

QUESTIONING HOMEOPATHY**¹Dr. Dinesh Kumar Jain*, ²Dr. Rajkumar Arya**

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ABSTRACT

Hahnemann introduces the practice of Homeopathy in the early 19th century in reaction against Allopathy. After review of all Homeopathic principles on the basis of present medical knowledge, it has been found that they are illogical, irrational and not in accordance with the Knowledge and available criteria's of scientific therapeutic system. The aim of my work is to find truth. The aim of my work is to protect poor and uneducated people from dangerous consequences of Homeopathy because people ignore advantageous medical science. The aim of my work is to remove illogical and wrong concept from science. The aim of my work is to help in evolution of knowledge. If Homeopathy is accurate then costly modern Allopathy should be

replaced by Homeopathy. India is a poor country then why we have accepted costly Allopathy? If Homeopathy is wrong and treatment of diseases is not possible by Homeopathy, then it should be banned and it is no use to expend money and time on Homeopathy.

KEY WORDS: Homeopathy, Allopathy, Hahnemann. Knowledge, Psora, Symptom.

INTRODUCTION

Samuel Hahnemann 1755-1843, a German Physician formulated Homeopathy's basic principles in the late 18th century. In those days, modern scientific medicine was in infancy. Nowadays Ayurveda, Homeopathy, Yoga and other alternative system of medicine are popular in India and many parts of the world. People also take help of astrology and religion

for their medical treatment. Government of India is also supporting these systems of therapeutics which are unscientific, illogical, unreliable and not based on experimental work. Millions of rupees are being invested on alternative system of medicine unnecessarily. Due to this, tuberculosis, leprosy, malaria and other treatable diseases are spreading dangerously. Modern medical science is highly effective in these ailments but the use of alternative system of medicine makes them incurable and untreatable.

Samuel Hahnemann of Germany (1755-1843) developed a new system of therapeutics – Homeopathy. It entered in India during 1810 to 1839 and now it has become a part of Indian culture. India has highest number of Homeopaths in world. Homeopathy is also prevalent in some other countries.

“Homeopathy reached its peak of popularity in the early 1900s. Today there is a resurgence of the popularity of this old medical method. Today there are about 3000 recognized practitioners in the U.S., whose practice is mostly Homeopathic. In the US there are at least five schools and training centers for Homeopathy, at least 20 Homeopathic pharmacies and four major Homeopathic organizations.

In France 16% of the population uses Homeopathic drug products on a regular basis. In England 45% of conventional physicians refer patients to Homeopathic practitioners. In Russia at least 20% of the medical care is Homeopathic. Homeopathy has a strong following in Belgium, Germany, Netherlands, Italy and South America. Homeopathy traditionally has had a strong following in poorer countries. For example India has 100,000 prescribers of Homeopathic medicine.”^[1]

Basics of Homeopathy^[2]

- 1 There are two important principles of Homeopathy. First is "like cures like" means treatment of disease by the use of small amount of drug that in healthy persons produce symptoms similar to those of the disease being treated.
- 2 Second important principle of Homeopathy is dilution and trituration potentiates the potency of a drug.
- 3 According to Homeopathy, knowledge regarding etiology, pathology and nature of disease is not important.
- 4 Name and diagnosis of disease is not necessary. Nomenclature of disease is not desired by this system. Knowledge of symptoms is sufficient.

