



Healing with Homeopathy

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Two Pioneers in the Homeopathic Treatment of Cancer

Cancer treatment in homeopathy has far greater potential than has been actualized by most modern homeopaths. Cancer treatment in recent times has been so dominated by conventional medicine, both medically and legally, that there has been little scope for utilizing homeopathy. The lack of acceptance of homeopathy by the medical profession and the public, the homeopaths' fears of legal repercussions for defying the conventional standards of oncological practice, and the absence of a well-delineated method of cancer treatment have all been factors hindering more widespread development of the homeopathic treatment of cancer.

Two pioneers in the homeopathic treatment of cancer, Dr. Arthur H. Grimmer from the United States, and Dr. A.U. Ramakrishnan of India, have boldly shown the way for other homeopaths interested in applying homeopathy to this challenging and important area of human disease.

Some of the most interesting work in homeopathic cancer treatment was done by Grimmer, a student and colleague of James T. Kent, one of the American masters of homeopathic theory and practice. Grimmer's work on homeopathy and cancer in the United States in the first part of the 20th century was largely ignored or lost, and there was very little subsequent focus on cancer treatment in the homeopathic world outside of India. Grimmer's work was not collected and republished until modern times, and there was not enough information given in his writings to develop a useful and consistent protocol for modern practitioners to make it viable.

Grimmer undertook ground-breaking work in cancer treatment, especially in the use of *Cadmium metallicum* and other cadmium salts as homeopathic medicines. In 1937, Grimmer reported, "In the past four years I have treated 225 cases of proven cancer, of various forms and in all stages of the disease. At this time 175 are still living, many of them entirely well and free of all cancer symptoms. Only one of this group now living, shows indications of an early demise. All of these who failed to respond to the homeopathic treatment had been treated surgically or with X-ray and radium in material doses.... In the last two years since my study and application of the cadmium salts, my losses have been greatly reduced. I believe that any advanced case of carcinoma will need cadmium in some form, dependent on the symptoms of the individual, before a cure can be effected."

In one journal article, entitled "Cadmium Cures of Cancer," Grimmer reported nine cured cases of cancers, including several cases of liver, stomach and intestinal cancer, and one case of breast cancer using *Cadmium metallicum* and its salts. Another of Grimmer's cases, diagnosed as sarcoma of the mouth and

gums following tooth extraction, responded beautifully to high potencies of *Symphytum*, curing the patient within a year. In addition to the *Cadmium* salts and *Symphytum*. Grimmer also used homeopathic medicines such as *Calcarea arsenicosum*, *Plumbum iodatum*, *Baryta iodatum*, *Hydrastis*, *Conium*, and *Sanguinaria*.

Although Grimmer's cases were not extensively documented, if he actually achieved the kind of success with cancer patients that he claimed, it may have been unnecessary to look beyond homeopathy for an answer to cancer. At least Grimmer espoused this conviction, as the following quote makes clear.

"I would like to bring to your attention the fact that homeopathy in the hands of its master prescribers is the greatest and most efficient force the world has today against the scourge of cancer. ...Millions are raised and spent annually for research without avail, and the governments of the world are taxing their already overburdened citizens in this same endless march, always in circles. Like lost wanderers in the wilderness they go, without compass or guide to lead them safely to their goal; yet above them, and around them, shines the light of Homeopathy, like the polar star to lead the way to the goal they are so arduously seeking."

Unfortunately, while Grimmer was successfully treating many cases of cancer, homeopathy itself was dying of neglect and persecution in the United States, and in many other parts of the world. Fortunately, homeopaths in India, parts of Europe, and in South America kept the flame alive. In India, government homeopathic hospitals and medical schools maintained and expanded the parameters of homeopathic practice in the latter part of the 20th century.

Dr. A.U. Ramakrishnan, from Chennai, in Southern India, visited the US in the late 90's, bringing a revolutionary approach to cancer treatment that surprised, and even shocked, many classically trained homeopaths here. Both Ramakrishnan's method and his results challenged current beliefs about whether homeopathy could cure cancer and what might be a possible protocol.

A quiet, dedicated, and earnest practitioner, Ramakrishnan laid out a relatively simple, practical method for curing cancer in his seminars and his book, *A Homeopathic Approach to Cancer*, co-authored with Catherine R. Coulter. His method relies on the use of tissue-specific homeopathic medicines for certain types of cancer, alternating weekly with *Carcinosin* or *Scirrhinum*, homeopathic medicines (nosodes) derived from cancerous tissue. This alternation of homeopathic medicines, though common in India, was relatively unknown in Western homeopathic circles.

Ramakrishnan also raised eyebrows with his unconventional method of dosing in cancer cases. Many homeopaths in the West commonly gave a single dose of high potency medicine, waiting weeks to months for a result before giving another dose. Dr. Ramakrishnan, in contrast, instructed the patient to dissolve the medicine in water, taking ten doses during an intensive two and a half hour period daily. He explains that the frequent dosing is essential for achieving positive results in cancer treatment.

