

Section 1.3.3

Isopathy and its variants: - prescribing linked to causation and aetiology in illness

Keywords / keyphrases

Aetiological prescription

Arndt-Schultz principle

Auto-isopathy

Auto-nosodes

Biphasic dose response curves

Flux potency

Homeotoxicity

Hormesis

Imponderables

Isopathy

Nosode

Sarcode

Tautopathy

In the last section you were introduced to the use of potentised allergens. You are now aware that Isopathic remedies are not prescribed on the basis of their symptom picture, but rather on the basis of their role in the **causation** of symptoms.

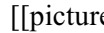
Over the years this basic idea has been applied in many different ways within medicine: ranging from vaccination, desensitisation, through to the use of the patient's own body fluids in potency (Auto-isopathy)

Auto-isopathy

In certain chronic illnesses, particularly those with an auto-immune component, it has sometimes been the practice to potentise blood, urine, pleural or peritoneal aspirate, saliva or discharges - and then introduce them to the patient as remedies. The remedies created by this process are called *autonosodes* and they are often created by a process known as *flux potentisation*.

Flux potentisation uses a single piece of apparatus to make the remedy. This is usually in the form of a glass tube, in which the source material is placed, before a stream of water is flowed through.

As you know, the flow dynamics of water in a tube is highly complex: most frequently characterised by a spiral vortex, but also including a variety of organised patterns of turbulence. Those who use flux potentisation, believe that the *coherent succussion* that occurs in these devices is sufficient to encode the diluent for use as a medicine.

One particular variant of flux potentiiser has been created for home use by the patient themselves.  This device requires that the source material, usually saliva, is placed in the funnel and still spring water is then poured through. There is a vigorous horizontal vortex in the descending tube and a vigorous vertical vortex in the globe at the bottom.

The use of autosodes is controversial within homeopathy and is usually regarded as a temporary strategy for certain cases who are failing to respond to traditional homeopathic methods. Many homeopaths never use auto-isopathy at all in their practice.

Microdoses and biological systems

By this stage, you are already aware that living organisms respond to *microdoses*. Australian biologists, researching microdose effects, used the Australian tree frog (*Liontera splendida*) [picture] as a research model. Their studies showed that the female frog responds positively to extremely low doses of the male pheromone, but showed confused and inappropriate responses to high concentrations (artificially created levels that would never occur in nature).

Organic systems are selectively and specifically sensitive. They are highly selective in their molecular signalling and they also demonstrate particular thresholds in their dose-response profiles. Optimal responses (both in insects and amphibians) to specific pheromones, occur at extremely low concentrations. The phenomenon is known as *hormesis*.

This raises the question of the '*systems-relevance*' in the action of very low doses. This concept is supported by the findings of Scherr et al., in their paper: *Effects of potentised substances on the growth rate of the water plant Lemna gibba L.* In this study, *potencies* of the plant growth factor *Gibberellic acid* showed the great effect on plant growth, compared with substances with a low '*systems-relevance*' like *Argentum nitricum* (silver nitrate).

Homeotoxicity

Organic systems which have been functionally disturbed or *decompensated* by toxins, appear to show changes in the *systems-relevance* of microdoses (of the same toxins). Research by Edward Calabrese and others, has shown that organisms exposed to tiny doses of toxins like dioxin, for example, subsequently have much better tolerance of higher exposures.

A branch of therapeutics known as *Homeotoxicity* uses potencies of environmental toxins to treat patients who are considered to have been decompensated or impaired by toxic exposures.

Aetiological prescribing

When the cause of an illness is evident, potencies can be selected for their relevance to the aetiology. There are two main types of aetiological prescription.

1. *Isopathic* - where a potency of the causative agent is used
(eg a contact dermatitis from touching poison oak (*Rhus tox.*) might be treated with potencies of *Rhus tox.*)

2. *Homeopathic* - where a remedy is the *similimum* to the symptom picture that has arisen from the trigger event
(eg symptoms arising from insect bites or stings frequently respond to *Ledum palustrae*)

Remedies applied homeopathically for the symptoms of a particular aetiology are to be found in certain reference texts (discussed later). These listings are often headed: Ailments from :-

Here are some examples of these headings:

- *Ailments from grief:*
- *Ailments from shock:*
- *Ailments from injury:*
- *Ailments from medicine, allopathic, abuse of:*

The *Genus Epidemicus* - generic aetiological treatment in epidemic infections

There is a particular term given to the homeopathic *similimum* for epidemic conditions: The *genus epidemicus* is the homeopathic remedy which most closely mirrors the generic symptom picture of patients infected during an epidemic. At these times the majority of affected people experience similar host reactions - ie. they present with similar signs and symptoms, in terms of their fevers, rashes, pains etc.

The *genus epidemicus* for one particular outbreak of influenza might be *Gelsemium*, for example. While patients in another outbreak caused by a different strain, might present with a number of different symptoms more characteristic of, for example, *Eupatorium perf.*, or one of the other influenza remedies.

