower; then one time he takes a deep breath and it goes on like that. These are symptoms that indicate Opium. So, it was not difficult to prescribe Opium. The remedy was given a few times and the monitor was not necessary anymore. Today this child is fourteen years old, a healthy boy. Afterwards he got

Tuberculinum because there was tuberculosis in the family. If you experience something during the pregnancy which provokes anxiety and then an injection of an opium derivative is given, this combination, then there is a possibility that the child will go into an Opium-state.

Back to the Sepia-woman and the Pulsatilla-man. They had another boy and this child never had vaccinations. I wrote everywhere "contraindicated". When you think that a vaccination in a child is dangerous, then you write only "contra-indicated." When this doctor who is going to give the vaccination calls you, you tell him, "OK. I agree with you, but you take the responsibility when something happens after the vaccination." Then you have made yourself very clear. I take the responsibility when I say, "This child may not have any vaccinations." But then you must also treat this child every time he has measles, whooping cough and so on. "If you still want your child to have vaccinations, then it is your responsibility. You are the parents. You can do that. But..." And when you say to the doctor on the telephone, "I agree with you, but please write a letter saying that you are responsible for the vaccination," nobody will do that. So they had a beautiful Sepia-boy. That is the story of this family.

Our patient says, "My left arm is numb and I have pain in my heart."

Extremities, NUMBNESS, upper limbs, left, heart disease; in (S.R.: Acon., Cact., cimic., dig., Glon., kalm., Lach., lat-m., Naja, phos., Rhus-t., Spig., Sumb.)

Of course, I had an electrocardiogram done and there were ischemic ST changes.

In those days people invited me out very often. When somebody becomes eighty years old or when people are married for fifty years, they invite people from the village to drink or eat something together. So a neighbor who became seventy years old invited me. I went there and I entered a room full of people. I sat down and I was observing a man at a table. This man seized his heart with his right hand and he shook his left arm. I thought, "My God, again work to do." I continued drinking my beer. This man was a little bit arteriosclerotic; he smoked a lot, drank a lot and ate a lot. He went outside, came back and went outside

again. Then they came to me and said, "Alfons, he doesn't feel well." "Our Center was about five hundred meters away. I went to him. He told me, "I don't feel well and my arm is numb." I thought, "My God, the beginning of an infarct." I brought him to the Center. But walking five hundred meters with someone who you think might die any minute is a problem. "And how do you feel? Better?" "No." "And what do you feel?" "Well, it extends to my neck." Extending to the neck—*Naja*. I put *Naja* in his mouth. "And how do you feel now?" "Call my wife, call my wife." Immediately I called the ambulance, because anybody can die, but not in a homeopathic center. This was not good.

I waited a little bit longer, and then I heard him saying to his wife, "The key to the safe is there." I thought, "My God, he thinks he is going to die." I ran again to the reception, took *Aconitum* 1000 and put it in his mouth, and a few moments later he said, "Oh, I feel better." The ambulance arrived. Though he was better, I still insisted that he go to the hospital. This

happened at least fifteen years ago and he is still alive. We arrived at the hospital and I said, "Yes, angina pectoris and infarct." They found no infarct nor any clear symptoms for angina and determined that my diagnosis was wrong. OK, after *Aconitum* the diagnosis was wrong.

When you take the last rubric and people think, "Oh my God, I will die." When this is so clear, the presentiment of death, the number one remedy is *Aconitum*. When they think it is so bad that they will die in a minute, immediately give *Aconitum*. Also, *Naja* was in this rubric because the pain extended to the neck, which is a symptom of *Naja*, but it didn't act.

Mind, DEATH, presentiment of (S.R.: e.g. *Acon., Apis., Bell., Merc.*)

I had a Sepia-woman that had hemorrhoids with stitching pains. I prescribed Aesculus locally. Aesculus is typical for hemorrhoids when the pains feel like that of many little needles inside. She reacted very

well. Afterwards she had a relapse and she didn't react to Aesculus anymore, but then Sepia was clearly indicated and Sepia cured her beautifully. During her pregnancy she called me. "Alfons, can I come to you? I have influenza and I don't feel well." When she arrived, she said, "I think I'm going to die." Aconitum cured this symptom within two minutes.

