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# Successful treatment of severe mentally retarded child by homeopathy

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#### **ABSTRACT**

**Background:** There is no effective treatment for mental retardation, so only supportive care is provided for such patients. This disorder has many personal and social hazards. Homeopathy could treat a severe mentally retarded child by inducing biological changes.

Case Presentation: An 8- year- old boy suffered from enuresis, recurrent colds, comprehension and learning disorders, disquietude and anger was treated by a homeopath with ultra-diluted sulfur for 3 years. The child was born prematurely and was hospitalized as a neonate due to lung infection. He stared walking when he was 1.5 year old, and he was not able to pronounce words up to the age of two and a half years. On the first visit, he was uneasy and unable to stand still and to count 1-10, he could not read any letters, too. During the therapy, his learning ability improved, and years later he educated in an ordinary school. He no longer suffered from recurrent colds, aggression and restlessness decreased and he currently studies eighth grade

Conclusion: Homeopathy treated the MR child and significantly improved his symptoms. Some cases of mental disorders caused by physical traumas is reversible. Sulphur is an important antipsoric homeopathic remedy with multi potential clinical effects. Homeopathy is a holistic treatment, so with one remedy several symptoms had been treated. This method, with the aim of the treating such patients and others who suffer from mild and moderate educational problems, can be raised for further research in this area.

Keywords: Homeopathy, Learning Disability, Mental Retardation, Ultra- Diluted Drugs.

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### Introduction

Mental retardation (MR) is characterized by below-average intelligence. Individuals with intellectual disability have limitations in the area of adaptive behaviors such as talking, social and interpersonal relationships, and practical skills during the growth and development period (1).

Mental retardation affects about 1.03% of the general population, while 1.83% of children suffer from MR (2). The most important treatments and preventions of MR include: training and rehabilitation with the help of family and extensive activities of healthy system (3).

Mental retardation can be divided into the following groups: mild, moderate, severe, profound and unspecific (4).

The most important causes of mental retardation are: infection, poisonings, physical factors, encephalopathy, malnutrition, chromosomal disorders, pregnancy complaints and mental disturbances. According homeopathic philosophy, a part of mental disturbances, as a result of mental and physical traumas, is revisable by correcting dynamism (5). Homeopathy or "similarity treatment" is a form of complementary and alternative medicines, the remedied of which cause certain symptoms in healthy persons similar to symptoms in patients, if given in large doses (6).

To prepare drugs, the essence of plants, mineral materials and animal tissues are repeatedly diluted in alcohol and water and shaken according to quality control guidelines (7). Any drug has primary and secondary action. It is via secondary actions that symptoms are

relieved through restoring the lost balance (5).

Although this method may not affect the static structural changes, by enabling defective cells or relationships between them and reducing inflammation, it eliminated functional disorders (8). This effect may be applied by bio- electromagnetic reactions (9). Some of the theories on the mechanisms of homeopathy remedies include crystallization and semi-quantum phenomena (10).

#### **Case Presentation**

An 8-year-old boy, from Tiran, in the first grade of a special school suffering from enuresis, recurrent colds, learning disorders and anger was brought to a homeopath.

On the basis of homeopathic method, the patient's history including behavior, sleep, the symptoms and medical history was prepared and by observing his behavior was completed. The main findings to detect the dynamism were as follows: he was uneasy and unable to stay still. He gave a derisive laugh; He had coryza, but did not react to it, and only when his mother reminded him, he sniffed; He was not able to count 1-10 and read letters and words; Small eruption on the skin and nail were observed.

During the treatment period, he improved. He educated in an ordinary school. Currently, he educates in 8th grade.

### **Status of Development**

The child was born prematurely, he started walking when he was 1.5 years old, and up to two and a half years he was not able to pronounce words. At 6 he passed preschool. As he was not able to learn the easiest contents in school, he attended special school.

## Disease's History and Causes

Intermarriage, preterm birth at 7th month, kept in incubator for 20 days, hospitalization for 30 days because of pneumonia, no family history of mental retardation. Thyroid test at 7 year old was normal.

#### **Treatment**

By detecting a dynamism similar to sulfur, the potencies of 30 C, 200 and LM of remedy were used. Ultra-diluted sulfur was prescribed every 3 months and later, every 6-9 months for 3 years. During this period, the child did not receive any further treatment. 18 months after cessation of treatment, it was followed again. The results are:

## The process of changes

learning was improved, the patient was able to read and write letters and words, so that, years later he was educated in an ordinary school and passed with a good GPA. He was not cold recurrently, aggression and restlessness were resolved. Enuresis occurred rarely and in a few drops. His GPA at second and 5th grade were 17 and 14, respectively.

#### Discussion

Prematurity is one of the reasons for mental retardation. Regarding our case, the child did not have a genetic predisposition. Changes in the activity of brain cells had been caused by escalation of his illness, and prevented his mental evolution. The biological changes due to mental retardation and integrated approach of science and homeopathy demonstrated relatively irreversible changes in nerve cells' functions; therefore, homeopathy could affect brain activity.

The findings of a study by Islam M.Z demonstrated that parents, especially mothers with a child suffering from mental retardation, are very stressed (11). Conventional medicine therapies focus on anger management and treatment of hyperactivity disorder with drugs such as risperidone and methylphenidate. It seems that reducing the symptoms in MR children by using complementary and alternative method such as homeopathy reduce parents' stress (12). Using homeopathy in treatment of anorexia in children was studied experimentally and shown to be effective (13). According to Dolce Filho, some problems of MR individuals may be treated by homeopathy (12).

Although many cases of mild learning problems in children and difficulty in concentrating in adults while studying (which are not reported) have been observed, the exact impact of this approach should be examined in the classic empirical research. Other questions about the treatment of this patient are: could the continuation of treatment and the use of other forms of homeopathic medicines improve the child's mental health? does initiating treatment in the first year of life have more obvious impact on development status? can homeopathy improve intellectual activity in healthy people?

#### **Conclusions**

Some children with learning disabilities can be treated with homeopathy. This method with a 200-year history can be used in treating children with MR and learning disabilities.

Due to the negative impacts of mental retardation on the individual, family and society, it is recommended that further research on the effectiveness of homeopathy on this disease be carried out.

# The Patient's Opinion

Parents are very satisfied with their child's improvement, but they do not want their child's image to be printed, that is consistent with the principles of secrecy.

# **Competing Interests**

The authors have no conflict of interest in the publication of this article.

# **Contributing Authors**

This article is the result of therapeutic and scientific activities of Dr. Monirosadat Amin and Dr Ahmad mahmoudian contributed in the documentation of this article.

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