A few infections have an almost specific *similimum* (ie a stable *genus epidemicus*). So, for example:

- **Glandular fever** almost always responds well to *Ailanthus glandosa*.
- **Scarlet fever** generally requires treatment with Belladonna (*Atropa belladonna*)

Isopathic remedies which are aetiological to an exposure event, fall into several categories.

Tautopathy - the use of a *synthetic drug* in potency, usually used to treat drug side-effects, or drug abreactions. Sometimes *tautopathic* preparations of drugs are given simultaneously with a course of the drug itself, either to improve tolerance of the drug, or to prevent sensitisation.

So for example, studies show that giving potencies of antibiotics (almost simultaneously with the antibiotics themselves) can reduce the risk of drug sensitisation. This is particularly important in patients who are exposed to frequent or recurrent antibiotics, eg patients with HIV/AIDS. In patients like these, the future ability to use antibiotics like Co-trimoxazole - free from hypersensitivity reactions - could make the difference between surviving, or dying from a pneumocystis pneumonia.

Treatment guidelines for tautopathic remedies

Tautopathic remedies are often given in 30c potency.

Prophylactically, a 30c pillule might be taken twice a day throughout a course of antibiotics, for example.

When treating side effects from longer treatment programmes, they may be used more intermittently (eg twice weekly) as single 30c doses. Or, alternatively, once daily in 12c potency.

If a tautopathic remedy is used in treatment of a long term side effect, from a drug which has since been discontinued, three single doses of 30c are often given, 4 hours apart, in one day. Alternatively, single doses of 200c or 1M can be given, where the dominant symptoms are not physical (ie. relating mainly to emotions, sleep patterns, energy, and functional symptomatology)

Single doses of tautopathic vaccines can be given immediately before and after orthodox immunisation. Many practitioners have observed that this improve tolerance of the vaccine and reduces the incidence of abreactions.

Many vaccines are available in potency including: Polio, MMR, Tetanus toxoid, Diphtheria and others

The Aetiological Role of Nosodes

Nosodes are potentised micro-organisms. True nosodes are usually made from pure cultures that have been plated out on a growth medium: eg McConkey agar in the case of the *Bowel Nosodes* (these are gram negative anaerobes, whose role in homeopathy is discussed in the intermediate course).

Sarcodes are preparations of tissues taken from an organism, which have then been prepared for homeopathic use. Many sarcodes have been derived from morbid tissue, including infected tissues and discharges. For example, *Bacillinum* is a sarcode derived from caseating lung tissue, from a patient with pulmonary tuberculosis. The source material contains *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, inflammatory exudate, necrotic tissue and superinfected matter containing many different gram-negative opportunists. It is a complex sarcode with important clinical indications. (Discussed in the intermediate course.)

Those sarcodes which have been made from infective discharges are frequently (but incorrectly) referred to as nosodes. (eg. *Medorrhinum*, which is a potency of urethral gonorrhoeal discharge.)

Nosodes and aetiology

As a rule, nosodes are not used to treat acute infections, even when bacteriology has identified the causative organism. Acute infections respond best to the homeopathic similimum, chosen for its correspondence to the symptoms.

However, patients with poor recuperation, or long standing complications following infections, often respond well to the appropriate nosode later on. The aetiological nosode is usually given in single doses of 30c or above. Some prescribers prefer a split dose, three times in one day.

Imponderables in Aetiological Prescribing

Earlier in this module you learned that water self-organises in a closed system. This occurs under the influence of:

1. A substance introduced (solutes, or fine particles in colloidal suspension)
2. A coherent source of energy (kinetic or electromagnetic)

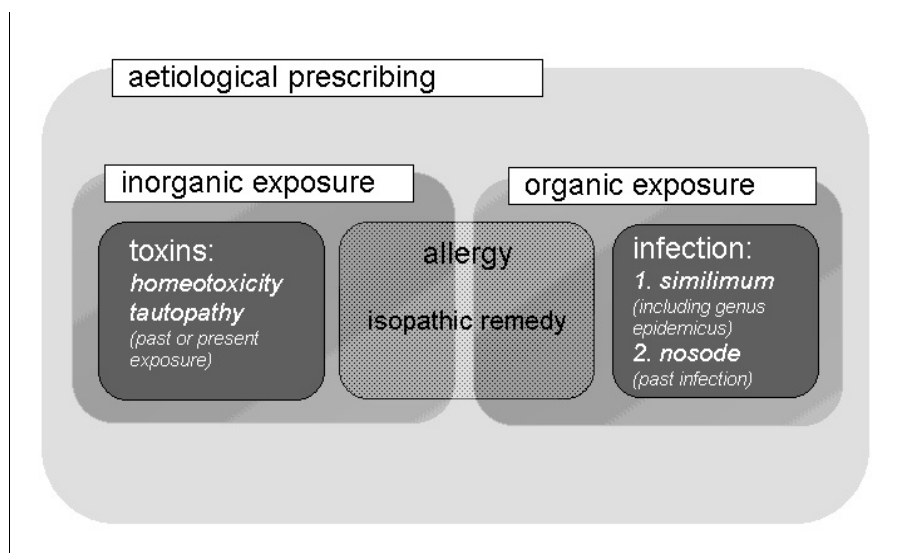
It is possible to create potencies from coherent energy sources alone. This is usually achieved by exposing water / ethanol mixture to a source of energy for a period of time, then potentiating it in the normal way.