Mind, FEAR, death, pregnancy, during (S.R.: *Acon.*)

These are situational prescriptions. Only by the use of such situational remedies can such symptomatology disappear.

But back to our patient. In addition to the last rubric he added, "When I sit down and when I walk around, then I feel better."

This is important. When did he have symptoms? When he sat down. This is strange; this is rare in heart symptomatology. It is very strange that the pain in his heart and the numb feeling in his arm disappeared when he moved. That's what he said. He got this while sitting on a terrace in Benidorm, but at home when he was working in the garden he didn't feel anything at all. This is very typical and there is only one remedy in this rubric, which has a strong amelioration from motion—Rhus toxicodendron. Under his eyes he also had swelling. This was an observation. It was a clear symptom in this person.

Face, SWELLING, Eyes, under (S.R.: e.g. *Apis, Ars., Kali-c., rhus-t.*)

To make the swelling disappear you have to repeat the remedy often during a longer period; then the swelling will disappear gradually.

A: "OK, good. A second thing, is the following. You took Tegretol. Why did he take Tegretol?"

WP: "Well, because sometimes he just fainted. Sometimes about five minutes."

A: "He fainted?"

WP: "Yes, completely. And then"

A: "And then he was trembling. He had a kind of epileptic attack?"

WP: "Yes that's what they called it."

A: "He has taken this Tegretol for a long time already?"

WP: "Yes, for one year."

A: "For one year. I told you earlier that I would prefer that you stop taking Tegretol. We discussed this and I told you that continuing to take the Tegretol would probably prevent the remedy from acting well. Subsequently you stopped it."

WP: "Yes, immediately."

A: "And what was the effect?"

WP: "Good. Much better. Earlier, you know doctor, when he took Tegretol, he was dragging himself around the house. He didn't lift up his feet; he dragged himself around the house. And when I said something, then he looked at me as if he were absent. And this stopped. Now he is much more present."

A: "Does he still have attacks?"

He got this in the coal mine after he was hit on his head with a stone. Since then he has had convulsions.

Generals, CONVULSIONS, injuries, from, head; of the (S.R.: *Arn., art-v., Cic., Cupr., Hyper., Led., meli., Nat-s.*)

Rhus toxicodendron has to be added here.

Head, CONCUSSION of brain (S.R.: *Arn., bell., carc., Cic., Hell., hep., Hyos., Hyper., kali-p., led., mang., merc., nat-s., ph-ac., rhus-t., sep., sil., sul-ac., zinc.*)

*When people have symptomatology which has existed for years, in general we are dealing with a constitutional sensitivity. If one is not sensitive constitutionally, a problem stemming from a causation as above (head injury) could be met with a specific remedy, such as Arnica, and subsequently disappear. However, this is not always the case. For example, a *Calcarea carbonica* child with anxieties and other symptoms had an accident earlier and developed panic attacks as a result. He thought he was going to die. This panic indicated *Aconitum* and all the other symptoms indicated *Calcarea*. You can say that *Calcarea* also has ailments from fright. First, we prescribed *Calcarea carbonica* for this child and everything improved; only the panic attacks continued to occur. After *Aconitum* all the panic attacks disappeared. This result is consistent with what Hahnemann says in the *Organon*. These are not layers, but rather two different states in the same*

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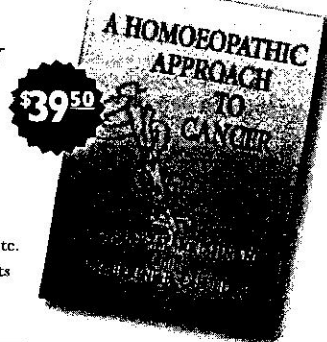
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person. Review Paragraph 40 of the Organon. When you prescribe Aconitum first, the Aconitum symptoms will disappear, but the Calcarea symptoms remain. When you prescribe Calcarea first, the Calcarea symptoms disappear, but the Aconitum symptoms remain. This is the only situation where you can say two remedies could be prescribed at the same time. But no one can predict that the Aconitum-state wouldn't be cured with Calcarea carbonica; consequently, you should never prescribe two remedies at the same time. First, you must prescribe a remedy which fits the totality of the symptoms as much as possible. The Aconitum-symptoms were only a small part of the case; it concerned only the panic attacks. All the other constitutional symptoms indicated Calcarea carbonica. This patient cannot be cured with only one remedy. Two remedies are required for the two different states in the same patient.