- 5 Removal of symptoms means total cure. No symptom indicates no disease. Homeopathy says that without symptoms, existence of disease in the body is not possible.
- 6 Bacteria or other microbial agents, and any other external agents are not responsible for development of disease. According to Homeopathy, dirty food and dirty water cannot be held responsible for any disease.
- 7 Hahnemann rejected examination of blood, urine and other investigations for diagnosis and treatment of disease.
- 8 If symptoms of disease are changed, then drug should be changed.
- 9 According to Homeopathy, causes of diseases is actually inside the body not outside. Bacteria, viruses, protozoa, Mosquito, dirty water, unhygienic food, pollution are not responsible for any disease. The basic cause of all disease is psora and that is developed due to wrong thought. Sinful thought and sinful act are responsible for all chronic diseases. If a person has pure thought in his mind, he cannot suffer from any disease. Disease first starts in mind or in psyche or in desire then it spreads in the body.
- 10 Jealousy, lack of love, disturbed peace, selfishness, unfairness, unjustified attitude for others are the causative factors in development of psora. Psora is the basis of all diseases. Homeopathy divides all diseases into two groups, (1) New (2) Old. If new diseases are treated wrongly, they convert into old or chronic diseases.
- 11 Homeopathy condemns on principle the removal of external manifestations of disease by an external means whatsoever.
- 12 No organ can make the body sick. Man is prior to his organs. Parts of the body can be removed and yet man will exist.
- 13 God warned that he should be followed otherwise men will suffer from tuberculosis and fever. During evolution psora was in form of St-Anthony's fire, during middle ages it reassumed the form of leprosy.

Hahnemann developed Homeopathy, opposing unscientific Allopathy

Hahnemann said in 1842 that Allopathy was wrong. He criticized Allopathy. Now here is a question what was that Allopathy which was criticized by Hahnemann? Was that modern medical science or some other method of therapeutics? What was Allopathy in year 1800? "In Allopathy favorite remedies were blood letting, emetics and purgatives and these were used until the dominant symptoms of the disease were suppressed. Malaria and dysentery were treated by purging with calomel until collapse was produced. In large proportion of cases the suppression of the symptoms by collapse was followed shortly by death."^[3] Hahnemann

rightly criticized Allopathy. Hahnemann writes "Allopathy knows no treatment except to draw from diseases the injurious materials which are assumed to be their cause. The blood of the patient is made to flow mercilessly by bleedings, leeches, cupping to diminish an assumed plethora (Excess of blood), While the loss of blood destroys life. Allopathy taps off the life's blood and exerts itself either to clear away the imaginary disease matter or to conduct it elsewhere (by emetics, purgatives, diuretics, and drawing plasters). This render incurable if not fatal the majority of diseases. Patient's sufferings are thereby increased and by such and other painful appliances the forces and nutrition's juices, indispensable to the curative process are abstracted from the organism."^[4] "Allopathy has shortened the lives of ten times as many human beings as the most destructive wars and rendered many millions of patients more diseased and wretched than they were originally this Allopathy."^[5] Whatever Samuel Hahnemann said in 1840 about Allopathy was right but what his followers are saying today in 2000 is absolutely wrong. Today followers of Homeopathy criticize modern medical science. They use Allopathy word for it. This is wrong. Modern medical science is not related with old Allopathy. The use of term "Allopathy" for modern medical science is wrong.

Scientific Explanations against Homeopathic Principles:-There are two important principles of Homeopathy. First is "like cures like" means treatment of disease by the use of small amounts of drug that in healthy persons produce symptoms similar to those of the disease being treated.

Explanation

"There are two important principles of Homeopathy."^[6] First is "LIKE CURES LIKE" means symptoms of disease can be reproduced in healthy body by a drug then this drug is effective in that disease. Similar symptoms in the remedy remove similar symptoms in the disease. The universal law of Nature that every disease is destroyed and cured through the similar artificial disease which the appropriate remedy has the tendency to excite. Among two similar diseases only one disease can exist in the body at any one time.

Both these principles of Homeopathy were analyzed and it was found that conclusion drawn by Hahnemann was wrong. "Hahnemann's first principle was a generalization based on the fact that a large dose of cinchona bark induced in him a malarial paroxysm. The reason for this occurrence being that he had previously suffered from malaria and the gastric irritation excited the paroxysm."^[7] Hahnemann could not understand this fact, that he had suffered with

malaria and gastric irritation by cinchona bark was responsible for his recurrence of paroxysm.

