

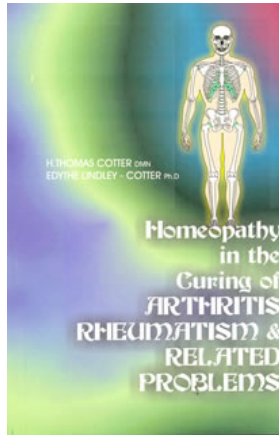
Cotter T. / Cotter E. L. Homeopathy in Curing of Arthritis, Rheumatism and Related Problems

Reading excerpt

[Homeopathy in Curing of Arthritis, Rheumatism and Related Problems](#)

of [Cotter T. / Cotter E. L.](#)

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Introduction

Rheumatism, Arthritis, Bursitis

DEGENERATIVE ARTHRITIS

(Osteoarthritis)

The inner surfaces of a joint are lined by a smooth, shock-absorbing cartilage that allows the ends of the bones to glide over one another as the joints move. Over long periods, the wear-and-tear stresses of daily physical activity may damage the protective cartilage causing it to weaken and lose its elasticity and resiliency. If the degenerative process continues, the bones may grate together. This may cause them to develop cysts and grow bony prominences called spurs. This long-term damage, known as degenerative joint disease (DJD) or osteoarthritis, is a major source of disability. The most common arthritic condition, DJD affects about one out of ever six Americans, including 80 percent of persons over the age of 70.

Predisposing Factors

Although osteoarthritis is considered a disorder of old age, it is not limited to the elderly. In particular certain predisposing conditions can hasten the degenerative process in young persons. They include obesity (more stress on weight-bearing joints), bone deformities (abnormal mechanical forces across the joint), previous cartilage injury, joint infection, certain types of inflammatory arthriis (rheumatoid, gout), diabetes mellitus and acromegaly (excess growth hormone). Repetitive occupational or exercise-related joint movements can play a role in some individuals.

Signs and Symptoms

Degenerative joint disease is manifested by joint aching and stiffness. Typically the pain is aggravated by movement and weight-bearing on the involved joint. Although swelling may occur, warmth and redness usually imply an inflammatory-type of arthritis. The hips, knees, ankles, neck, low back and hands are the most common joints affected. Hip pain can be especially severe, making walking difficult. The fingers often develop a knobby and gnarled

body's inflammatory reaction. This normally follows years of hyperuricemia without symptoms.

The cause for the sudden release of uric acid crystals into the joints is not known, but several factors may be important. They include the presence of the predisposing conditions mentioned above; injury to the joint; decreased temperature inside the joints; and changes in joint fluid balances. Prolonged hyperuricemia predisposes some individuals to uric acid-containing kidney stones and kidney failure.

Signs and Symptoms

In acute gout attacks the symptoms are manifested by the rapid onset of severe joint pain, swelling and redness. In many cases the discomfort begins at night after drinking alcoholic beverages, uric acid-elevating medications or high-purine foods. In the vast majority of initial episodes a single joint is involved. The joint at the base of the big toe is especially involved. This is known as Podagra. This affliction affects 90 percent of the patients some time during the course of their disease. Pains in the feet, heels, ankles, knees, hands, wrists and elbows are the other joints that are frequently involved.

Gout episodes usually last only from a few days to a few weeks, and they respond promptly to allopathic gout medications, but the medication is mostly palliative. The frequency of subsequent attacks varies. Five to ten percent of gout sufferers are never bothered again, but most relapse within a year. Persons who are left untreated or who are treated with allopathic medicines can develop chronic gouty arthritis. In this, multiple joints are involved by a long-term destructive process. Tophi are small nodules consisting of uric acid and inflammatory tissues that may be seen on the ear cartilage and along the course of tendons. Even With allopathic therapy chronic tophaceous gout is unusual.

Urinary Tract Disease

Kidney disease due to hyperuricemia may ultimately be the severest complication of gout. Uric acid crystals may accumulate within the substance of the kidney and lead to a progressive decline in kidney function in a form called nephropathy. Patients receiving chemotherapy for cancers of the blood are especially at risk for a disorder known as acute obstructive uropathy. This occurs when an abrupt precipitation of uric acid crystals' suddenly blocks of the flow of urine through the ureters. Large loads of uric acid are produced

Ears. Noises in ear caused by rush of blood to the head. Shooting in and around ears. Blood from ears. Dullness of hearing after concussion. Pain in cartilages of ears as if bruised.

Mouth. *Fetid breath.* Dry and thirsty. Bitter taste. [*Colocynthis*] Taste as from bad eggs. Soreness of gums after teeth extraction. [*Sepia*] Empyema of maxillary sinus.

Face. *Sunken;* very red. Heat in lips. Herpes on face.

Stomach. Longing for vinegar. Distaste for milk and meat. Canine hunger. Vomiting of blood. Pain in stomach during eating. Repletion with loathing. Oppressive gases pass upward and downward. Pressure as from a stone. *Feeling as if stomach were passing against spine.* *Fetid* vomiting.