Remark by someone in the audience (this was a case presentation): "In a case like this, with a concussion of the brain from a stone striking the head, very often you think of Arnica."

Reply: Yes, you are right. You must always prescribe Arnica immediately after such an acute injury. If the complaint has lingered on and it is not an Arnica-state, then you must go on searching for the remedy. For example, someone with a nail in his foot will always get Ledum. Later on, should he develop symptoms, they will never be tetanus symptoms. (In tetanus, as you know, the part which is inflamed becomes cold. This is typical, classical.) Then you prescribe whatever is needed—*Apis*, *Belladonna*, *Hypericum*, etc.—based upon the symptoms.

Back to our patient. Without the right homeopathic remedy he could never stop Tegretol. But with the right homeopathic remedy the tendency to faint will disappear. We could take many more rubrics, but in this case it is important that because of constant occupation the symptomatology improves. An old man with arteriosclerosis, who worked in a coal mine, smoked, drank and then developed this modality. He also coughed at night, he said; however, there are many remedies in this rubric.

Cough, NIGHT (S.R.: e.g., *Acon.*, *Am-br.*, *Am-c.*, *Anac.*, *Ars.*, *Bar-c.*, *Bell.*, *Calc.*, *Carbn-s.*, *Cham.*, *Graph.*, *Hyos.*, *Kali-ar.*, *Kali-c.*, *Kali-s.*, *Lach.*, *Lyc.*, *Merc.*, *Puls.*, *Rhus-t.*, *Sep.*, *Sil.*, *Sulph.*)

Rhus-tox coughs on getting up; with beginning motion he coughs more. Once he is in motion, the cough is better. That's why *Rhus-tox* coughs in the morning when he gets up and in the evening when he goes to bed.

Then I asked him, "What do you do at night?" "Oh, I go to the toilet and then to the refrigerator. I take the bottle and I drink." "And what do you drink?" "Milk." He described this so beautifully, and because of these patients you will never forget this anymore.

Generals, FOOD, milk, desire, cold (S.R.: *adlu.*, *apis*, *ph-ac.*, *phel.*, *Phos.*, *Rhus-t.*, *sabad.*, *sanic.*, *staph.*, *Tub.*)

Here I'm dealing with a real *Rhus-tox* patient. I have treated him for thirteen or fourteen years, and always with the same remedy. Coughing, neck pain, rheumatic pains, heart pains, all have been cured with *Rhus-tox*.

WP: "No. Nothing anymore. Let's knock on wood."

A: "OK. Sometimes he also had a stiff neck when he sat inclined backward a long time."

P: "Yes, when I watched television and when I sat on a chair, sometimes I got vertigo."

A: "Then I gave you a remedy, one tablet, and I had you come back one month later, and the result was that the pain of the heart extending to your arm and the numb feeling had disappeared. The cough at night had completely disappeared. The pain in your heart after eating and in the evening was much less."

Manuscript and letters to the editor should be sent directly to the Editor, George Guess, MD, DHT, at 2776 Hydraulic Rd., Suite 5, Charlottesville, VA 22901 (Tele: 804-295-0362; FAX 804-295-0798; <journalaih@aol.com>). All **Advertising questions and camera ready art** should be sent to the Advertising Editor, Dean Crothers, MD, Arnica Publishing, 23200 Edmonds Way, Suite A, Edmonds, WA 98026 (Telephone: 206-542-5595; FAX 206-368-0843; <dcrothers@accessone.com>).

WP: "Yes, he doesn't complain about that anymore."

A: "Now he doesn't complain about that at all."

Chest, PAIN, Heart, eating, after (S.R.: *Kali-bi.*, *lil-t.*, *lyc.*, *man-c.*, *nat-m.*, *stront-c.*)

This is exactly what he says. Here we can add *Rhus-tox*. Also *Strontium carbonicum* is important in this rubric. *Strontium carbonicum* also has amelioration from warmth and arteriosclerotic states. It is a difficult remedy to find, but a very important remedy. This remedy should be much better known; for example, in hypertonia and such where you have the feeling you are dealing with a *Calcarea carbonica* patient.

