

CLINICAL FOCUS GUIDE TO HOMEOPATHIC REMEDIES

VOLUME 1

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ABSINTHIUM

HOMEOPATHIC ABBREVIATION:

Absin.

SCIENTIFIC NAME:

Artemesia Absinthium

The bulk of the descriptions of *Absinthium* in our Materia Medica center around end stage or near end stage pathology. In my experience, the majority of patients who benefit from this remedy are not that severely compromised pathologically. I believe it is important to have an understanding of the remedy in the beginning stages in the desire to avert the final stages.

As I said in the introduction, choosing the correct remedy for these beginning stages will include the disposition of the patient which may not be pathological. Yet, in the follow up I like to see primarily the pathology change. Although this book has much dispositional information it is given only for the purposes of the selection of the remedy. It is not the main aspect of the patient that has to change in order to initially deem the remedy curative.

In *Absinthium*, we see the situation of someone who has been threatened with, or almost murdered by someone they know. Typically, these individuals grew up with a violent alcoholic parent, who created this kind of state, or they have a violent spouse. They attract parasitic and nasty individuals who aggress their boundaries. As a result, in the first interview they will be guarded and reluctant to share information about their situation and the deeper problems that they are experiencing.

So in this way, we see in the beginning *Absinthium* a similarity to the remedies in its plant family Compositae, whose issues have to do with injury and boundaries that have been aggressed.

This remedy is to be considered for individuals who are primarily on the receiving end of the violence rather than a person who is proactively violent. It is invaluable for someone who is the victim of domestic violence. Yet, under the right circumstances the violence in the *Absinthium* patient can be triggered and expressed especially in the end stages. They are attracted to spouses with violent or criminal backgrounds or have grown up with someone who was consistently in their space in a very manipulative and violent fashion.

They may describe growing up in a turbulent household where one of their parents was a violent alcoholic. As a child their response may have been one of deep but unexpressed terror and sleeplessness. Besides this deep terror they could have been defiant but in either response there was a profound feeling of loss of safety and a sense they were being pursued for the purpose of being killed. In actual fact, I have used this remedy for individuals who in reality have been involved in these kinds of situations. It's at this point that they understandably avoid socializing and people in general.

In the end the fear of being murdered is very specific: (MIND, Fear of being murdered and MIND, Delusions he will be murdered). They may not express this at first and present in a very conservative way with worry about their family's security. They don't necessarily make easy contact with other members of their family or with you as a practitioner. I would consider *Absinthium* more for children or adult children of alcoholics although they themselves can become alcoholics.

As the situation or the pathology progresses, individuals needing this remedy develop violent symptoms that can be either physical (convulsions) or mental (violence). But both of these states alternate with stupor. The patient appears stupefied and intoxicated - their speech can be slurred and thick. Absinthe was used as an intoxicant as it creates euphoria followed by stupefaction. The poisoning symptoms include paralysis, trembling, delirium with epileptiform cramps and weakness of memory and eventually coma and death.

The *Absinthium* patient may also laugh inappropriately. The various states may alternate with euphoria, (characteristic of the intoxicating quality). This alternation can be seen in the face and is also related to severe muscle spasms that can change a comely looking face into a grotesque or sardonic looking face. They can at one point have a euphoric look then the muscle spasm strikes and they will look grotesque.

Convulsions are characteristic of the *Artemesia* plant sub-family. *Absinthium* has more grand mal convulsions whereas *Artemesia Vulgaris* is more for petit mal seizures.

Typically, in the chronic end stage mental delirium there are many grotesque delusions similar to Camphor. Even in the beginning you get a sense from the patient of an almost childishly grotesque quality to their perception of the world.

There is also a cruel streak to the patient especially in the way they treat their children, parents or spouses. They can exhibit kleptomania in the beginning and in the end profound criminal behavior and impulses. In the end this violent, cruel behaviour alternates with stupor and sudden loss of consciousness. We may see the beginning stages skipped and the patient, particularly miasmatically compromised children, showing the extreme state. The patient can appear very 'Thuja-like' with mumbling and deceptiveness. One of the ingredients in Absinthe is thujone.



