Laura Fenton
A Family Guide: Coping With Chemotherapy Using Homeopathy

Reading excerpt

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HOW HOMOEOPATHY CAN HELP YOU DURING CHEMOTHERAPY

The side effects from chemo can be alleviated quickly if you recognize the symptoms the body is producing. The side effects are basically a drug disease which have been introduced into the body and should be prescribed upon on the basis that they are self-limiting as with any acute ailment. Your job is to combat the drug disease (toxicity) caused by the treatment to allow the body to make use of the favorable results from the chemotherapy and recover with a strong vitality in order to maintain your schedule of treatment.

When any morbid influence is introduced into the body whether it be viral, mechanical or iatrogenic (drug based), the body makes the best defense it can against it by producing symptoms. These symptoms are produced in order for the body to achieve homoeostasis, or equilibrium. An example of this is when a fever is produced by the body to kill a virus in the upper respiratory organs. The body then produces pus
to engulf the dead virus, followed by a cough to expel it from the body. The body has been designed to be intelligent!

Homoeopathic remedies work with the body's best defenses by causing a similar action to the defense which the body is already mounting. This stimulus by the remedy assists the body in restoring normal values of blood counts, healthy functioning of all systems and organs as well as mental and emotional well-being.

One of the important issues during chemotherapy is the body's ability to recover itself from the morbific influence of the treatment in order to continue to the next treatment. Side effects from the chemotherapy may manifest themselves in one organ system only (for example the urinary tract) yet the body as a whole is being affected. Likewise, the remedy you choose based on the totality of symptoms, even if symptoms are mainly manifesting in a limited body system, will act on your entire being as a totality, strengthening your immune system as a whole.

Conventional or allopathic drugs commonly used to treat the side effects of the chemo drugs work in opposites, that is to say, they try to prevent diarrhea by giving a drug which is known to cause the opposite effect, namely constipation. In essence this totally ignores what the body is saying and in fact works against the body's best defense in re-establishing health. This causes a double burden on your defense mechanism which must then work to try and restore order.
The whole issue of health and disease lies in susceptibility. The idea behind choosing a remedy is to match the symptoms of the patient with a homoeopathic remedy which is able to produce a similar state. Like will cure like based on the individual susceptibility of the person. If you are susceptible to the sickness, then you will be susceptible to the remedy which can cause a similar state of sickness. By contrast to conventional medical thought, you will probably not be susceptible to the drug which has an opposite action unless it is given in crude or material doses. Crude drugs overpower the system and end up producing symptoms the body does not need. As crude doses are in fact a drug disease instilled on the body, they will inevitably cause side effects. Homoeopathic remedies are in potentized or "dynamic" form and therefore are not a material dose which can cause side effects.

HOW TO SELF-PRESCRIBE

Pay attention to what your body is saying by objectively observing as best you can the symptoms being produced. Make note of what is aggravating or ameliorating the condition. Differentiate the remedy pictures and find the one which is most similar.

Confirm the remedies by reading them in the materia medica section in the latter portion of the book. Then confidently prescribe and wait.
In order to treat acute non life-threatening ailments, all you require is observation, a guidebook and a remedy kit. If you make a mistake, the worst possible case scenario is that you do not alleviate the symptoms. Re-take the case and try another remedy. No harm done. You learn from each experience, and the knowledge is never wasted.

If, however, your condition is taking a turn for the worst always immediately tell the health care providers what is going on. Hospitals are busy, nurses are over worked, and response time on the staff's behalf may be lengthy. If the situation is not a life-threatening emergency, this delay can work for you by allowing you time to select a remedy, administer it and abort potentially invasive measures. Always have your kit with you! Homoeopathy puts control back into your hands by providing tools to care for yourself or a loved one undergoing cancer treatment.

**DOSAGE**

Only administer one remedy at a time. The minimum dose is one pill, popped directly into the mouth of the patient. The patient should suck on the pill under their tongue if possible until it dissolves. With small children, I don't worry too much if they crunch them or swallow them whole, as long as the remedy hits the mucous membranes of the mouth, you are in business.
HOW HOMOEOPATHY CAN HELP YOU DURING CHEMOTHERAPY

One thing to watch is too frequent repetition of a remedy while it is still working may actually antidote it. The rule of thumb is that if a remedy is still acting and the patient is moving towards cure, don't interfere by repeating the dose.

In the various sections of this guide it may be written to repeat a remedy every 15 minutes up to four doses. This means that if the remedy is right and the patient relapses within the 15 minute suggested time frame and still has the same symptom picture as originally prescribed upon, give another dose of the same remedy. If the remedy is working and the patient is slowly improving, don't repeat it. This is the "watch and wait" method.

1. Stop giving the remedy once the patient is obviously improving.
2. Repeat the dose if there is a relapse.
3. Find a new remedy if the symptoms change.

REVIEW OF KEY POINTS FOR PRESCRIBING

Watch and Wait: Once you give a dose, wait for improvement. If improvement happens and as long as it continues, do not repeat the remedy.

Repeat the remedy: Up to three or four doses only, every two to four hours depending on what is indicated in the guide. Once an effect is observed, stop giving further doses. Also when symptoms return after an initial curative reaction and
ACONITE
Aconitum napellus

KEYNOTE SYMPTOMS
Ailments from shock or fright
Extremely anxious and restless
Fears death approaching
Sudden onset for any acute
Ailments from exposure to cold, dry air or wind.

MIND
Fears being in a crowded room
Fear of needles or doctors
Desperate for company
Desire for light
Panic attacks

GENERALS
Unbearable pains
Acute pains with restlessness and fear
Shrieking from pains
COPING WITH CHEMOTHERAPY USING HOMOEOPATHY

Insomnia from fright and anxiety
Very thirsty and desires cold drinks

PHYSICAL
Parts feel numb, burn or tingle
Face red and hot or may be pale on one side, red on the other.
Retention of urine caused by shock

BETTER
Rest
Open air After
sleep Profuse
sweating

WORSE
Night
Becoming chilled
Warm room
Lying on affected side
Direct sunlight
Laura Fenton

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