A: "In general better. You stopped Tegretol completely and experienced no reaction after stopping, no blackouts anymore. Sometimes you complained about a stiff neck when leaning backward a long time, but now you don't have any complaints with that anymore. Now, sometimes you still have problems with your heart. What do you mean exactly?"

WP: "A tightness."

A: "A little bit tight and then you take this tablet from Spain, a kind of Trinitrin (nitroglycerin), and then everything disappears immediately."

P: "Immediately. As soon as it melts under my tongue and I swallow it down, it is gone."

WP: "You must prescribe some more."

A: "Ah, it is Isordil."

WP: "Yes, the pharmacist said that it is not harmful. These are very light."

A: "Yes, yes, all right. But now the pain doesn't extend to your arm anymore?"

P: "No. It has completely gone."

A: "Sometimes it is pinching. When?"

P: "I feel it appearing. I can feel this, but I don't allow it to develop fully because I'm afraid it will become worse. Then I take a tablet and it disappears. Because they talked about a heart infarct, I don't want to let this happen."

A: "You still smoke a lot?"

P: "No, not so much anymore."

WP: "No, not so much anymore. About 10 to 12 cigarettes a day."

A: "In the future you must stop smoking com-

pletely. Remember this. You must cut down gradually. Don't stop at once. I think the better you feel, the more able you are to stop. But it is necessary because the nicotine causes a constriction of the blood vessels around your heart and diminishes the oxygen concentration in your lungs."

WP: "We don't quarrel about his smoking. We have become too old for that."

I don't have to defend myself, I don't do that. There are reasons that someone is smoking; it is a reflection of his constitution.

But what did this person do? He has worked hard, always worked hard. What is a possible consequence when people work hard? Hypertrophy of the heart. That is the reason young people of 26, 27 years of age suddenly drop dead, because of excessive exertion.

Chest, HYPERTROPHY, Heart; of (S.R.: e.g., *Acon.*, *Aur.*, *Aur-i.*, *Cact.*, *Dig.*, *Kali-c.*, *Kalm.*, *Lith-c.*, *Lyc.*, *Rhus-t.*, *Spong.*)

This patient's chest X-ray shows cardiac hypertrophy. In this rubric we have all the heart remedies. *Digitalis* is very important. *Digitalis* has a very slow pulse.

Chest, HYPERTROPHY, Heart; of, numbness and tingling of left arm and fingers; with (S.R.: *Acon.*, *cimic.*, *puls.*, *Rhus-t.*)

Here are four remedies. This means that when you have a patient with hypertrophy of the heart and numbness and tingling of the left arm, these are the four remedies to consider, at least at present.

Chest, HYPERTROPHY, Heart; of, overexertion, from (S.R.: *brom.*, *Calc.*, *Caust.*, *crat.*, *Kali-c.*, *Rhus-t.*)

He worked a lot and then he got hypertrophy of the heart because of overexertion. This is always the danger with professional cyclists, as well as polycythemia. In such situations when the blood is very viscous, myocardial infarction and sudden death are more likely to occur.

A: "Don't you have the impression that like

before, he is still slightly swollen above and below his eyes?"

WP: "Yes, but it has always been like that. Since he was young, he has always had big lachrymal sacs."

Face, SWELLING, eyes, around (S.R.: *all-c.*, *apis*, *Ars.*, *calc-ar.*, *chin.*, *colch.*, *cupr.*, *elaps*, *Ferr.*, *Kali-c.*, *merc.*, *nit-ac.*, *Phos.*, *RHUS-T.*, *sang.*, *spig.*, *stram.*, *uri-u.*)

Around his eyes. Here we also have Apis, like in a transparent bag.

A: "And these lachrymal sacs are in some way wrinkled. So here we see clearly the wrinkles which you don't see in the rest of his face; especially the lower sacs are wrinkled. Above the eyes it is also slightly swollen, but especially the lower eyelids are strongly swollen; you can see it clearly now, and it is more wrinkled. This indicates clearly the remedy which he got. All right, we will increase the potency. You must only take Isordil when you have pain. When you don't have pain, don't take anything at all."

P: "No, then I won't take anything at all."

