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## CORTICOTHERAPY AND THE CHILD WHO STILL SQUEAKS: AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD), OTHER SUFFERINGS AND HOMEOPATHY

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**Abstract: Justification:** During the homeopathic treatment of a boy, we noticed that he had passed through the Squeaky Child Program before serious mental symptoms set in: the prophylaxis of asthmatic attacks is done with continuous use of inhaled corticosteroids. We understood that the boy had started to “wheeze” mentally. In two other cases, one with a diagnosis of ASD, there was also treatment with corticosteroids. The frequent or high-dose use of corticosteroids is leading children to morbid mental metastases. **Objectives:** to share with the medical community the serious effects of the use of corticosteroids in the treatment of children and to publicize the suitability of homeopathic treatment for these disorders. **Methodology:** Presentation of a summary of the homeopathic treatment of the first case. Presentation of the main aspects of the Criança que Chia. Presentation of the etymology of the word “chiar”. Summary report of two other cases. Discussion according to the Organon of the Art of Healing. **Results:** In the cure of the boys who “mentally wheezed” there was, as expected, a transient return of asthma symptoms (the “classic wheezing”), skin symptoms, fever and other vitality exercises, demonstrating the connection of respiratory symptoms with the mental condition, as Hahnemann already stated in paragraphs 215, 216 and 219 of the Organon of the Art of Healing. **Conclusions:** Homeopathy recognizes the depth of the disease in the cases presented, and has the potential to cure them. Homeopathic medicine needs to be available to children and, in contemporary health, especially to those who have used corticotherapy.

**Keywords:** corticoids; children; mental suffering; ASD; Homeopathy.

## INTRODUCTION

In the homeopathic follow-up of an 8-year-old boy with mental symptoms, clinical case 1, brought by his mother to a SUS Health Center (Unidade Básica de Saúde), who herself had been a patient for three years (she was cured of a severe depressive condition that lasted 14 years and requested a referral), we verified in his clinical history that he had been through the Criança que Chia Program. First RAFC appointment 20/11/2019: the boy starts scratching his throat, making a loud noise, and says that the throat clearing is due to pain in the throat. The mother explains that she has been using neozine (levomepromazine hydrochloride) for two months, since he was 3 years old with this type of medication: risperidone, venvanse (lisdexamfetamine), ritalin (methylphenidate), and a “fluoxetine type”. He’s been hawking like a tic since October, when he started taking neozine. “The medicine, the teacher gives it to me and I get sleepy, I only wake up in the afternoon”. He takes the medicine in the morning, at school, because they don’t believe his mother gives it to him at home... Dream, nightmare? Laugh, smile. Okay, I’ll tell you: I killed my brother and I went there and cried. Dreaming every day that I’d killed my family. This year I started dreaming. Long before the medication, I used to get on the scooter and beat up the kids, all that hitting, not taking no for an answer, punching, swearing. At 8 months, asthma. He was hospitalized four times with bronchitis, asthma and pneumonia. The ENT discovered that he couldn’t hear, he snored like an apnea. He had his adenoids and tonsils removed and his ears aspirated when he was two and a half years old. I’d lay him on the sofa and he’d staring at the curtain since he was a month old. If I went out with him, I’d have a crying fit. I’d look to see if there was a bug in his clothes and there wasn’t. Inside the house, on the sofa, he’d shut up. He doesn’t want other people’s houses. With colleagues,

it's all aggression, boys are special, they want to hit him and they hit him.

Affectionate and aggressive: aggressive play. He's in third school, has already been punched, kicked and sexually assaulted. Very developed mind, but doesn't read or write. At one year old: restless, didn't sleep, didn't want to eat, jumped out of the crib, ran around, restless walking, wouldn't sit still. I had to take him out of normal school due to the lack of a support teacher, he attacked the teacher calling her a girl, he attacked sick children. Now he's kissing his mother. He's affectionate and says "I love you", and he's full of banter: "When I grow up, I'm going to give you a beautiful cell phone"! Directions: Single dose (SD) of *Bryonia alba* 30cH [3], 1/400th of a drop in 10 mL of water. Dilute in 200 mL of water, shake 6 times and pour 1 teaspoon into a second glass with 200 mL of water. Shake the second glass 6 times and offer 1 teaspoon in the evening, before bed, discard the rest; gradual withdrawal from neozine. On 08/2020, nine months later: used the medication straight away. She had a headache, fever and bronchitis about 10 days later. "I was shaking with fever and my mother took me to the UPA (Emergency Care Unit)". She acted very quickly, took a jet at the UPA, salbutamol. He stopped taking neozine after 30 days. Calmer than he used to be, he now sits down to eat and watch TV. He's keen to learn to write and read. Before, they didn't even want to accept him at the specialized school. In the morning he sneezes a lot when he gets up, I even give him wipes. **He was treated by a pulmonologist at the age of 3, in a Secondary Care Unit, until the age of 6 (here we learned about the prolonged use of inhaled corticosteroids).** Much calmer, he shows me photos of his father. His mother stopped going out so she wouldn't be embarrassed: "I went to a birthday party on July 25th, I wasn't embarrassed.