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COMMON NAME & MEANING:

The name 'wormwood' is one of the common names used for the genus *Artemisia*. Some species were well known as effective treatment for intestinal worms. *Absinthium* means without sweetness. *Artemisia*, commemorates Artemis, goddess of the moon, wild things, chastity, and the hunt. The name was probably given in reference to the silvery (moonlit) tinge of the foliage.

SOURCE NOTES:

This remedy belongs to the Compositae or Aristeaceae Plant Family (Sunflower or Daisy Family).

Native to Europe but widely naturalized in Asia and North America, wormwood is a highly aromatic perennial plant that grows to 1 meter in height. Feathery leaves are covered on both sides with downy hairs creating a whitish or silvery look (other artemesias are downy on the underside only) and the rayless flower heads are bright yellow. Wormwood is one of the true 'bitters' as it stimulates secretion of bile improving digestion and helping eliminate gastro-intestinal worms. Wormwood is also known as an effective insect repellent and insecticide.

Wormwood is the major ingredient in *absinthe*, an addictive and toxic drink popular in some parts of Europe in the 19th century and was the national drink of France for two generations. Popularity for the drink began with its use by French soldiers as a preventative against malaria. Some modern studies indicate that alcoholic extracts of *Artemisia Absinthium* are nearly as effective in suppressing malarial plasmodium as the traditional preventative, chloroquine.

Subsequently, absinthe became the favored indulgence of artists and writers - Manet, Baudelaire, Van Gogh, Wilde, Poe, Degas and Picasso, to name a prominent few. It seems absinthe fed the creative juices of both the impressionist and the poet. The liqueur, absinthe, is now banned in most of the civilized world due to its narcotic, stimulant, and hallucinogenic properties. It was also known to excite sexuality and to combat air or seasickness. It is a clear bright-green liquid and since it was bottled at 120-160 proof was usually drunk with water, and often some sugar was added to combat the bitterness,

It contains absinthin and thujone. Absinthin, $C_{30}H_{40}O_6$, is one of the bitterest substances known. Thujone, an isomer of camphor ($C_{15}H_{16}O$), is the major psychoactive ingredient in wormwood and is found in several other plant species including *Salvia officinalis*, sage, *Tanacetum vulgare*,

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tansy, and in several species of the genus *Thuja*. Thujone's bonding structure is very similar to the active ingredient in Cannabis and a recent article suggests from neurological measurements that the effects of each are similar.

Worm Group
Tubercular Miasm
Tetanus Miasm
Rabies Miasm

HOMEOPATHIC GROUPS & MIASMS:

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APPEARANCE:

Generally dull, slow, stupefied (in first and acute stage can have convulsive movements and aggression)
Laughs inappropriately
Deceptive, hiding
Overly masculine
In end stage grotesque contortions of face

RESPONSE TO ATTEMPTED MURDER

'Mind, Delusions, imaginations: he will be murdered'

Fear of being murdered

From living a life in danger from someone familiar (parent, spouse)

Violent and threatening alcoholic parent or partner who aggresses their boundaries

Child living and watching violence

Panic Attacks

IMAGES OF DEATH

Dark artistic images of death and graves

Sees devils, gargoyles, zombies

Necrophilia

Restless during horrible visions

Dreams of being murdered, vivid scene of the blood all over, etc.

ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS

Attract parasitic and nasty individuals who aggress their boundaries

Security issues

Money issues

Defiance that is easily broken down

MIND AND DISPOSITION FOCUS

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ALCOHOLISM

Detox remedy - delirium tremens

KLEPTOMANIA

Also, leaves or forgets purchases

Criminal mindset

CRUELTY

Violent outbursts

Ridicules others

Jesting

Laughing over serious matters

Negatively reactive to others enjoying themselves,
or enjoying the fruits of their labor

STUPEFIED EXPRESSION

Stupefied

Stupefaction, stupor alternating with violence (cf. Morph.)

