

A BRIEF PSYCHOLOGICAL STUDY OF STAPHYSAGRIA

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**Abstract:**

Homoeopathic philosophy believes that, it is a man that is sick and to be restored to health, not his body, not the tissues and the symptoms are the language of nature showing the internal nature of the sick man or woman. All the homoeopathic medicines work upon the will and understanding first and ultimately upon the tissues, the functions and sensations, producing external manifestations. Staphysagria is a prominent polychrest remedy with large sphere of action of which the mental sphere is the most prominent one.

**Keywords:** Staphysagria, Psychological study, Homoeopathy

**Introduction:**

This article is divided into 3 parts; first, the psychic symptoms of Staphysagria; then the concentration will be upon the conditions of which this drug is capable to produce in a healthy human being as well as to cure the same in a sick person; and finally the basic pathology, i.e. the way those symptomatology is being produced. Psyche, in classical Greek mythology, is a princess of outstanding beauty who aroused Venus' jealousy and Cupid's love; Staphysagria also suffers lot of conflicts regarding love. The word 'psyche' is a Latin word which comes from Greek "psukhē", which means 'breath, life, soul'. In dictionary, it means the mind, or the deepest thoughts, feelings, or beliefs of a person or group<sup>2</sup>; it is the totality of elements forming the mind specifically, in Freudian psychoanalytic theory: the id, ego, and superego including both conscious and unconscious components<sup>3</sup>.

**The most prominent psychic symptoms of Staphysagria:**

Weakness of memory: when he has read something after a few minutes he remembers it only dimly, and when he thought about anything for himself it soon after escaped him, and after long reflection he could hardly recall it.<sup>4,5</sup>

Indisposed for serious work.<sup>4</sup>

Very peevish (in the morning); he wishes to throw from him everything which he takes in his hand.<sup>5</sup> Disinclination for earnest work.<sup>5</sup> Fretful and disinclined for mental work.<sup>5</sup> He was joyous, enjoyed society, and was good humoured.<sup>5</sup> Alternations of mood, at first joyous, then anxious, at last quiet and contented.<sup>5</sup> The

first mood is a transient reaction of the organism from one of fear and depression; afterwards, the primary action of the drug is again noticed in the anxiety, after which the reaction of the organism is again seen and the quiet contented mood remains — Hahnemann

II Indifference, low-spirited, dullness of mind; after onanism.<sup>6</sup>

II Great indignation about things done by others or by himself; grieves about consequences.<sup>6</sup>

II Children are ill-humoured, and cry for things, which, after getting, they petulantly push or throw away; < early in morning.<sup>6</sup>

I Listless, sad, dreaming of the future.<sup>6</sup>

I Sad distressing thoughts about one's illness.<sup>6</sup>

I Aversion to mental or physical labour; inability to think.<sup>6</sup>

I Hypochondriasis; apathy; weak memory; caused by unmerited insults, sexual excesses, or by persistently dwelling on sexual subjects.<sup>6</sup>

I Suffering from pride, envy or chagrin.<sup>6</sup>

I Fretful peevishness, with excessive ill-humour.<sup>6</sup>

I Very sensitive to least impression; least word that seems wrong hurts her very much.<sup>6</sup>

I Continual concern about the future.<sup>6</sup>

Excitable, easily aroused to anger, but seldom irascible, that is, easily disturbed and excited, but seldom manifests it.<sup>7</sup>

Great indignation about things done by others or by himself; grieves about consequences.<sup>7</sup>

Indifferent, low-spirited, dullness of mind after onanism.<sup>7</sup> Illusion, as if all surrounding objects were lower, and the patient himself much taller than in reality.<sup>8</sup>

**The clinical conditions, where Staphysagria is useful in our daily practice: \***

- Adenoids.
- Anger, fits of
- Anus, itching of
- Backache.
- Bashfulness.
- Blepharitis.
- Bones, diseases of.
- Cauliflower excrescences.
- Chalazion.
- Condylomata.
- Cough.
- Cysts.
- Dentition.
- Dysentery.
- Dysparunia; in newly married women.
- Eczema.
- Eyes, tumours on.
- Fistula dentalis.
- Gastralgia.
- Glands, affections of.
- Hip joint disease
- Hypochondriasis
- Impotency.
- Iritis; syphilitic.
- Jaw-joint, easy dislocation of.
- Lumbar abscess.
- Mania.
- Masturbation, effects of
- Neuralgia.
- Night-sweats.
- Nymphomania.
- Ovaries, affections of.
- Pediculosis.
- Perspiration, offensive.
- Pregnancy, nausea of.
- Prostate, affections of.
- Psoas abscess.
- Ranula.
- Rheumatism.
- Sciatica.
- Scurvy
- Sea-sickness.
- Seborrhoea.
- Self-abuse
- Spermatic cords, affections of.
- Spermatorrhoea.
- Steatoma.
- Stiffneck.
- Styes.
- Swallowing, constant while talking.
- Teeth, caries of.
- Testicles, affections of.
- Tibiae, pains in.
- Tobacco, effect of.
- Toenail, ingrowing.
- Tonsillitis
- Toothache
- Tumours; tarsal.
- Voice, nasal; hoarse.
- Warts