He used to put his finger in the cake, spit it out, punch it, now he doesn't". During this second consultation there was the insight from which this work began: until the homeopathic treatment the patient "still wheezed": no longer in the bronchioles, but in the mind.

## OBJECTIVES

To share with the medical community the occurrence of serious mental suffering from the use of corticosteroids in the treatment of children, and to publicize the suitability of homeopathic treatment for these disorders.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Presentation of the summary of the homeopathic treatment of the boy whose treatment provoked the first thoughts in this study. Presentation of the main aspects of the Squeaky Child Program. Citations of the etymology of the term "chiar". Report of two other clinical cases of children with mental suffering who used corticosteroids.

Discussion according to paragraph 216 of the Organon of the Art of Healing.

## RESULTS

My homeopathic training as a teacher at the Instituto Mineiro de Homeopatia (IMH), which later became the *Phýsis* Homeopathy Service, emphasized, among other things, an in-depth study of the etymology of the terms used in pathogenesis [2], which naturally spilled over into clinical practice. To wheeze is to complain, in the common sense, and in the investigation of the term it is also to burst out in anger, to vociferate, to turn into a beast, which evokes the mental picture of the first patient.

The Criança que Chia program was launched in 1996 with the aim of providing adequate care for children with asthma through clinical monitoring, guidance for family members and health professionals on the disease and its management, and the supply of necessary

medication and supplies. In Belo Horizonte, the number of hospitalizations for asthma has been reduced by more than 60% since the program was set up.

The drug of choice for prophylaxis is inhaled corticosteroids, with beclomethasone spray being available in the SUS BH network. Asthma control treatment is divided into stages, in which the dose of inhaled corticosteroids is progressively increased according to the severity of the disease. [4]

On 18/11/21, after three more consultations for clinical case 1, another DU of *Bryonia alba* cH30 (3rd cup) and a DU of Sulphur cH33 (2nd cup), completing two years of treatment: his behavior has improved too much, everyone is talking about how he doesn't even look like the same person, the tutor, the neighbors, and at the special school too. It was complaint after complaint, he seems like a different boy. Another respiratory crisis in August or September, milder than the one in February, he burned up with fever, had a cough, headache, a lot of runny nose and didn't wheeze. He memorizes a password made up of letters and numbers that he sees only once, lowercase and uppercase. He reads the name of the caller on his cell phone and speaks. He doesn't want to go to the school he's at, it's too late, he won't be literate there. He's so quiet that he looks like he's having a bad time, he's so well-behaved. On reviewing the medical records, we found a record of 45 visits to the SUS before the homeopathic treatment. Over three years, the patient used beclomethasone, mometasone, prednisolone, budesonide and fluticasone. After this phase, there were consultations with psychology (5), neurology (5) and psychiatry (1), when the patient used periciazine (neuleptil), carbamazepine, methylphenidate (ritalin) and levomepromazine hydrochloride (neozine). This trajectory of symptoms and consultations is familiar to the homeopathic episteme: suppression of symptoms followed by morbid metastasis: tonsil and adenoid surgery -> asthma -> psychiatric condition.

**Clinical case 2:** DFS, 6 years old, first appointment on 25 06 2020. I go into the office and he immediately says "I've had too many vaccinations, I'm not going to have any". His mother says that he only speaks a little, he keeps repeating that he is autistic, he came to Homeopathy because his friend suggested it. He has been taking risperidone 0.25mg in the morning and 0.50mg in the evening for almost 3 years. Always using antibiotics (ATB), medicines, the symptoms come back every three months. I also came because he eats a lot when he's on the medication, he gets anxious. Without the medicine, he wouldn't sleep, he was agitated, nervous. I tried reducing the medication, the psychiatrist suggested it. With his back to me, he says: "We're going to buy a trolley"? He found it hard to talk and walk, very quiet, still, very much on his own and not mixing with other children.

He fell ill at the age of three months with a sore throat, fever and severe flu. He was hospitalized with a urinary infection when he was 1 year and 2 months old. With the vaccines, at the beginning, he had a fever, the place was irritated, he cried afterwards with the fever and when they were administered. She cries at the sight of needles, people in white, just walking through the door. Three years ago, before discovering he had autism, he would wake up at 2 a.m. with gas, wanting to play, watch TV, spend the whole day without sleeping until 11 p.m., wake up at 3 a.m., 2 a.m. and stay all day. "Please, let's go".