Second important principle of Homeopathy is dilution and trituration potentiate the potency of a drug

Explanation

Second important principle of Homeopathy is "dilution potentiates the potency" Hahnemann derived this principle by the following observation and experiment. Hahnemann found that "trituration of mercury increased its pharmacological effect."^[8] He observed that potency of mercury was increased after dilution and trituration. Later on this conclusion was analyzed and it was found that increased potency of mercury was not due to dilute and triturated mercury. "This increased effect was due to oxidation of mercury, first to mercurous and later to mercuric oxide."^[9] The potentiated effect that Hahnemann observed was due to mercuric oxide. This second important principle of Homeopathy again was due to wrong generalization of wrong observation.

According to Homeopathy knowledge regarding etiology, pathology and nature of disease is not important.

Explanation

According to Homeopathy knowledge and research regarding etiology, pathology and nature of disease is not important. It is wastage of time and talent. Due to this, Homeopathy blocked development of medical knowledge. Side by side, it also indicates that in Homeopathy knowledge regarding etiology, pathology and prognosis is not required. In this way questions against Homeopathy cannot be raised on the basis of knowledge of developed medical science. It is ridiculous.

Name and diagnosis of disease is not necessary. Nomenclature of disease is not desired by this system. Knowledge of symptoms is sufficient.

Explanation

Homeopathy says – "Name and diagnosis of disease is not necessary. Nomenclature of disease is not desired by this system. Knowledge of symptoms is sufficient in this therapy."^[10] This indicates that diseases having common symptoms will be treated by single drug. In Homeopathy, etiology is not important for treatment purpose. Causative agent may be bacterial, fungal, hormonal or carcinomatous but treatment in Homeopathy will remain same. It is again an illogical concept. Neurocysticercosis, tuberculoma of brain and neoplasm

in the brain, these all three diseases may have similar symptoms but treatment part is quite different.

Removal of symptoms means total cure. No symptom indicates any disease. Homeopathy says that without symptoms existence of disease in the body is not possible.

Explanation

Today we know by the help of developed medical science that there are many diseases which have no symptoms at their early stage. During early stage, pathogenesis starts. Healthy state of body is changed but there is no symptom. As disease advances, symptoms appear. Many diseases are episodic in nature. Between the episodes patient has no symptoms at all, although diseases persist in the body. Hypertension (a cardio vascular disease) may not produce any symptom even at an advanced stage that's why it has been called silent killer. Similarly a form of myocardial infarction called silent myocardial infarction is asymptomatic, although it may prove fatal. Carcinoma, diabetes, degenerative neurological disease does not have any symptom during their early stage. Diseases like asthma, epilepsy, angina and peptic ulcer are episodic in nature with symptom free periods between attacks.

Bacteria or other microbial agents, and any other external agents are not responsible for development of disease. According to Homeopathy, dirty food and dirty water cannot be held responsible for any disease.

Explanation

One of the most important concepts of Homeopathy is regarding causative factors of disease. According to Homeopathy "Bacteria are not causative factors in disease."^[11]

Kent says

"The bacteria are results of disease. Microscopically little fellows are not the disease cause, but that they come after, that they are Scavengers, accompanying the disease and that they are perfectly harmless in every respect. They are the outcome of the disease and present wherever the disease is."^[12] Now a conclusion can be drawn that bacteria, virus and parasites are definite causative factors in disease. Homeopathy says bacteria, virus and any other external agent are not causative factors in disease. What does this indicate? This indicates that concepts of Homeopathy are not correct.

Hahnemann rejected examination of blood, urine and other investigations for diagnosis and treatment of disease.

