



SUSCEPTIBILITY IN HOMOEOPATHY

Homoeopathy

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ABSTRACT

In Homeopathy, susceptibility refers to an individual's inherent predisposition or responsiveness to specific influences, such as environmental factors or other stimuli. It also plays a crucial role in determining how a person may react to homeopathic remedies and the overall treatment process. Understanding susceptibility is fundamental for homeopathic treatments and this article furnishes different views of susceptibility under the light of philosophies.

KEYWORDS

Hahnemann, Homeopathy, Idiosyncrasy, Individual, Susceptibility

INTRODUCTION:

Susceptibility is the overall capacity of an organism to receive impressions or respond to stimuli, representing a fundamental aspect of life. It is often considered in the context of an individual's unique constitution, which encompasses physical, mental and emotional aspects.

Lesser writings of Dr. Hahnemann: ⁽¹⁾

The sensitiveness of the highly diseased body to medicinal stimuli increases in many cases to such a degree that powers commence to act and excites. These powers do not exhibit any effect on healthy, robust bodies or in various diseases for which they are not suitable. For example, animal magnetism generates a force which exerts a vigorous impact on individuals of both genders who possess delicate constitutions, prone to intense emotional states or exhibit high sensitivity in their muscle fibres.

Dr. Kent's view:

Lesser writings of Dr. Kent: ⁽²⁾

Due to lack of a more precise term, this heightened sensitivity has been termed an idiosyncrasy. It's commonly believed to be a unique characteristic of certain individuals, but in reality, every person possesses some form of idiosyncrasy or distinctive susceptibility to particular factors.

The power of a similar force can cause significant disturbances within the body as demonstrated by the presence of idiosyncrasies. Without these unique characteristics, diseases would not exist. Even a small, imperceptible noxious agent can lead to illness and potentially death when susceptibility is present. In drug proving, a single dose can affect one person, while others remain unaffected until they take numerous doses over many days. Homoeopathicity and idiosyncrasy are closely related concepts, and the law of similars has made idiosyncrasy a fundamental principle in scientific medicine. By law of similars, idiosyncrasy has now become a fundamental concept in scientific medicine and becomes comprehensible when one grasps Hahnemann's philosophy.

It is important to recognize that certain unique characteristics may not be obvious in raw medicinal substances, as many followers of Dr. Hahnemann understand. For example, consuming raw common salt in large amounts may not cause any noticeable effects, but higher potencies of it can lead to significant aggravation. Similarly, when lime salts are deficient in the body, lime water may not have a therapeutic effect, but higher potencies of lime can produce a healing response, which is then complemented by the absorption of the corresponding salts from the person's diet.

This idiosyncrasy is evidently an underlying pathological connection to the therapeutic actions of drugs. It is demonstrated by the intensified response to curative drugs in many instances.

Dr. Kent's philosophy: ⁽³⁾

Dr. Hahnemann's teachings assert that chronic miasms serve as the

underlying cause for acute miasms. In other words, if chronic miasms didn't exist, there would be no acute miasms. Hence psora serves as the origin of all physical illnesses. If psora had never manifested as a miasm in the human population, the existence of the other two chronic diseases and susceptibility to acute diseases would have been unattainable. There exists consistently a state and condition of man that comes before his actions, namely, thinking and willing.

The act of thinking and willing establishes a state in man that defines the condition he finds himself in. As long as man continued to think what was true and held onto what was beneficial for others, embracing uprightness and justice, he remained on the earth free from susceptibility to disease. The external aspect of man mirrors the will and understanding. The life or will of man shapes his body, and as these two aspects unify in this world, an aura emanates from him that is tainted in proportion to his departure from virtue and justice, venturing into the realm of evils. Therefore, this condition is a state susceptible to disease through the wilful pursuit of evils, the embrace of false thoughts, and the perpetuation of a continuous heredity of falsehoods, resulting in the manifestation of the disease form known as psora. Psora is not a consequence of bodily actions, as observed in syphilis and sycosis, but stems from an influx originating in a prior state. Anything that suppresses the body's tissues or bodily functions only exerts a temporary effect and is incapable of creating a genuine disease. As an illustration, consider the smallpox scab, which can be ingested without significant issues.

Dr. Hahnemann asserts that disease cause requires organism to be susceptible for it. During the contagious stage of illness, there exists a boundary to the influx of the disease. However, once susceptibility is fulfilled, the cause undergoes a cessation so do the final manifestations. The patient remains insusceptible until another change of state occurs. He also states that our influence over human beings through drugs surpasses that of disease causes. This is because individuals are only susceptible to natural diseases within specific parameters. Any more than just enough to supply the susceptibility is a surplus and is dangerous. The remedy ceases to be homoeopathic when it continued for an extended duration. When certain changes appear, physicians must wait. Hence repetition of dose is useless and can terribly damage the very susceptible ones.

Chronic idiosyncrasies can arise from chronic miasms, while acute idiosyncrasies may be linked to acute miasms. It is worthwhile to discern the distinction between a poison ingested on the nutritive plane, in its crude substance, and a poison ingested on the dynamic plane. A poison on the nutritive plane tends to be less profound and more surface-level, affecting external elements, the body, and tissues. Conversely, a poison on the dynamic plane can have enduring effects, potentially lasting a lifetime, as seen with miasms.

Thus, the cause and remedy, the origin of illness and its resolution, access through the same doorway. They manifest in a similar manner due to the presence of immaterial or basic substances.

