

A Case Review of Ascaris Lumbricoides Worm Infestation

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ABSTRACT

Worm infestation, is any macro parasitic disease of humans and other animals in which a part of the body is infected with parasitic worms. Ascaris lumbricoides, also known as the roundworm is the most common and largest nematode parasite. In India Ascaris lumbricoides contributes 140 million cases. In India, the maximum prevalence is seen in Karnataka (47%) followed by Andhra Pradesh (40%). The prevalence rate in Tamil Nadu is 3.2% whereas in Pondicherry, it is 4.8%. In Gujarat it is about 20%. Allopathic medicines cannot be taken by everyone, on the contrary, Homoeopathy has very good scope as it is the most reliable system without any side effects.

KEYWORDS: Worm infestation, Ascaris lumbricoides, Individualization, Homoeopathy

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A Case of 10 year old child.

HGP 10/M, came to my clinic with complain of abdominal pain since 5 days. He has chronic constipation since almost a year.

Chief Complain:

Colicky pain in hypochondriac region since 5 days < on walking.

Constipation – stool hard, difficult.

History of Present illness:

Patient is having colicky pain in hypochondriac region since 5 days. Pain starts gradually, initially very mild and then becomes severe and unbearable which is only relieved after taking medicine. Along with abdominal pain there is profuse perspiration on forehead which also subsides along with abdominal pain.

Past History:

Tonsillitis before 1 month, took homoeopathic treatment for that and relieved.

Family History:

Father – healthy (38 years old)

Mother – healthy (36 years old)

Personal History:

Appetite: decreased, eats only 1 chapati/meal.

Desire: Sweet, chalk, charcoal.

Aversion: nothing specific

Thirst: drinks frequently and little at a time.

Perspiration: profuse on forehead

Bowel: constipation. Irregular – once in 3-4 days.

Urination: 6-7/0, D/N.(day/night)

Sleep: sound, dribbling of saliva during sleep.

Habits/addiction: no any

Thermal: chilly.

Mental generals

Confused; very difficult for him to decide anything.

Life space:

Patient comes from a middle class family. His father is a clerk in the bank. He is the elder child in the family. He is obese/over- weight but is very energetic. He is not very good in sports and physical activity.

He is a very happy child but since 1 week he becomes quiet. He is average in his studies. He has difficulty particularly in mathematics. His younger sister is very bright and clever. He likes to play outside in soil and dust. He does not have many friends, he likes to play alone in pile of sand.

Physical examination

General examination:

General appearance: fair complexion, looks very exhausted.

General built and nutrition: fatty person, well built.

Teeth: unhygienic, becomes black

Vital signs:

Pulse: 78/minute

B.P.: 110/80 mm-hg

Temp: 97.8⁰ F

RR: 19/minute

Height: 131 cm

Weight: 50kg

BMI: 29.1kg/m²

Systemic examination:

GIT: Abdomen distended. Tenderness on abdomen.

Rumbling is present.

Provisional Diagnosis:

Worm Infestation

Intestinal Obstruction

Laboratory Investigation:

Test Name	Result	Unit	Biological Ref. Interval
STOOL EXAMINATION			
General Examination			
Quantity	20 gms		
Color	Yellow		
Consistency	Solid		
Mucus	Absent		
Blood	Absent		
Worms	Present, Ascaris Lumbricoides(round worm)		
Chemical Examination			
Reaction	Acidic		
Occult Blood	Absent		
Reducing Sugar	Absent		
Microscopic Examination			
Pus Cells	1-4/hpf		
Red Blood Cells	0-1/hpf		
Epithelial Cells	Absent		
Vegetable Cells	Absent		
Fat Globules	Absent		
Cysts	Absent		
Ova	Present		
Trophozoites	Absent		
Yeast	Absent		

Analysis of case:

MENTAL GENERALS

➤ Confused; very difficult for him to decide anything.

PHYSICAL GENERALS

- Appetite – decreased.
- Desire: Sweet, chalk, charcoal.
- Thirsty, drinks frequently and little at a time.
- Thermal: chilly.

PHYSICAL PARTICULARS

- Colicky pain in hypochondriac region < on walking.
- Profuse perspiration on forehead along with abdominal pain.
- Constipation – stool hard, difficult.
- Teeth grinding during sleep.
- Dribbling of saliva.