WP: "No, he won't take anything. Before he also had to get up at night to take a tablet; now he doesn't have to anymore."

A: "He is a man who can't sit still."

WP: "No. He can sit still. Very often I say, 'Read the newspaper or something like that.' He likes to work outside. But inside? Then I'm afraid because, when inside, he looks for his cigarettes. When he is working outside in the garden, he doesn't need any cigarettes."

A: "He is looking for his cigarettes because he is bored?"

WP: "Yes."

She is very dictatorial. "He may not smoke; he may not stay inside." They don't live far from the coal mine and next to the coal mine there are high hills where there is still coal. People go there to look for coal, put it in a sack and take it home. Working in the garden—I don't know whether any of you have worked in the garden, but it is really tough work. He likes to do that and it does him good. So, it is strenuous exertion, rather than a little bit of motion, that makes these people feel well.

Generals, EXERTION, amel. (S.R.: e.g. *Lil-t.*, *RHUS-T.*, *SEP.*, *sil.*)

It is very strange for someone who has heart disease to not feel anything while digging in the garden. That's why this case is so strongly Rhus-tox. For sure, we may not forget Silicea here. However, Silicea does not have this symptom so strongly.

A: "Is he afraid to take tablets?"

WP: "No. He has taken tablets for blood circulation for many years. At one point he ran out of his tablets and then I said, 'Stop with all this rubbish.' I just stopped the tablets. One tablet a day won't help much."

A: "He doesn't take it anymore?"

WP: "No, not for a long time before Tegretol. We stopped Tegretol immediately the moment you told us to discontinue it. Of course, I was afraid. This was two months ago and everything is still all right."

P: "At first I was afraid to stop this medicine."

WP: "Yes, it was because of the accident in the coal mine."

P: "Yes, I saw a specialist and he said, 'You must always take this medicine; otherwise you will have vertigo.'"

WP: "Yes, yes. You always had to take Tegretol also. He said this also. But after two months everything is still all right and I think that at the moment you are doing much better compared to before. Before he always dragged himself around the house; he was too lazy to lift up his feet. And he was absentminded. Many people told me, 'My God, Marcel is really going downhill.' When he went out to drink some beer or to play billiards, Annie always told me, 'I'm afraid when Marcel starts coughing.' And now he doesn't cough anymore. Sometimes, in the morning he has a hacking cough, but otherwise..."

A: "If he could stop smoking, he would be a brand new person, but anyway."

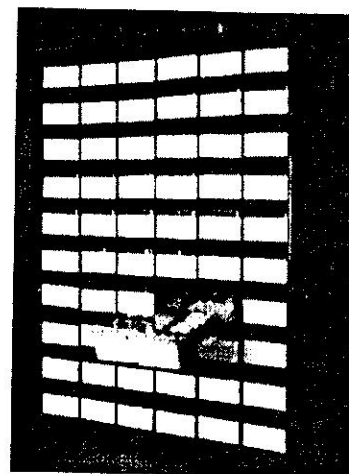
A: "So he has no anxieties at all?"

WP: "No. I'm much more anxious than he is. For example, when he goes out with his bicycle and he stays out too late, then I think, 'It is half past eleven already; I hope nothing has happened.' A little while later I hear him coming home, and then I'm at ease again. But he is not afraid. I'm much more afraid than he is. I think his appearance is much better than

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before. I notice it also in his walking. Before when he was walking, he didn't have a steady gait; now he has. When we go for a walk, I really have to walk properly in order to catch up to him."

A: "Really?"

WP: "Yes."

A: "All right. Then we know what we have to do."

WP: "Does he need an EKG?"

A: "It would be good to have an EKG done."

WP: "And do you want to prescribe the medicines?"

A: "Yes. Isordil."

This vertigo is a very strong symptom in Rhus-tox, when people say, "When I get up in the morning, I fall down." I have experienced this with my patients a few times.

Vertigo, Fall, tendency to, rising, bed; from (S.R.: *Rhus-t.*)

This is a strong symptom that has been confirmed very often.

Follow-up: 21 May, 1991

A: "Blood pressure 120/80. This is perfectly normal. Which medicines do you still take?"

WP: "Nothing anymore, not for a long time."

P: "Not these little tablets either?"