She's never drawn, only scratches, she doesn't like learning. Never a ball, a circle, just scratches. Never liked interacting with classmates. He doesn't like having his hair cut or brushing his teeth. He had plaques in his throat about four times in the first year of his life. He had asthma for the first time when he was 4 months old, until he was about 4: he was fine and then suddenly he had trouble breathing. "Mom, I'm in a hurry, I have to go". He used a lot of ATB, corticosteroids, and was under

observation about five times. Affected by the cold, he gets the flu, sneezing. He speaks dinosaur names, he learned English by himself, speaking colors. Tests and speaks in English and Spanish. Excerpts from the evolution of 1 year and 9 months of treatment, 6 consultations, 2 DUs of *Silicea terra* 33cH [3] 1/400 drops, 1st and 2nd glasses, and gradual withdrawal from risperidone: about 15 days after the DU, his anxiety about food has reduced, before he wanted it all the time, he would fight if I didn't give him what he wanted. He had a fever and took medication twice a month, now he doesn't, he's spaced out well. The first fever after 5 days: scratchy throat, runny nose, lack of appetite. And the second fever, 45 days ago, his father had gone on a trip, he was sad, emotionally shaken, crying. He's very attached to his father, he asks and if he doesn't show up, he has a fever. His mother remembers that when he was 3 years old, he became very ill, all the tests were done and nothing happened. Then she remembered that her father had traveled, just like now. Her boss also has an autistic son. For the last five days, she has been using a "homeopathic" medicine prescribed by a homeopathic doctor who has an autistic son, a complex of flowers. I asked her to avoid it during the homeopathic treatment. I used Vasenol cream (aqua, glycerin, stearic acid, isopropyl palmitate, glycol stearate, peg-100 stearate, dimethicone, paraffinum liquidum, glyceryl stearate, petrolatum, cetyl alcohol, phenoxyethanol, acrylates/C10-30 alkyl acrylate crosspolymer, methylparaben, triethanolamine, stearamide amp, propylparaben, disodium edta.), odorless, fragrance-free. When she was 2 months old, she had little sprouts that hurt, even on her face, skin like sandpaper, she used a very expensive cream, neutrogena (aqua, glycerin, distearyldimonium chloride, petrolatum, cetyl alcohol, isopropyl palmitate, dimethicone, benzyl alcohol, parfum (butylphenyl methylpropional, d-dimonene, linalool), colloidal oatmeal, ti-

tanium dioxide, tocopheryl acetate, sodium chloride), and her skin stayed good until she was 5. Now she speaks lemon and strawberry popsicles, before she spoke the color of the popsicle. His mother says he resisted fever more than itchy skin. Colds used to affect him a lot, he'd get the flu, now he's been through all this cold and hasn't gotten the flu. He swam in the pool and nothing happened, before it was a fever the next day, that's for sure. He used to fight a lot, he was very aggressive when he was upset, now he's playing without fighting so much. And going into the doctor's office wasn't easy, he cried and complained.

Now he just asks several times if he's going to have a vaccine. Today he sits down to play, before, with the treatments, without result. Dad went away for Christmas, stayed for 10 days, this time he asked about Dad, didn't feel feverish, he was fine. Yesterday, sitting at the table, he looked at me and his sister and asked: are you sisters? Then Mom explained, and he got pensive.

Yesterday, in church, he was impatient and said... "I'm bored". He must have learned it from a drawing and applied it at the right moment. He still scratches his body a lot, his thighs, his belly, he wakes up scratching at night. Before the flu vaccine, she became ill with a very high fever, lost weight, had no appetite, became depressed, had diarrhea and vomited. She went to the emergency room, took azithromycin (!) and got better. And then he was vaccinated (!). A month later he had bronchitis like he hadn't had for four years. He used salbutamol and prednisolone (!). Sensitivity to noise has decreased even more. I used to have a hard time getting him to cut his hair because of the noise of the clippers, but now he's calm, invites me to cut his hair and has become friends with the guy who cuts it. And he no longer asks me to turn down the volume on the phone and TV. He does his homework properly and has done some really nice activities. **The day before yesterday, he**

**made his mother cry by saying the letters of the alphabet.** On March 9, 2022: he came in and didn't talk about needles or injections. He had Covid on January 28th. Fever of 39.4°C. I fought not to give him medicine. He was tired for 3 days, not short of breath. Irregular diet, no bronchitis. Vaccinated yesterday for covid (!), dad was afraid he'd get it again. He was tested for Covid and it was incredible, I thought I was going to have to hold him down, but it was fine. He came back with itchy bumps after the covid. Teacher called 3 days ago: learning to write, read, a blessing, more participative. He gets in line and waits normally. Teacher is angry and he's obeying all the rules. She didn't drink milk and started drinking milk with chocolate a fortnight ago.