Potencies exist for many source energies including:

- sunlight (*sol*)
- x-ray
- ultraviolet A
- ultraviolet B
- microwaves
- electricity (*electricitas*)

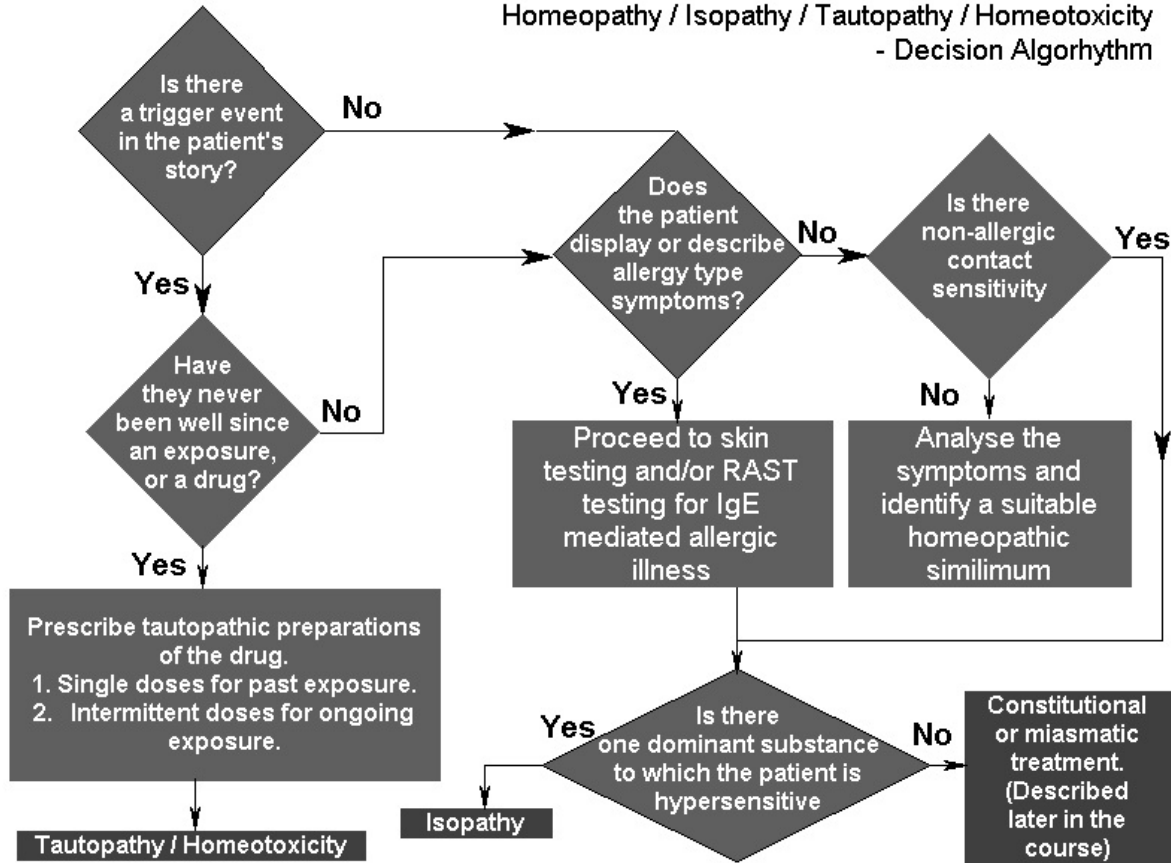
Of these, *sol* and *x-ray* are probably the most frequently used. *Sol* is of particular value in the treatment of solar sensitivity (sun 'eczema') and *x-ray* is often given to patients who are repeatedly exposed to x-rays for diagnostic reasons, or as part of oncological DXR treatment.

For some practitioners, the use of these imponderables stretches credibility too far. Consequently many homeopathic doctors never prescribe them. This is probably because they seem so implausible. We would encourage you to form your own opinion, however, by trying them with patients over time. The clinical cases, in the following section are all real instances of isopathic and tautopathic remedy responses. These case summaries include patients who have also reported real benefits from the use of the imponderables.



This concludes the Isopathy section of Unit 1. Before you proceed to the next section, examine the summary chart overleaf and complete the ACTIVITY that follows.

Homeopathy / Isopathy / Tautopathy / Homeotoxicity
- Decision Algorithm



Now check your understanding of Section (1) 3.3 with the following activity.