**The mechanism behind the development of the whole symptomatology:**

Staphysagria patients are very excitable, very easily aroused. But the problem lies in there exactly, because their arousal don't find out natural outlets for their basic timid nature. This blockage leads to a state of sweet passivity and ultimately resignation and timidity, which is more prominent in Staph. women; the same blockage may give us the picture, esp. in Staph. men of such that he would appear insensitive, masculine; but on deep probing, the same person will give us the hint of same delicate sensivity and romantic vulnerability.<sup>9</sup> In early years of his life, he faced a few confrontations from his very near and dear ones and from those experiences, he quickly learned to submit to any quarrel. There happens the repeated suppression of emotions; he becomes more delicate in his inner nature; he wouldn't dare to become a burden to anyone; even he thinks that by telling his symptoms, he will create a burden for the physician; so he talks little and from that very suppression of emotions, the humility and internal powerlessness arise. Ultimately, he reaches in such a state mentally that he becomes unable to fight for his own rights even; he will not fight back, even when he is right.<sup>9</sup>

This repeatedly passive suppression of emotions is the trigger for the pathological picture of

Staph. Unlike Nat. mur., here is no bitterness in deep of his mind, but the same sweetness. The sweetness, internal helplessness lead to deep weakening of healing process internally. A kind of hardening or induration develops in his mental plane and the same induration is also reflected in his physical plane too. The emotional wounds become now incurable; they never heal; and his innate sensitivity increases much more.

In physical plane, the same induration reflects in the forms of various hard, indurated tumours. Gradually he becomes more and more abandoned from the society, avoids relationships in the form of sweet resignation. He is more comfortable at a distance; he fears too much closeness; this is the origin and setting for their timidity; he fears intimacy.<sup>9</sup> Because of his high degree of arousal and the fact that no natural outlets are allowed for his feelings, the Staph. patient places too much importance on little things. Small gestures, whether his lover greets him with expected enthusiasm, etc. become exaggerated out of all proportion to reality. For these reasons and also because of reluctance to proceed beyond the realm of romanticism – many of his relationships fail to last. After repeated such episodes, they develop pathology on physical level; frequent urination, enlarged prostate, hardened tumours, peculiar headache with wood like sensation in frontal or occipital

area etc. They develop tendency toward masturbation; prefers to remain in solitude; he becomes indifferent, low-spirited with dullness of mind; a picture of warped mentality.<sup>10,11</sup> Ultimately, in the much later stages of Staph.pathology, outburst of suppressed anger, over sensitivity manifests as excessive irritability; he becomes destructive and violent.<sup>9</sup>

### Conclusion:

It is a man that is sick and to be restored to health, not his body, not the tissues. The symptoms are nothing but the language of nature, talking out as it were, and showing as clearly as the daylight the internal nature of the sick man or woman. It is nonsense to say that prior to the localization of disease, the patient is not sick; patient has been sick, and very sick, even from his childhood. The tissues could not become sick unless something prior to them had been deranged and so make them sick.<sup>12</sup>

The idea of sickness in man must be formed from the idea of sickness perceived in our Materia Medica. As we perceive the nature of sickness in a drug image, so must be perceived the nature of the sickness in a human being to be healed. It is not from external things that man becomes sick, but from causes in himself. It is necessary to know sickness, not from pathology,

not from physical diagnosis, but by symptoms; each disease express itself in language and appearance and sensations; every remedy affects mankind in the Memory and Understanding and Will, because there are no other ways in which the remedy affects the body of man.<sup>12</sup>

Diseases correspond to man's affections, and the diseases that are upon the human race today are but the outward expression of man's interiors, and it is true if the diseases are such they represent the internal forces of man.

The tissue changes are no essential part of the disease, but only the products of the disease, which, as such, are not the object of treatment by medication. Functional or dynamic change always precedes tissue changes. Internal changes take place before external signs appear.<sup>13</sup>

We do not see the beginnings of disease. Neither do we see disease itself any more than we see life, mind, or thought; for disease is primarily only an altered state of life and mind, manifesting itself in morbid functions and sensations, which may or may not lead to visible tissue changes. The disease starts from the centre and spreads to the periphery. If we prescribe for the patient, the centre of the disease process will be all right and if the centre is relieved of the disease force, the periphery will take care of itself.<sup>14</sup>

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