Explanation

Hahnemann says that "Totality of the symptoms is the only indication, the only guide to the selection of a remedy."^[13] "Only on the basis of Symptoms, drug should be selected. There is no any other alternative for drug selection. Hahnemann rejected examination of blood urine, and other investigation for diagnosis and treatment of disease."^[14] Without full investigation it is not possible to diagnose fever and without accurate diagnosis it is not possible to treat fever. Accurate diagnosis is only done on the basis of investigations only. If somebody says that on the basis of symptoms only, he can diagnose all diseases, he does not know anything regarding medical science.

If symptoms of disease are changed then drug should be changed.

Explanation

Homeopathic treatment is based on the symptoms of disease. If symptoms are not produced then Homeopathy will not suggest any treatment. According to this pathy if symptoms are not present then there is no treatment, because drug is chosen only on basis of similar symptoms produced in healthy person when drug is given. In hypertension, in early stage of cancer, in early stage of open angle glaucoma, in early stage of diabetes, there are no symptoms. Homeopathy will not suggest any treatment for these conditions. When diseases advance and conditions of patients deteriorate then only Homeopathy provides treatment due to presence of symptoms. In all those diseases where symptoms are not produced, Homeopathy does not suggest any treatment.

According to Homeopathy, causes of diseases is actually inside the body not outside. Bacteria, viruses, protozoa, mosquito, dirty water, unhygienic food, pollution are not responsible for any disease. The basic cause of all disease is psora and that is developed due to wrong thought. Sinful thought and sinful act are responsible for all chronic diseases. If a person has pure thought in his mind, he cannot suffer from any disease. Disease first starts in mind or in psyche or in desire then it spreads in the body.

Explanation

"Homeopathy says it is useless to expend money in discovering cause of diseases. Government is expending millions of rupees unnecessarily in such studies. Why this truth cannot be accepted by people, that cause of disease is actually inside the body not outside the

body.”^[15] “According to Homeopathy, the basic cause of all diseases is psora. If no psora in the body, there cannot be any disease. This psora is developed due to wrong thoughts and psora can transfer from generations to generations.”^[16] And psora expresses itself by skin disease associated with itching. According to this concept, cancer, cardiovascular problems, joint problem, dysentery, malaria, typhoid, gall stone, hemiplegia, tuberculosis, leprosy, polio, cholera and all other diseases are due to psora which originated due to wrong thoughts. “Homeopathy also says that body of a person cannot be diseased. Neither body and nor any organ can get disease until unless psyche or thought process is not disturbed. Disease can spread only from mind to body. Body is actually image of mind. If mind is pure, no disease can exist in the body.”^[17] Today we know that there are hundreds of diseases and drugs which do not influence the mind but directly affect body. For examples hypertension, diabetes, malaria, asthma, tumors, kidney disease, liver disease are examples of disease where mind is not affected in beginning.

Jealousy, lack of love, disturbed peace, selfishness, unfairness, unjustified attitude for others are the causative factors in development of psora. Psora is the basis of all diseases.

Explanation

One absurd concept of Homeopathy is psora. According to Homeopathy, all diseases are modification of psora. In the absence of psora, disease is not possible. Jealousy, lack of love, disturbed peace, selfishness, unfairness, unjustified attitude for others are the causative factors of development of psora. First mental stage of psora is developed. This mental itching of psora later appears on surface in form of physical itching. Presence of itching proves that there is psora in the body. Hahnemann writes “The psora, the only real fundamental cause and producer of all the other numerous I may say innumerable forms of diseases which under the name of nervous debility, hysteria, hypochondriasis, mania, melancholia, madness, epilepsy, convulsion of all sorts, scoliosis, hypnosis, caries, cancer, neoplasm, gout, haemorrhoids, Jaundice, cyanosis, dropsy, amenorrhoea haemorrhage from the stomach, nose, lung, bladder, asthma, ulceration of lungs, impotence, deafness, cataract, amaurosis, urinary calculus, paralysis, defect of senses and pains of thousands of kinds etc.”^[18] According to Homeopathy external factors alone can never create a disease. According to Homeopathy, a perfectly healthy man has no psora, then administration of HIV virus or rabies virus in his body will not develop AIDS or rabies in him. Because in the absence of psora, disease cannot be developed.