Abdomen. Stitches under false ribs. Distended; offensive flatus. Sharp thrusts through abdomen.

Stool. *Straining of tenesmus in diarrhoea.* *Offensive, brown, bloody,* putrid, involuntary. Looks like brown yeast. Must lie down after every stool. Diarrhoea of consumption; worse lying on left side. Dysenteric stools with muscular pains.

Urine. Retained from over-exertion. Dark brick-red sediment. Vesical tenesmus with very painful micturition.

• **Female.** Bruised parts after labor. Violent after-pains. Uterine hemorrhage from mechanical injury after coition. Sore nipples. Mastitis from injury. Feeling as if fetus were lying crosswise.

Respiratory. Coughs depending on cardiac lesion, paroxysmal, at night, during sleep, worse exercise. Acute tonsillitis, swelling of soft palate and uvula. Pneumonia; approaching paralysis. Hoarseness from overuse of voice. Raw, sore feeling in morning. Cough produced by weeping and lamenting. Dry throat from tickling low down in trachea. Bloody expectoration. Dyspnoea with hemoptysis. All bones and cartilages of chest painful. *Violent spasmodic cough, with facial herpes.* Whooping cough, child cries before coughing. *Pleurodynia* [*Ranunculus Bulbosus; Cimicifuga*]

Heart. *Angina pectoris; pain especially severe in elbow of left arm.* Stitches in heart. Pulse feeble and irregular. Cardiac dropsy with distressing dyspnoea. Extremities distended, feel bruised and sore. Fatty heart and hypertrophy.

Extremities. Gout. Great fear of being touched or approached. Pain in back and limbs, as if bruised or beaten. Sprained and dislocated feeling. Soreness after over exertion. Everything on which he lies seems too hard. Deathly coldness of forearm. Cannot

stomach. Empty retching. Abhorrence of liquids. Spasmodic hiccough. *Dread of drinking.* Uncontrollable vomiting.

Abdomen. Distended, hot. Transverse colon protrudes like a pad. Tender, swollen. Pain as if clutched by a hand; worse, jar, pressure. Cutting pain across; Stitches in left side of abdomen, when coughing, sneezing, or touching it. Extreme sensitiveness to touch, bed-clothes, etc. [*Lachesis*]

Stools. Thin, green, dysenteric; in lumps like chalk. Shuddering during stool. Stinging pain in rectum; spasmodic stricture. Piles more sensitive with backache. Prolapsus ani. *gnatia; Podophyllum*]

Urine. *Retention.* Acute urinary infections. Sensation of motion in bladder as of a worm. Urine scanty, with tenesmus; *dark and turbid*, loaded with phosphates. Vesical region sensitive. Incontinence, continuous dropping. *Frequent and profuse.* Hematuria where no pathological condition can be found. Prostatic hypertrophy.

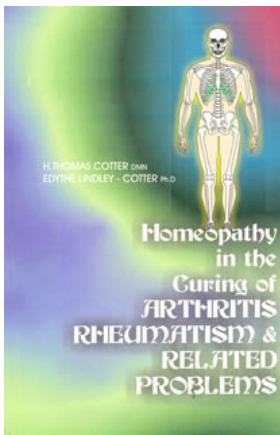
Male. Testicles hard, drawn up, inflamed. Nocturnal sweat of genitals. Flow of prostatic fluid. Desire diminished.

Female. Sensitive forcing downwards, *as if all the viscera would protrude at genitals.* Dryness and heat of vagina. Dragging around loins. Pain in sacrum. Menses increased; *bright red, too early, too profuse Hemorrhage hot.* Cutting pain **from hip to hip.** *Menses and lochia very offensive and hot.* Labor pains come and go suddenly. *Mastitis* pain, throbbing, redness, streaks radiate from nipple. Breasts feel heavy; are hard **and red.** **Tumors of breast,** pain worse lying down. Badly smelling hemorrhages, hot gushes of blood. Diminished lochia.

Respiratory. Drying in nose, fauces, larynx, and trachea. Tickling, short, dry cough; worse at night. Larynx feels sore. Respiration oppressed, quick, unequal. Cheyne-Stokes respiration [*Cocaina; Opium*] Hoarse; loss of voice. Painless hoarseness. Cough, with pain in stomach before attack, with expectoration of blood. Stitches in chest when coughing. Larynx very painful; feels **as** if a foreign body were in it, with cough. High, piping voice. Moaning at every breath.

Heart. Violent palpitation, reverberating in head, with labored breathing. Palpitation from least exertion. Throbbing all through body. Dichrotism. Heart seemed too large. Rapid but weakened pulse.

Extremities. Shooting pains along limbs. Joints swollen, red, shining, with red streaks radiating. Tottering gait. Shifting rheumatic



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