Dr. Stuart close's philosophy: ⁽⁴⁾

Susceptibility refers to the inherent capacity of a living organism to receive impressions and react to stimuli. It represents a fundamental attribute of life, influencing all vital processes both physiological and pathological. The susceptibility to medicinal effects differs among individuals, influenced by time, circumstances, and the specific drugs involved. In a state of health, one may be responsive to a medicine's effects at certain times and under specific conditions but not at other times or under different circumstances. During illness, susceptibility to symptomatically similar and potentiated medicines is significantly heightened, with a curative effect. In each case, there existed a condition of individual susceptibility, which is an essential prerequisite.

Genuine healing involves satisfying the morbid susceptibility of the organism and putting an end to the inflow of disease-causing factors. To achieve this, the physician must understand that susceptibility encompasses concepts like affinity, attraction, desire, hunger and need which are normal states and conditions in every living being. However, these can become distorted and contribute to disease, suffering, and death.

When susceptibility was completely eradicated, death ensued. Utilizing antiseptics for treating diseases or in surgical settings during operations is an additional method for diminishing or eliminating natural susceptibility. Susceptibility in organism both mental or bodily, is equal to a state. This state involves the attitude of organizations to internal causes and to external circumstances. It is all the resource of the way of yielding. Alcohol decrease normal susceptibility. "Intercurrent remedies" has to be used in the management of chronic diseases, where progress halts due to reduced susceptibility.

Idiosyncrasies can be either inherited or acquired, signifying a pathological sensitivity to a specific agent or influence. Regarding their origins, it can be noted that drug idiosyncrasies, whether inherited or acquired, are sometimes linked to prior drug abuse, leading to the development of a pathological susceptibility. Individuals who have experienced drug poisoning may subsequently become hypersensitive to that particular drug; a phenomenon known as anaphylaxis.

Totally five factors guide us in the selection of the dose one among which is susceptibility.

Patient Susceptibility- Factors such as age, temperament, constitution, habits, the nature of diseases and the environment differs.

Susceptibility Varies with Age-

In general, susceptibility is highest in children and it gradually diminish with age. During growth, they exhibit heightened sensitivity especially in the organs undergoing development. Therefore, medicines with a particular affinity for these developing organs are best administered in medium to higher potencies.

Susceptibility Depends on Constitution and Temperament-

Higher potencies are most suitable for individuals with a sensitive nervous, sanguine or choleric temperament as well as for those who are intelligent, quick to act and react and zealous or impulsive.

Lower potencies and more frequent doses are better suited for sluggish and phlegmatic individuals who may be slow to comprehend and act or sometimes material doses.

Susceptibility is Influenced by Habit and Environment -

Intellectual pursuits, vivid imagination, emotional excitement, sedentary occupations, prolonged sleep and an effeminate lifestyle tend to increase susceptibility for which high potency is beneficial.

Susceptibility is Altered by Pathological Conditions-

In certain advanced conditions, the organism's ability to respond even to the appropriate homeopathic remedy, may be so weakened that only material doses can elicit a response. The pathogenic dose is not determined by quantity alone; it also involves considerations of quality, proportionality and the patient's susceptibility.

Susceptibility is Influenced by Habit and Environment -

Individuals accustomed to prolonged and strenuous outdoor labour, experiencing minimal sleep and consuming coarse food, tend to have reduced susceptibility. Individuals consistently exposed to the continuous influence of drugs, such as tobacco workers, distillers,

brewers those involved in the liquor and tobacco trade, druggists, perfumers, chemical workers etc. often exhibit limited susceptibility to medicines. They require low potencies. Idiots, imbeciles, and individuals who are deaf and dumb generally possess a low degree of susceptibility.

The greater the susceptibility, the higher the potency. To be successful as homoeopathic prescribers, it is imperative to learn how to assess the level of susceptibility.

Dr. H.A Roberts philosophy: ⁽⁶⁾

The more closely the symptoms of the drug align with those of the patient, the lower the quantity needed, as the patient's susceptibility will be higher. The stronger the correlation between the symptoms of the disease and the drug, the higher the susceptibility and therefore, the greater the potency needed. Dr. H.A. Roberts characterizes susceptibility as the manifestation of a vacuum within the individual. This vacuum has the power to draw and attract the essential elements that align with the body's specific vibrational plane of desire.

The ability to assimilate and nourish is a feature of susceptibility. Certain individuals effortlessly absorb a particular type of food, while others may find the same food challenging to digest. The saying "One man's meat is another man's poison" encapsulates this concept. In childhood, contagious diseases flourish due to the heightened susceptibility to miasmatic influences. This susceptibility possesses an attractive force that pulls in diseases operating on a similar vibrational plane, working to correct the miasmatic deficiency. In addition to the stomach, the tongue and the mouth, the lining membrane of the nose exhibits a high degree of susceptibility to medicinal impressions. Similarly, the rectum, genitals and all sensitive organs in our body are nearly equally susceptible to the effects of medicines. Consequently, parts without cuticle, injured or ulcerated surfaces permit the effects of medicines to penetrate as effectively as if they were administered orally. Therefore, olfaction or inhalation is likely to be even more efficacious.

Every atom within the human body possesses a potential susceptibility to specific influences. We are not in a static condition socially, economically or physically, just as the geological formation of the present day is not static, despite appearances suggesting otherwise for both man and rocks.

CONCLUSION:

The critical factor for physicians lies in understanding the complete constitution of the patient's vital state, and this understanding is rooted in their susceptibility. Hence, the physician needs to accurately evaluate the patient's susceptibility and should avoid investing time in aggressive interventions.

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