In his book, Dr. Ramakrishnan claims to have treated over 4000 cases of cancer in his practice, with patients from around the world. He reported both his successes and his failures. At the end of each section on types of tumor, he indicated the number of cases he had treated, the number who remained alive after five years, and the number and percentage of successful cases.

This method has been refined over the past 15 years, and he experienced a breakthrough in 1993 when he developed his "plussing" method of frequent dosing explained above. His success rate for varying types of cancers nearly doubled. In cases of bone cancer, for example, his success rate was 45% before 1993 and 75% afterwards. In leukemia, the cure rate rose from 30% to 54%. Post-1993, Ramakrishnan reported 80% or better results in tumors of the breast, esophagus, oral cavity, and rectum. These results are extraordinary when compared to the statistics for conventional oncologic treatment.

In treating different types of cancer, some prove much more challenging than others for the Indian doctor. Primary cancers are much easier to treat, while later stages of cancer and metastatic tumors could usually only be palliated, but not cured by homeopathy. Liver and lung tumors, which were often secondary sites of metastatic cancers, are much more difficult than primary tumors. Ramakrishnan's post-1993 curative results were only 58% for lung cancer and 32% for liver tumors. In contrast, he had a 70% success rate with brain tumors in the same time period.

As with most cancer treatment, Ramakrishnan reports greater success treating tumors sooner rather than later. He also recommends surgery, if the tumor is operable, before homeopathic treatment, in order to reduce the amount of tumor mass prior to homeopathic treatment. This protocol does not recommend using either radiation or chemotherapy at the same time as homeopathy. If the patient does choose these interventions, the homeopathy can still be administered in the intervals between treatments or once the conventional treatment had been discontinued. In late-stage cancer, chemotherapy is not recommended by Dr. Ramakrishnan because of its tendency to weaken the patient overall, diminishing the potential benefit from homeopathy.

Dr. Ramakrishnan also indicates that the nosode *Carcinosin* can be useful as a preventive measure in patients with a significant family history of tumors. His protocol was to administer the medicine in 200C potency three to four times a year, or twice a year in patients under constitutional treatment. (Do not try this without the supervision of an experienced homeopathic physician in conjunction with conventional care.)

The medicines used in his cancer treatment are quite varied, and derived from the homeopathic literature and Ramakrishnan's own experience base. He believes *Conium*, *Thuja* and *Arsenicum album* are indicated in such a large number of cancer cases that he designated them as wide-spectrum cancer specifics. Examples of what he calls organ-specific cancer medicines include *Aloe socotrina* for cancer of the colon and rectum, *Aurum muriaticum natronatum* for cancer of the uterus, ovaries and cervix, *Plumbum iodatum* for brain cancer, *Chelidonium majus* for cancer of the liver and

gall bladder, *Sabal Serrulata* for prostate cancer, and *Lycopodium* for lung cancer. **(These are but a few examples of the many possible homeopathic medicines that may be used, and should in no way be administered without the guidance of an experienced practitioner of Dr. Ramakrishnan's method.)**

As indicated above, these organ-specific or wide-spectrum cancer specifics are customarily alternated weekly with either *Carcinosin* (for most tumors) or *Scirrhinum* (for dense or indurated tumors). Individual cases, however, often require individualized methods of treatment, including the use of the constitutional prescription in place of the organ-specific medicine in the latter stages of a successful course of treatment.

The number of cancer patients in our practice is quite limited. In the State of Washington, naturopathic physicians can treat patients *with* cancer but not the cancer. This is no problem for homeopaths, since we, by definition, treat the whole person. Worth mentioning was a male patient that we were already treating for a rare, chronic hematologic illness. Shortly afterwards he was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, confirmed by X-rays, and the presence of a particular cancer marker in the urine and serum. This potentially life-threatening type of cancer is characterized by punched-out lesions in the bones. Our patient had two of these defining lesions on his right femur. We treated him according to the protocol with *Hekla lava 200C* (from a volcano in Iceland), the organ-specific medicine for bone cancer, alternated weekly with *Carcinosin 200C*. Within three months, the lesions and protein marker had completely disappeared, much to the surprise of the patient's hematologic oncologist. Thankfully, there has been no recurrence in the last five years. These results were astonishing to us.

Cancer treatment by Dr. Ramakrishnan's method is, of course, not the only way to approach treating cancer homeopathically. Dr. Grimmer certainly treated cases in a much different manner, with single doses of high potencies in the manner of his teacher, Kent. Other homeopaths may have their own methods and successful cancer medicines demonstrated in their own practices. What is important is that homeopathy has been demonstrated to be effective in the treatment of cancer, at least as measured by a large number of individual case studies. Further research is certainly warranted, but the inspiration of Grimmer's and Ramakrishnan's work at least opens the door to the use of homeopathy as a useful part of an alternative and complementary cancer treatment protocol.

References

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