WP: "He doesn't have any complaints anymore."

A: "So you don't take any medicines?"

WP: "No, only these drops."

P: "I don't drink beer anymore. We have a book called 'Live Healthy,' and there it is written that alcohol is bad for the prostate. Since reading it I haven't drunk anything but water, and it is better."

Bladder, URINATION, frequent, night (S.R.: e.g. *Bar-c., Bell., Borx., Calc., Carb-an., Kreos., Lyc., Med., Merc., Murx., Rhus-t., Sep., Sulph., Ter.*)

A: "And you haven't had any more complaints?"

P: "No, really, Doctor."

A: "And when did you stop them?"

P: "Oh, already for a long time."

WP: "Almost one year I think. I always take them

with me when we go on holiday, but ..."

P: "Yes, I always carry them with me also."

WP: "But he doesn't take them."

A: "These are the tablets that I gave you?"

P: "Yes."

A: "What about your balance, vertigo?"

P: "That's all right."

A: "No problems anymore."

You have to repeat regularly. Stiff neck—give Rhus-tox; other complaints—give Rhus-tox.

Remark: Did you prescribe Rhus-tox from the beginning?

From the beginning. It was a clear case. I started with M and then 10 M. In this patient I didn't go higher than 10 M. He always reacted well to a 10M. But it is not so important whether I gave a higher potency, except in certain cases. The Pulsatilla-child also reacted better on 10 M than on M. I think you have to repeat more often.

For example, in my case when I had diarrhea, I took Lycopodium M about twelve, thirteen times a day. When I took 10M and 50M, there was no action. I am convinced this is because I took each of those potencies only once. Repeat often—this is a very important issue. Repeating often is an issue which is at least as important as selecting a higher potency.

WP: "Yes, we were in a pub and there were many people. There was quite a lot of fuss there. Suddenly he became so quiet. I thought, 'I don't like this.' He didn't really fall down, but he didn't feel the way he should. My daughter brought him home. But this happened at least half a year ago."

A: "Coughing and so on, what about that?"

WP: "Not much. This winter he almost didn't cough. Actually he didn't have a coryza this winter. The symptom I was most afraid of he didn't get."

A: "The pain in the neck which you complained about so much before?"

P: "Nothing. Before when I sat on the sofa, I suffered from it. And when I sat down too long at a time, then I had vertigo, but I don't have this anymore."

WP: "I think he is getting younger instead of growing older."

A: "All right, beautiful. The blood pressure is twelve over eight (120/80). Beautiful."

WP: "But I always take his tablets with me whenever we go on a holiday, I don't trust it. And give me also some tablets for urination because you never know. I don't trust it because the prostate is swollen. The doctor did an examination of the rectum and it was painful. The doctor said that normally it is not painful. I knew it would be painful, but I didn't dare to tell him because otherwise he wouldn't have gone to have the examination done."

He started having problems with the prostate. Until now everything was beautifully cured with Rhus-tox.

Remark: There are very few rubrics about the prostate where you find Rhus-tox.

Prostate gland, PAIN, motion amel. (S.R.: *rhus-t.*), **urinate, urging to** (S.R.: *Cycl., Rhus-t.*), **sitting; while** (S.R.: *Chim., Cycl., dig., rhus-t.*), **stool, urging to** (S.R.: *Cycl., rhus-t.*)

So Rhus-tox has many elements which indicate the prostate, but it is not known for hypertrophy or swelling of the prostate. We shouldn't add it.

Case 2: Cancer of the Bladder

Man, 70 years old

This is the same man reported on in the last case who had always reacted well to Rhus-tox. A while later he developed cancer of the bladder. There was blood in the urine and I prescribed Rhus-tox a few times, but there was no reaction. Then I thought, "He does everything his wife says, and he has no hair." So I prescribed Baryta carbonica—no reaction; then Cantharis—no reaction. Then I sent him to the hospital where they diagnosed cancer of the bladder and proposed radiotherapy. I said, "OK, you have this radiotherapy done. I don't know which remedy to give." During the radiotherapy he was always tired, but that started before the radiotherapy. He was always tired, he couldn't eat, he had nausea on seeing and smelling food, and I saw my patient becoming worse and worse. I have treated this person for over thirteen years. He reacted beautifully to Rhus-tox, and I was so pleased that I could find the right remedy. And then, what happened?

