National Campaign on Homoeopathy for Mother and Child Care

Homoeopathy for Bronchial Asthma in Children

Department of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Government of India

Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (An Autonomous Organization of the Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare)
Bronchial Asthma in Children

Bronchial asthma is a disease that affects the lungs by allergies or infections resulting in narrowing of airways which causes difficulty in breathing and cough.

Asthma is of 2 types:
- Extrinsic asthma precipitated by allergens (substances that cause allergy).
- Intrinsic asthma precipitated by infections.

Approximately 75 to 80 percent of children with asthma have significant allergies.

Precipitating factors:
1) Exposure to -
   - Common outdoor factors: Pollens — from trees, plants and grasses, including freshly cut grass and mould etc.
   - Common indoor factors: Animal dander — from pets with fur or feathers.
   - Dust and dust mites — in carpeting and pillows etc.
   - Cockroach droppings, indoor mould etc.

2) Exercise - running or playing hard, especially in cold weather
3) Upper respiratory tract infections — colds or flu

4) Emotional upset
5) Irritants: Cold air, strong smells and chemical sprays; perfumes, paint and cleaning solutions; Chalk dust, lawn and turf treatments; weather changes; cigarette and other tobacco smoke.

Signs and Symptoms:
Sudden and acute attack of:—
- Breathlessness
- Cough
- Wheezing (a whistling sound during breathing)
- Chest tightness

These symptoms vary from person to person and from time to time in the same person. Some people have all the symptoms, while others may have only cough or breathlessness.

Management:
1) Avoid exposure to the precipitating factors.
2) The patient may require hospitalization if he complaints of:—
   - Uncontrolled bouts of coughing or wheezing
   - Chest tightness or pressure
   - Intense breathing difficulty

What Homoeopathy can do?
- Improves self defense mechanism of the body.
- No side-effects of medicines.

- Helps in reducing the frequency and severity of subsequent attacks.

Following are some of the first line medicines for Bronchial Asthma of recent origin but it is advised that a qualified homeopathic doctor should be consulted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Complaints</th>
<th>Medicines</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sudden wheezing and suffocation</td>
<td>Ipecacuanha 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cough with constant gagging and vomiting</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chest seems full of phlegm but no sputum comes out</td>
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<tr>
<td>Profuse salivation with thirstlessness</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Breathlessness more at midnight</td>
<td>Arsenic album 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cannot lie down due to fear of suffocation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feels thirsty with frequent sipping of water</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anxiety and fear of death</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asthma during damp weather</td>
<td>Natrum sulphuricum 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Must hold the chest when coughing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thick, rropy and greenish expectoration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asthma with upset stomach</td>
<td>Nux vomica 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attack worse in morning, after eating or after getting angry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Symptoms worse in dry weather</td>
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<tr>
<td>Symptoms better in wet weather</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Follow the instructions overleaf.
General Instructions while taking Homoeopathic Treatment:

- Medicines as indicated in this handout should be taken if the symptoms mentioned against each medicine match those of the patient.
- Medicine to be taken - 3 globules of size 40 every 3 hours dry on the tongue or in plain drinking water.
- Medicine should be taken after cleaning the mouth and preferably on an empty stomach.
- If improvement occurs within 24 hours then medicine should be stopped.
- If the patient does not improve within 24 hours or becomes worse at any time, then consult the nearest homoeopathic doctor.
- Medicines must be kept away from strong smelling substances like camphor, menthol etc.
- Medicines should be kept in a cool, dry place away from direct exposure to sunlight.
- Medicines should be kept away from the reach of children.

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