**Clinical case 3:** MTGM, 9 years old, 1st appointment on 02/18/2021: a speech therapist from another Health Center referred him. When he was 2 years old, he started talking, he said he was ugly, dumb, that he would never learn anything. I've been looking for him everywhere. He got better about 7 months ago, with the help of a psychologist. His mother, teary-eyed, says she's been all over town looking for help. He always talked about dying, dying, ever since he started talking.

At the age of three, I was already saying that life was no fun, it was boring. It got bigger and bigger, I went to the neurologist, psychiatrist, psychologist, benzedeira, macumbeiro. Fears? (Looks at her mother) "of the dark. Yes, because in a child's mind, in the dark you see other things, what comes to the child's imagination". Fear of ghosts, monsters, seeing a boy on the wall. "What boy, Mom? He says indignantly. When he was 4 or 5, he'd say: "Look at the boy with the big eyes!". Where, son?" "Oh, he's gone!". His mother asked him to wait outside: he says he's quiet at home and spontaneous on the street. What he says here, he doesn't say at home. It worries me more and more.

At the age of 3 months, he took his first NAN milk in a bottle, while his mother was

being examined at a doctor's appointment in hospital: he swelled up all over, up to the palm of his hand, glottis edema, and was treated on the spot with adrenaline and heart massage. She used fluoxetine hydrochloride from the age of 6 to 8. I didn't have the courage to give him Ritalin, the psychologist didn't recommend it. God will make it better without the need for anything more aggressive. He was a "very healthy" child, with only a BCG fever, his mother thinks. Sometimes he coughs and sneezes with the dog, but it passes quickly. Dogs are his life. He asked for a little brother, as his parents split up when he was one and a half years old, we got a little fish, a parakeet, he died, he talked all the time about how much he missed Quito. He was serious and sad, but when the dog came in he started to play and laugh, something happened.

His psychiatrist told him that it was impossible not to have friends at school. One day he wrote that he was ugly, boring, nobody liked him. Sometimes he said he hated me: I hate you, I hate you, my life is boring, I hate you. He says he likes his father, but that he abandoned him.

When he was a baby, he already said that there was a bug on the ceiling. When he was less than a year old, he would cry and show something that scared him. When he was about 2 years old, he cried so much one day at his grandparents' house, showing them the corner of the wall, no one understood, he was twisting in fear, his mother was crying... On April 7, 2022, after a year of treatment, 2 doses of *Stramonium* 36cH, vomiting, fever, temporary return of visual and auditory hallucinations, and itching in the head and all over the body: he used the 2nd dose about a month ago, after the 2 doses of the covid vaccine, because of the rashes on his legs, which were too much. Her skin is now blotchy, with scars from the extensive rash. Fear? No. Dreams? No. He's willing, calm, collaborative at home, his mother is calm, and he wants to talk about his satisfaction and gratitude.

I ask her about what I found in the medical records, whether she used the dexamethasone prescribed when he was 4 months old, for dermatitis in the diaper area. His mother denies it, she's never liked medicines, she's a health professional, she's only ever used cornstarch. She reminded me of the anaphylactic shock she had suffered when she was 3 months old. Searching for guidelines on anaphylactic shock, we found that "intravenous corticosteroids, methylprednisolone 125mg, are indicated to minimize the reaction and should be maintained for at least 72 hours..." [5].

## DISCUSSION

The homeopathic treatment of these children places Hahnemann in contemporary medicine. In the *Organon of the Art of Healing* [1], paragraph 15, we read: almost all the so-called diseases of the soul and mind are nothing more than physical ailments, in which the symptoms of disturbance of the soul and mind peculiar to each of them increase, while physical symptoms decline... In paragraph 216: it is not uncommon for the so-called physical illness that threatens to be fatal ... turns into madness, a kind of melancholy or rage, due to a rapid increase in mental symptoms that were already present, while the physical symptoms lose all their danger ... In Paragraph 19: A comparison of these previous symptoms of the physical illness with the traces of

those which still remain, although they have become less perceptible (but which even now sometimes become prominent, when there is an interval of lucidity and a passing relief from the evil of the mind), will serve to show that they were still present, although obscured. In cases 1 and 2, the skin, upper airway and pulmonary symptoms deepened, with the onset of mental illnesses medicated with antipsychotics and other drugs. Both boys, in the process of restoring their health, experience these symptoms again when they regain lucidity and are cured of the "evil of the mind", in the words of the master. In case 3, with the use of high doses of corticosteroids when he was still a baby, the "evil of the mind" began to set in before he was a year old, so that the boy grew up, "like a healthy child", with no skin conditions, no respiratory problems and no fevers, until the help of homeopathy arrived.

## CONCLUSION

Homeopathy recognizes the path of deepening illness in the cases presented. And it has the potential to reverse it, leading children down the path of healing: well-being, mental improvement, superficialization of symptoms, acute exercise of vitality. Homeopathic medicine should be available to children and, in contemporary health, especially to those who have used corticotherapy.

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