Very often I have read in journals that it is

impossible for someone to develop cancer after correct homeopathic treatment. But what is cancer? Does it have to do with a twenty-year development? Not necessarily. You may develop a cancer which has nothing to do with your constitution.

So, in 1994 he came back to me and I sent him to the hospital, to an old urologist. The father of the urologist was a homeopath. For many years this urologist has sent any patient who comes with Peyronie's disease to our center because he cannot cure it. We cured a few cases and since then he says, "Peyronie's? Go to Hechel."

The urologist proposed radiotherapy for the patient. During this radiotherapy the patient became worse, you could feel he was going to die. His biggest problem was that he couldn't eat. He had an aversion to food. He became nauseous on smelling food and when he started eating, he had to stop. This was a very important symptom which you cannot repertorize. You can repertorize it, but the question is whether the remedy these people need is in the rubric. He also had other peculiar symptoms and only by taking these symptoms could I recognize the remedy. Now the patient is doing better, but at that time I thought he was going to die. Consequently, I had him come every two months to examine his urine, etc.. Don't forget that when people have cancer of the bladder with blood in the urine and burning pain, Cantharis is very important. Cantharis is not only a remedy for bladder inflammation. Cantharis can do more than we think. We don't believe that Cantharis is such a deep acting remedy, even though we prescribe it often. I remember one time I flew to Spain and I was very tired. I lay on the beach and I fell asleep. When I woke up, I had itching all over my body. I was sunburned, and I was very irritated. My wife was with me and an old lady who always goes with us on holiday. "My God, Fons, there is something wrong with you... Do you want some more wine?" "No, no, no wine." I was very irritated. I took Cantharis 1000 and after five minutes I was relaxed and ready for wine and something to eat!

Generalities, BURNS (S.R.: e.g. *Ars. Canth.*)

Sunburn is frequently the equivalent of first-degree burns characterized by itching.

Generals, RUBBING, amel. (S.R.: e.g. Calc., Canth., Carb-ac., Nat-c., Ol-an., Phos., Plb.)

As you know, on Sunday, instead of going to church, I go to see a very rich person who owns a very big company. I have been doing this since 1981. This patient couldn't drive his car alone, he was anxious and he always needed his secretary with him. He said to me, "If you can cure this anxiety, you will get one million Belgian francs from me." I prescribed and his anxiety disappeared. In 1983 we started building the Center and I was going to live on the first floor; however, I ran out of money. The roof was on the house, the Center was ready, but I couldn't live in the building. This man fixed everything in the house. He gave me maybe 2 to 3 million Belgian francs. But he wants me to go to his company every Sunday when I'm in Belgium. With such rich people you do not only treat him, his wife, his children and grandchildren, but also his secretary. Because a homeopath is very flexible. I treated his first secretary, then his second, then his third, and now he has a fourth secretary. He likes to change. There are people who like to change, but everyone has his own constitution. On a particular Sunday morning I went there, and he had been on holiday in Singapore. I have been there myself as well, and it is very, very hot. I arrived there and I saw that he had many vesicles around his lips.

Face, ERUPTIONS, herpes, Lips, about (S.R.: e.g. canth., Nat-m., Rhus-t., Sep.)

He had been lying in the sun with his secretary and came back with vesicles. He got sunburned and he had to rub all the time. I sat down; he was sitting behind his desk, and then I asked him, "And how was it last night with your secretary?" "How do you know?" At that moment his secretary entered. "Do you know what Alfons would like to know? How it was last night?" "Oh Alfons, he couldn't stop last night!"

Male, ERECTIONS, continued (S.R.: e.g. Canth.)

And when rubbing ameliorates what else can you do? We don't judge; we only prescribe. But maybe he was satisfied and she was satisfied. Cantharis is a very important remedy not only in these circumstances,

but also with peritonitis and in severe inflammations.

