

MYGALE As Drug Of Choice in Chorea/Dystonia

Dr.HARSH NIGAM

M.B.B.S/ MD(Physiology)/MF (Hom.)

Chorea

Chorea is derived from the greek for dance and is defined as involuntary,irregular,purposeless,non rhythmic movements of a rapid and jerky type that flow from one part of the body to another. purposeless

Movement of chorea are purposeless but attempts may be made by to incorporate them into functional movement by the patient.

The movement may effect the face, causing grimacing; there may be movement of tongue and grunting sounds on respiration.

Rapid

The movement of chorea are rapid this is in contrast to the slow writhing movements of athetosis.

Differential Diagnosis of Chorea

Myoclanus

It is important to differentiate chorea from myoclonus, the main point to remember is that myoclonus is much more rapid, and does not flow from one muscle to other like chorea.

Hemichorea Vs Hemiballismus

Hemichorea is often due to a structural lesion (vascular damage or neoplasm). A strikingly violent movement disorder related to, but distinct from chorea, is hemiballismus. This is seen most often in elderly patients with diabetes and hypertension due to lacunar infarcts, classically within the contralateral subthalamic nucleus.

Hamiballismus begins suddenly but the movements tend to decrease in magnitude and the patient may be left with flexion or extension movement of finger and wrist.

Dystonia

Dystonias are sustained or intermittent abnormal repetitive movements or postures due to alterations in muscle tone. The dystonia spasms may affect one (focal, e.g. blepharospasm of eyelid)

or more (segmental, e.g. neck-spasmodic torticollis) parts of the body or the whole body (generalised, e.g. oculogyric crisis).

Generalised dystonia

Usually drug induced, e.g. levodopa, psychotropics

Focal dystonias

- Blepharospasm (uncontrolled blinking)
- Oromandibular (jaw grinding and grimacing)
- Meige's syndrome (combination of above two)
- Hemifacial spasms (eye spreading to face)
- Cervical dystonia (spasmodic torticollis)
- Laryngeal or spastic dystonia-strained Hoarse voice
- Hand and forearm cramps (e.g. writer's, typist's, golfer's or pianist's cramps)

REPERTORIAL REPRESENTATION OF MYGALE

1. MIND – SADNESS*
2. VERTIGO – VERTIGO*
3. HEAD - FALLING - sideways of head*
4. HEAD - PAIN - Forehead, in*
5. EAR - PAIN - night - midnight - after - driving her out of bed*
6. FACE - DISTORTION – morning*
7. FACE – TWITCHING*
8. MOUTH - BITING - tongue - night - sleep; in (V)
9. MOUTH - MOTION - Tongue – difficult*
10. TEETH - GRINDING - sleep, during*
11. URETHRA – CHORDEE (C)
12. URETHRA - DISCHARGE - gonorrhoeal – chronic*
13. MALE GENITALIA/SEX - ERECTIONS - continued – painful*
14. CHEST – OPPRESSION*
15. BACK – SPASMS*
16. BACK – TWITCHING*
17. EXTREMITIES – CHOREA*
18. EXTREMITIES - CHOREA - sleep amel. *
19. EXTREMITIES - JERKING - Lower limbs*

20. EXTREMITIES - MOTION - Upper limbs – convulsive*
21. EXTREMITIES - MOTION - Lower limbs - chorea like*
22. EXTREMITIES - MOTION - Lower limbs – convulsive*
23. EXTREMITIES - MOTION - Legs – convulsive*
24. EXTREMITIES - PARALYSIS - Lower limbs*
25. EXTREMITIES – TWITCHING*
26. SLEEP - RESTLESS - chorea, in * (Kn)
27. GENERALS – CHOREA (C) *
28. GENERALS - CHOREA - face - agg. *
29. GENERALS - CONVULSIVE movements
30. GENERALS - GAIT REELING, staggering, tottering and wavering (Bo)
31. GENERALS - JERKING - convulsions, as in (V)

MATERIA MEDICA OF MYGALE

Chorea is the principal therapeutic field of this.

Mind

Delirious, restless, sad; fears death; despondent.

Face

Twitching of facial muscles. Mouth and eyes open in rapid succession. Hot and flushed. Tongue dry and parched; put out with difficulty. Head jerked to one side. Grating of teeth at night.

Stomach

Nausea, with dim sight. Aversion to food. Excessive thirst.

Male

Violent erections. Chordee. [Kali brom.; Camph.]

Extremities

Unsteady gait. Constant motion of whole body.

Tremulous. Intense redness in streaks, following course of lymphatics. Twitching of limbs. Restless hands. Convulsive, uncontrollable movements of arms and legs. Limbs drag while walking.

Modalities

Better, during sleep. Worse, in morning.

SYNTHETIC CLINICAL MATERIA MEDICA OF MYGALE

By synthetic material medica the author means a picture of syndrome verified by the author while curing the patient by mygale.

Many of the symptoms that were cured were documented in repertory thus helping the author to make a clinical picture of the syndrome for which mygale is a simillimum.

The Chorea of Mygale/ The Dystonia of Mygale

As per my clinical experience (which is well documented in video), Mygale is our front rank remedy for generalized Chorea better during sleep and Blepharospasm (uncontrolled blinking), Oromandibular spasm (jaw grinding and grimacing) Meige's syndrome (combination of above two) Hemifacial spasms (eye spreading to face) and Cervical dystonia (spasmodic torticollis).

The characteristic symptoms of this spider are weakness, palpitation, nervousness, fear, but these are common to most spider remedies.

The peculiar symptoms of mygale are those of

- (1) twitching of facial muscles
- (2) jerking of head to one side
- (3) grinding of teeth at night
- (4) violent erections
- (5) constant motion of the whole body
- (6) twitching of limbs
- (7) uncontrollable movements of arms and legs.

These symptoms reminds us of

- (i) Agaricus. I have found agaricus as useful in the regular twitchings of a tic as in the irregular movements of a chorea. Agaricus has most of the symptoms of mygale. It has jerking, twitching, trembling of various groups of muscles, particularly of the eyelids and eyeballs, and of the facial muscles, but not so marked in the extremities. Agaricus also has a sensation of coldness, numbness, and tingling (cold pins and needles), which reminds one of the sensations of aranea.
- (ii) Tarentula hisp., another spider, has most of the restless symptoms of mygale, even to a more marked degree.

- (iii) Cuprum has all the jerking, regular twitching, and coldness of the spiders, and should be remembered in connection with this particular spider. The movements of mygale are > during sleep which is, of course, true of chorea.
 - (iv) Zizia has similar twitching and movements which are < during sleep, a characteristic which should distinguish it from mygale and from chorea.
-