Evaluation of case:

1. Colicky pain in hypochondriac region < on walking.
2. Profuse perspiration on forehead along with abdominal pain.
3. Constipation – stool hard, difficult.
4. Teeth grinding during sleep.
5. Dribbling of saliva.
6. Appetite – decreased.
7. Desire Sweet, chalk, charcoal.
8. Thirsty, drinks frequently and little at a time.
9. Chilly.

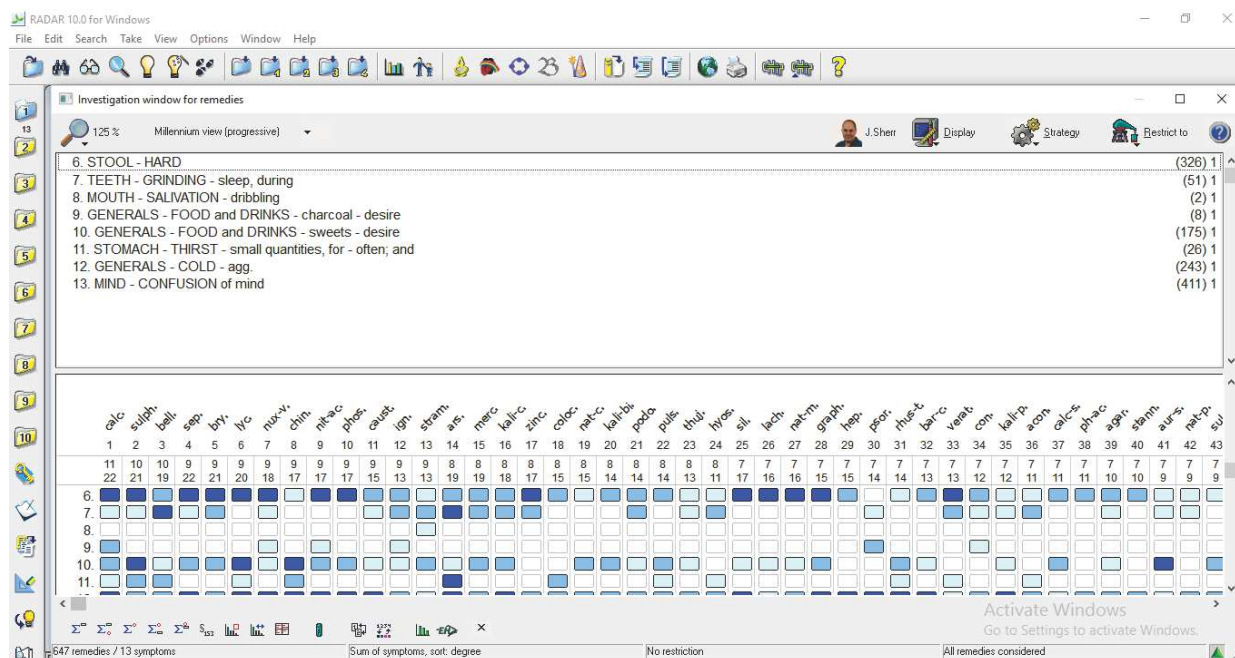
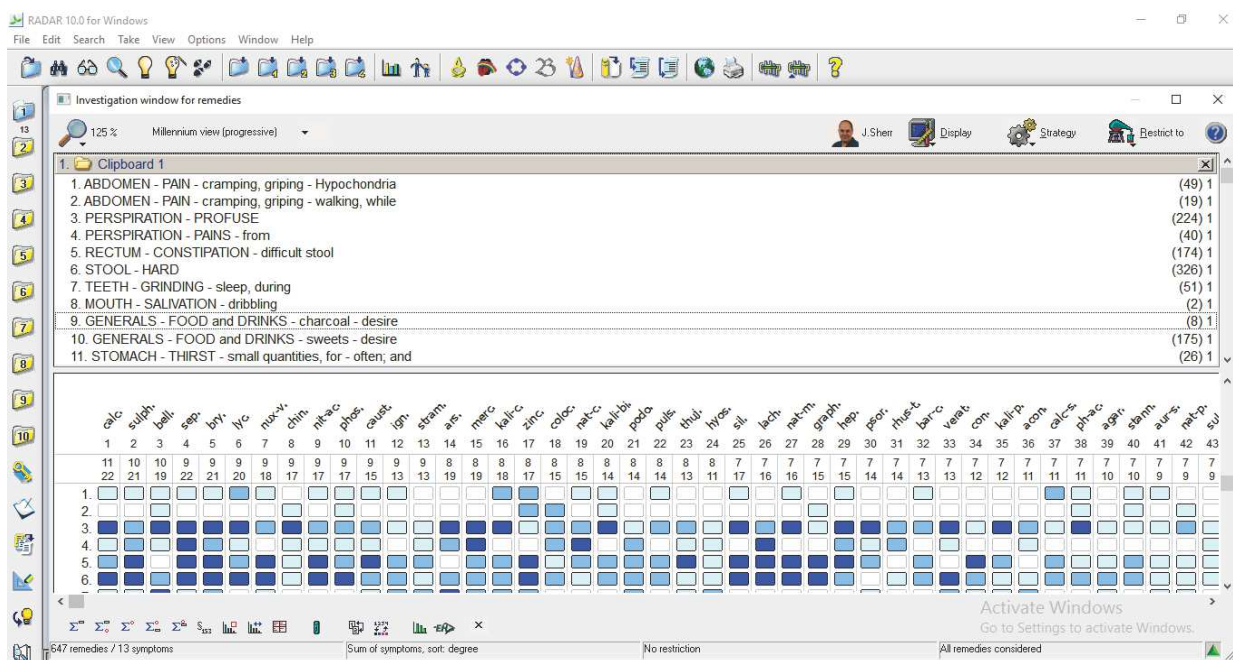
10. Confused; very difficult for him to decide anything.

