

EDITORIAL

Dear Readers.

Cancer is one of the disease conditions having fear attached to the very name of it. The biologic and biochemical aspect of cancer needs to be understood if we want to play a role in the treatment of cancer. It is very important to understand the scope and limitations of our science whenever we attempt to treat any disorder. Homeopathy does not claim to be curable for cancers. The conventional medicine offers a promising treatment for different kind of cancers. But the fact of the situation is cancer accounts for a large percentage of morbidity and mortality even in developed countries despite surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation therapy. Here comes the role of the integrative medicine where different sciences can play their role in providing better health for an individual suffering from such a dreaded disease. Homeopathy also needs to define its role here so that both, the physicians as well as the patients understand the role of homeopathy in cancer.

To understand the role of homeopathy is cancer we need to look into the definition, etiology, miasmatic aspects, action of homeopathic medicines and the follow up plan in such cases. Hahnemann in his Chronic Diseases classifies cancer under Psora (here actually he means the earliest pre-cancerous states). HA Robert in his Principles and Art of Cure mentions cancer as multimiasmatic. Whenever cancer is accompanied by haemorrhage and secondary infection, it is due to presence of strong tubercular miasm.

Homeopathy has a different role in different stages of cancer. In cases, diagnosed recently and about to begin chemotherapy can receive constitutional medicine before starting the conventional treatment. I have seen this to be preventing side effects of both chemotherapy and radiotherapy. In cases which are undergoing chemotherapy and radiotherapy at present and are suffering from side effects, can be offered specific medicines based on their symptoms. Finally homeopathy plays an important role in palliation where the conventional mode of treatment cannot be given. I have seen homeopathy working very effectively in relieving pain in cancer patients and helping them live a pain free life and having a calm death, when they cannot choose to undergo chemotherapy or radiotherapy.

Recurrence of cancer is common and it affects the person both at physical as well as mental level. Here homeopathy plays a significant role in preventing and delaying the recurrence, but establishing a proof on the role of homeopathy in such cases remains questionable.

Similarly homeopathy can be used in cases of allopathic drug reaction. However in such cases the patients come to homeopathic physician very rarely as many times, they prefer seeking the opinion of allopathic physicians and come to homeopathy only when the conventional treatment is not responding. Here the symptomatic and causative factors are considered for choosing the medicine. Therefore defining the scope and limitation is crucial rather than us claiming to treat everything and anything under roof which will only make a mockery of homeopathy.

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