Homeopathy condemns on principle the removal of external manifestations of disease by an external means whatsoever.

Explanation

“Homeopathy condemns on principle, the removal of external manifestations of disease by an external means whatever.”^[19] Homeopathy does not accept the concept of externally localized independent disease. According to this pathy, all localized external lesions are actually parts of internal disease. This pathy also opposes treatment of external lesions by external means. These are treated effectively by external means. Following are examples “Cyst, sinuses, sebaceous cyst, papilloma of skin, molluscumfibrosum, molluscumsebaceum, basal cell carcinoma of the skin, squamous cell carcinoma of skin, chalazion, cataract, conjunctivitis, cleft lip, cleft palate, neoplasms of the lip, boils, carbuncle, hyperplastic gingivitis, neoplasms of the breast etc are the pathological lesions which can be managed only by external localized means. These lesions are independent and localized.”^[20] In above examples external manifestations are removed by external therapeutic methods which indicates Homeopathic concept of opposition of external treatment is wrong.

No organ can make the body sick. Man is prior to his organs. Parts of the body can be removed and yet man will exist.

Explanation

Kent also writes “No organ can make the body sick, man is prior to his organs, parts of the body can be removed and yet man will exist. There is no such thing as one organ making another sick”^[21] Kent says no organ can make the body sick but what is reality? Body can become sick when lung or liver or heart or kidney or any other organ of the body is damaged. Liver disorder creates hepatic coma. Kidney failure is responsible for death. Heart failure also damages the whole body. Heart attack is the main cause of death. When pathology or disease in one organ can cause death then how Kent can say that damage or disease of one organ cannot make the body sick. Now we can say this statement of Kent is also wrong. A man can never survive when his vital organs are removed. Only a brainless person can say that a man can survive without brain.

God warned that he should be followed otherwise men will suffer from tuberculosis and fever. During evolution psora was in form of St. Anthony's fire, during middle ages it reassumed the form of leprosy.

Explanation

Homeopathy says, "During evolution psora was in form of St. Anthony's fire, during middle ages reassumed the form of leprosy."^[22]

Hahnemann supported religion in prevention of diseases. He took support of Moses who had said "bodily defects which must not be found in a priest who is to offer sacrifice."^[23] "God warned that he should be followed otherwise men will be suffered from tuberculosis and fever."^[24] What is St. Anthony's fire? St. Anthony fire was misunderstood as a punishment of non religious act. But infact it was toxic manifestations of ergot, a compound present in rye. This compound was not present in bread made in shrine of St. Anthony because crops of this area were not contaminated with infected mustard (rye). When people remained in shrine of St. Anthony they must not have suffered from St. Anthony fire. Homeopathy is one of the best examples where lack of knowledge is responsible for development of wrong therapeutic method.

CONCLUSION

Today we have vast knowledge. Acceptance of Homeopathy indicates our ignorance, lack of knowledge, unscientific approach and inability to understand science and knowledge. Prevalence of Homeopathy in 2002 A.D. is against the society, against the humanity, and against intelligence. Societies and nations are losing money, time and lives by supporting Homeopathy. At one time Homeopathy protected the public from ill effects of old allopathic treatment. At present Homeopathy is misguiding the public and increasing morbidity and mortality because it is interfering in application of modern medical science. "Hahnemann introduces the practice of homeopathy in the early 19th century. The system rapidly drifted in to absurdity."^[25] "Homeopathy was devoid of any scientific basis."^[26] "The claims of Homoeopathy are difficult to understand in the light of present concept of diseases, nor can they be substantiated by various scientific methods applied to the study of modern medicine."^[27] In a highly reputed medical journal LANCET, recently an analysis of clinical trials of Homoeopathic has been published which clearly declares Homeopathic drugs are no better than a placebo."^[28]

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