Totality of symptoms:

1. Colicky pain in hypochondriac region < on walking.
2. Profuse perspiration on forehead along with abdominal pain.
3. Constipation – stool hard, difficult.
4. Teeth grinding during sleep.
5. Dribbling of saliva.
6. Appetite – decreased.
7. Desire Sweet, chalk, charcoal.
8. Thirsty, drinks frequently and little at a time.
9. Chilly.
10. Confused; very difficult for him to decide anything.

Repertorial totality:

1. Abdomen – pain - cramping, griping – hypochondria.
2. Abdomen – pain - cramping, griping – hypochondria – walking while.
3. Perspiration – profuse.
4. Perspiration – pains – from.
5. Rectum – constipation – difficult stool.
6. Stool – hard.
7. Teeth – grinding – sleep – during.
8. Mouth – salivation – dribbling.
9. Generals – food and drinks – charcoal – desire.
10. Generals – food and drinks – charcoal – desire.
11. Stomach – thirst – small quantities for, - often; and.
12. Generals – cold – aggravation.
13. Mind – confusion of mind.



Final diagnosis:

Ascaris lumbricoides worm infestation

Selection of Potency and Dose:

200(medium).

Prescription:

Calcarea Carbonica 200 single dose daily for 3 days.

S.L. 4 pills BD for 3 days.

Justification for the selection of the prescribed remedy:

On repertorial analysis, Calcarea Carb came as the highest ranked remedy, covering maximum symptoms of patient. The constitution of the patient is also very similar to Calcarea carb. By referring different materia medica we can conclude that Calcarea carb is very good medicine for worm infestation. Considering Kent's materia medica, it has been stated that, Calcarea carb so correct the indigestion, when the symptoms agree, that worms no longer hatch out.