Euphoric smile

DIFFICULTY IN CONCENTRATION AND TASKS

Simplistic thinking – can't multi task

Comprehension difficult

Application of intention difficult

STUPOR

Symptoms alternate with stupor

Headache with confusion

Euphoria followed by stupefaction

Psychedelic

FEAR DELUSIONS OF RATS, CATS, SNAKES

DECEPTIVE

Muttering speech

Closed

(Compare *thuja*)

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PHYSICAL FOCUS

AFTER HEAD INJURY

CONVULSIONS

Epilepsy

Grand mal, clonic

Conscious during convulsion

Remembers during convulsion but not before

Grimacing before convulsion

Loss of memory after convulsion

Biting tongue during convulsion, foaming at mouth

Petite mal (*Artemesia vulgaris*, also a wormwood)

Chorea

VERTIGO

Falling backward

On rising

Better bending head backwards

SPASMS

Back pain spasmodic

Pain back extending to front abdominal area

Better motion

Distorted face; spasm that begins in face

Bluish tinge to face

Grimaces during convulsion

HEADACHE

Vice like, cap on head, tongs pressing on head

TREMBLING

Trembling or quivering before convulsion

Trembling voice

EXTERNAL NUMBNESS

Especially lips

PARALYSIS OF ORGANS

CONSTANT DESIRE TO URINATE

Involuntary urination

PARASITES AND WORMS

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FOOD POISONING

Bad meat

Mushroom poisoning

Ptomaine poisoning

DISTENTION IN LIVER AREA

SPEECH SLURRED

Sensation tongue enlarged

Intoxication

SLEEPLESSNESS

After violent trauma

In Children

BETTER MEAT

AVERSION TO FOOD

MASCULINE LOOK

Deeper voice in women, masculine looking women

SELECTIONS FROM TRADITIONAL HOMEOPATHIC SOURCES

From Phatak's Concise Materia Medica:

It causes convulsions, preceded by trembling. The patient bites tongue, foams at mouth and makes grimaces. Tremor is a marked feature, tremor of tongue, heart. Sudden and severe giddiness; epileptiform seizures, delirium, with hallucinations and loss of consciousness. Attacks occur in rapid succession. It is a useful remedy, for nervousness, excitement, and sleeplessness in children. Chorea. Opisthotonos.

From J. Clarke's Dictionary of Practical Materia Medica:

Absinthium has been proved, but a number of the symptoms are taken from observations made on absinthe drinkers. The convulsions of Absin. are preceded by trembling, the patient makes grimaces, bites tongue, foams. Halbert regards Absin. as of especial service in cases of minor epilepsy, where consciousness is not entirely lost. The characteristics are "a peculiar vertigo on rising, with a tendency to fall backward." In a case of epileptoid vertigo, signs of constant cerebral and spinal congestion, nausea and tendency to frequent vomiting, persistent tremors, epileptoid attacks of hysterical character and opisthotonos, Absinth. completely cured the symptoms. Tremor is a marked feature of the remedy: tremor of tongue, of heart. Magnan, who has studied Absinthium, says the characteristic symptoms

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of absinthe are: Sudden and severe giddiness, epileptiform seizures, delirium with hallucinations, and loss of consciousness. For some time after the attack there is loss of memory. The giddiness and epileptiform attacks are the most important of the symptoms. He adds that those who take absinthe are liable to hysterical manifestations. There is exhilaration followed by horrible delirium (Bell.), patient obliged to walk about. (Art-v., Cham., Cina have better moving about.) Patient walks about in distress, seeing all sorts of demons. Sleeplessness, typhoid with congestion of base of the brain. It corresponds to nervousness, excitement, and sleeplessness in children.

REMEDIES MISTAKEN FOR:

Artemesia vulgaris, Stramonium, Morphinum, Mercury, Opium.

RELATED REMEDIES:

Mercury, mercury salts (Iodum), Stramonium, Rabies Miasm remedies including Lyssin, Plumbum



HOMEOPATHIC REMEDY RELATIONSHIPS