Consultation: 20 December 1994

A: "So you are still occupied all day long?"
WP: "Yes. And here is his champagne."
A: "It's beautiful, isn't it?"
WP: "Yes. Mine is not so clear."
A: "The urine was already completely normal the last time, in June."
P: "Lately I had coryza, Doctor."
A: "And what about urinating?"
P: "Everything is all right."
A: "No problem anymore?"
P: "No, really no problem at all."
WP: "Now and then at night, but it depends on how much he has drunk."
P: "Yes, at night I have to get up a few times, Doctor, but it will remain like this."
A: "And the burning at the opening?"
P: "Everything is all right."
A: "Everything has gone."

This was not cured with radiotherapy. Burning at meatus while urinating.

Urethra, PAIN, burning, Meatus, urination, during (S.R.: acon., Agar., apis, Calc., cann-i., Cann-s., canth., caps., Chin., cupr., cupr-ar., Dulc., gamb., kali-n., merc., merl., nat-s., nicc., Nux-v., ph-ac., Puls., spig., Sulph., thuj.)

To find a remedy from among these remedies, without any other symptom, is, of course, impossible.

A: "Do you have to go to the toilet often during the day or not?"
P: "Yes, when I'm in the forest, then I have to urinate a few times."
A: "What about the stool?"
P: "That's all right."
WP: "Actually, he has always had a very good stool. Last week there was stool in his pants."
P: "Yes, I thought I had flatulence, but then...."
A: "Oh yes, in the beginning you had difficulties with that. This is also"
P: "Yes."
A: "What about your appetite?"

P: "Good. I can eat like a bear. 70 kilos."
A: "Yes; you gained some weight again."
P: "Yes."
A: "In the past you were chilly, you lost some weight, and you didn't have any taste. You lost seven kilos."
A: "And the dreams, they have disappeared?"
P: "They have disappeared."
A: "Before you were always dreaming. Do you still remember what you were dreaming about? You were here on the 31st of January, 1994. You couldn't eat anything at all; your food didn't taste anymore; you had retching when you had to eat, and then you always dreamt about something beautiful. Do you still remember this?"
P: "No, I don't remember that."
A: "You were always dreaming that you were dancing."
P: "Oh yes, that still occurs now and then."
A: "Yes, but at that time this symptom was very strong. In spite of being so ill, you dreamt you were dancing. Does it still occur?"
P: "No, it has gone."

He was in a very sick state and he said: "It's strange, Doctor; I'm always dreaming I'm dancing."

Dreams, DANCING (S.R.: gamb., mag-c., mag-m., mag-s., zing.)

I saw it immediately. Immediately I thought about the remedy, because he has this nausea. The nausea, the aversion to eating, etc. And he was an old man. I looked again in the first rubric, and when you combine these two rubrics, only one remedy comes out: *Gambogia*. This dream was my salvation. And *Gambogia* fits with the complaints in old people—diarrhea, vomiting, gastroenteritis. The so-called cancer was clearly present and now it has gone.

P: "But everything she prepares tastes good now, Doctor."
A: "And before you were always complaining about pain in the neck and shoulders."
P: "That has disappeared, doctor."
WP: "He doesn't complain about anything anymore. I think he will live even longer than I do."
A: "He doesn't complain about anything anymore?"

P: "No, really no problem at all."
WP: "You know, he was always complaining about pain low in his back, but I think it must have been this, with the blood and so on."
A: "Yes, but he was always coughing."
WP: "Yes, now he is coughing because he has a coryza."
P: "And she also says from smoking."
WP: "Yes, but you smoke too much. He smokes too much. He gets 16 cigarettes a day and he has to smoke them."
A: "When do you cough most?"
P: "When I have sat a long time on the sofa in the evening and when I wake up."
A: "What about at night?"
P: "No."
WP: "Now and then."
A: "But you cough especially in the evening?"
P: "Yes. When I have eaten, at 3:30, 4 o'clock, and when I sit down on the sofa, then I become so tired and I close my eyes. When I wake up, then I start coughing."
WP: "But it is not a deep cough; it is more a rattling cough."
A: "Since when are you coughing?"

For the cough and related complaints I repeated *Rhus-tox*.

About the Author: *Alfons Geukens, MD* is medical director of the Centre for Classical Homeopathy in Hechtel, Belgium. He is also a highly reputed teacher of Homeopathic Medicine in Europe. *George Vithoulkas* awarded Dr. Geukens the Diploma of the Athenian School of Homeopathy. He is the author of several books on homeopathic practice and materia medica. **jalh**