Follow up:

Sr. No.	Date	Complaints	Prescription
1	5/1/2023	Abdominal pain relieved. Constipation still present – stoolhard, dry, passed stool once in 3 days. Teeth grinding during sleep. Dribbling still present. Thirst – drinks little quantity. Appetite – decreased. Sleep – sound.	Calcarea carb 200 daily for 3 days. SL BD for 7 days.
2	12/1/2023	Abdominal pain relieved completely. Constipation still present – stoolhard, passed stool twice in 7 days. Dribbling decreased. Teeth grinding relieved. Appetite -decreased. Sleep – sound.	Calcarea carb 200 single dose stat SL BD for 15 days.
3	26/1/2023	No abdominal pain. Constipation still present – stoolsomewhat soft, passed once in every 2 days. Dribbling relieved completely. Teeth grinding during sleep not relieved completely. Appetite – good. Sleep – sound.	Calcarea carb 200 single dose stat SL BD for 15 days.
4	9/2/2023	No abdominal pain. Constipation – stool soft passed once in every 2 days. Dribbling relieved completely. Teeth grinding relieved completely. Appetite – good Sleep – sound.	SL BD for 15 days. Calcarea carb 200 single dose (sos).
5	2/3/2023	No abdominal pain. Constipation – stool soft, passed once in every 2 days. Dribbling not present Teeth grinding not present Appetite-good Sleep – sound.	Calcarea carb single dose stat SL BD for 15 days.
6	16/3/2023	Constipation relieved. Passed stool daily. Stool soft. No straining. Appetite – good Sleep – sound. Advice stool examination before next follow up.	SL BD for 15 days.
7	30/3/2023	Constipation relieved. No any complains	SL BD for 15 days.

Conclusion:

This case proves the efficacy of well selected Individualized Homoeopathic medicine, which will not act as vermifuges but it makes the environment of intestine so unfit for the worms that they will not survive in such healthy environment. After giving the treatment his chief complaints improved successfully and overall improvement has been established too, now he gained good sound and refreshing sleep, good appetite. By giving Homoeopathic medicine the overall health of the patient will improve.

MONARCH Inventory (improved version of the Modified Naranjo Criteria for Homeopathy)

Domains		Yes	No	Not sure or N/A	The score for successfully treated cases	justification
1	Was there an improvement in the main symptom or condition for which the homeopathic medicine was prescribed?	+2	-1	0	+2	The patient came with colicky pain in abdomen and constipation which completely gets relieved and there is no recurrence till date.
2	Did the clinical improvement occur within a plausible timeframe relative to the medicine intake?	+1	-2	0	+2	The patient had the complain of abdominal pain since 5 days and constipation since 1 year but the improvement starts after the 1st dose of medicine itself.
3	Was there a homeopathic aggravation of symptoms?	+1	0	0	0	There is no homeopathic aggravation of any symptom has been seen.
4	Did the effect encompass more than the main symptom or condition (i.e., were other symptoms, not related to the main presenting complaint, improved or changed)?	+1	0	0	+1	The patient has teeth grinding and saliva dribbling and diminished appetite, all of them got improved totally.
5	Did overall well-being improve?	+1	0	0	+1	There is marked improvement all the physical generals and patient also gained the confidence, now at least he can understand everything properly without any confusion.
6A	Direction of cure: did some symptoms improve in the opposite order of the development of symptoms of the disease?	+1	0	0	+1	Yes, the abdominal pain comes last and it got improved in the first place; while the constipation which was the oldest symptom got relieved at last.
6B	Direction of cure: did at least one of the following aspects apply to the order of improvement in symptoms: -from organs of more importance to those of less importance? -from deeper to more superficial aspects of the individual? -from the top downwards?	+1	0	0	0	Not applicable
7	Did "old symptoms" (defined as non-seasonal and non-cyclical symptoms that were previously thought to have resolved) reappear temporarily during the course of improvement?	+1	0	0	0	No any old symptom observed.
8	Are there alternative causes (i.e., other than the medicine) that—with a high probability—could have produced the improvement? (Consider known course of disease, other forms of treatment, and other clinically relevant interventions)	-3	+1	0	+1	Not observed.

9	Was the health improvement confirmed by any objective evidence? (e.g., investigations, clinical examination, etc.)	+2	0	0	+2	Stool examination report done before and after the treatment.
10	Did repeat dosing, if conducted, create similar clinical improvement?	+1	0	0	0	Not observed.

Total score-10

N/A - not applicable

Conflict of interest: Not Declared.

Declaration of patient consent:

The patient's parents has been given the detailed information sheet about treatment and laboratory investigation, they have received the detailed assent form in which they give complete consent for his medical reports and other clinical details anonymously to be published in medical journal. Patient's parents understand that his identity will not be revealed during the same.

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