



Disappointed with Culture

A Case of *Carboneum sulphuratum*

Roger Morrison, USA

December 2002

54-year-old construction worker and activist.

The patient is a Vietnam Veteran, a decorated hero and university graduate. He speaks with precision, and is very serious, smiling rarely. He is tall and physically imposing.

"I think I may be allergic to poison oak and that this relates to my serious fatigue. I moved to California in 1974 and I did a lot of clearing of poison oak and had many ferocious cases of poison oak on the whole body but not face. My clothes were black from sap of the Rhus plants. After that I had terrible 'funks'.

I could barely get out of bed. I would be laid up for three to four weeks at a time. During these episodes I would lose 20–30 pounds down to 160 (normally about 185). This happens several times per year.

Somewhat during the spring and autumn but worst during the summer. I'd just get tagged.

At first I thought it was depression or that I was hypoglycaemic. Sometimes I was fainting during these episodes. I saw the doctor for tests and everything was normal.

Then the episodes stopped for a few years but generally through the 1980s I was tired. I never mentioned it to anyone.

Lethargic. Wiped out by any extended exertion. Physical or mental exertion made me much worse.

I was grease. (After getting sick again).

Enervated. In the early stage of the enervation, my mind was clear.

In the late '80s I was physically terrible; I'd just as soon die. I couldn't work with other people. Couldn't carry on work for extended periods.

By the '90s I realised I had some kind of condition. In the summers I was toast. In

the late spring I got hammered. Late in the summer I got tagged again.

I was doing road work – when I could do it. I had to do it at my own pace. In 1985 I gave up on building the house of my dreams due to the fatigue.

Around that time I became a crazed political activist.

In 1995 I got a lot of resistance from others in the activist community.

From that point I got less healthy. There were so many phone calls and it was very stressful. My wife got on me about my health.

In the year 2000 I quit working in activism, unplugged my phone. I became gaunt. Thin. I was sick all the time. I slept twelve to fourteen hours a day for six months. Then I felt a lot better.

In 2001 I realised how seasonal the condition was.

Fatigue. Drowsiness. I would pass out even in the daytime.

I would get a sudden urgent desire to eat.

I was a vegetable all summer. My mind couldn't focus to even read.

I would just sit – not enough energy to do something else.

At other times I could feel normal. Feel great. Happy.

Then BAM!

I got much worse once it got cold.

I have a sore throat all the time as if I'm going to get sick.

I feel nausea all the time – it's worse if I drink coffee (I love coffee).

Loose stools.

I have teeth/gum disease. The roots of my teeth just die – I've had six teeth die. Jaw X-rays showed much bone loss.

All I had to do was trip and then I would crash.

Aching teeth – I couldn't eat. It was worse at the end of the day.

I wake ok – then I think, maybe this will be a good day.

Then I climb up a short hill (30 feet) and find *no zip*.

I get worse as the heat comes on during the day.

I become frustrated, grumpy.

My nausea is better when eating every two hours. I get a hypoglycaemic crash. I feel bummed. I'm back in the same old cycle.

I try to believe I could have a life back again. But then I come home and I get nailed.

I get worse if exposed to "copper green" or other chemicals especially aerosol chemicals or fumes. But I'm better when I'm up in a high mountain camp.

At one point I thought this might be from Agent Orange – I was exposed in Vietnam. But the military doctors say it isn't that.

When I'm sick I thrash around in my bed feeling terrible.

My condition had gotten worse and worse. Sweating. Groaning.

I become delirious – I can't think. Like I'm losing it. There's no constancy in my mind. I go under and then come out.

I get a rash on my chest, mottled-looking; like poison oak.

I feel wretched, as if my body has nothing to fight with. No reserve

S U M M A R Y

An American veteran of the Vietnam conflict was exposed to Agent Orange. He developed symptoms typical for Carbon remedies but his individual symptoms indicated the remedy *Carboneum sulphuratum*. This case demonstrates many of the typical Carbon features – notably Chemical Sensitivity Syndrome – but with strong characteristics of Sulphur. Rather than use an isode of Agent Orange, the patient was given the remedy based upon constitutional symptoms.

KEYWORDS Carbons, *Carboneum sulphuratum*, Chemical sensitivity syndrome, Agent Orange

In this delirium I get sweats. Hot. Agitated. Moaning. I want to let it carry me away. It is a total frustration.

Question: Do you feel stiffness during this delirium?

No, I have no stiffness.

I felt as if I was almost dead. As if it would never go away.

I want to be alone so I could express this feeling of going down the tubes.

I never show pain and suffering to my family. Never told my wife that I felt so limited. Never told my wife I was so lethargic. Never told my wife I couldn't keep a job. The whole thing is cyclically better in the morning, much worse by late afternoon."

Desires: Grapefruit. Greens. Beets. Peanut butter. Meat. Fish. Coffee.

Sugar and coffee makes things worse.

Temperature: "Last years I get chilled and can't get warm. My wife would lie on me to try to warm me. My heart rate would go low. But also I hate the heat."

Sleep: well. Snores. Sleeps on back.

Hot in bed and feet out of covers

Sex: never really high. I love women a few times per month.

Question: Can you describe your nature?

I'm passionate and I have strong feelings.

I'm determined. Independent.

Integrity and honesty are high values for me.

I think how valuable life is – I'm grateful for it.

I'm outside human culture. It's not satisfying. I live away and visit it. I'm an avid reader. People and normal culture is a bore to me.

There's nothing out there I want.

I have close friends who are MD's and professors.

It's better that I'm away from culture.

I'm antisocial. I don't go to parties or bars.

People think I'm a hermit. I always loved the mountains.

I struggle to be a good person.

I treasure my child but I'm a tough beast. I have to learn how to be softer. Never physically abusive or mean.

My father was a successful engineer. He loved to camp so I always have.



Fig. 1 The effects of Agent Orange (Napalm).

I'm disappointed with culture. Culture makes me unpleasant.

I was drafted in 1965 – that led me to the Marine Corps.

During boot camp I decked an officer – I was sent to the brig three times.

I have an authority thing. I can't tolerate smiling when I want to tell them f— off. They loved me in Vietnam for three years during combat. I was the lead man, the toughest fighter.

But I was scared to death daily for two and a half years. I could get blown to f—ing paste! I was at war 1968 – 72 in the university. The antiwar movement was to me a juvenile act. The Marxists were idiots. I got in arguments with these twerps about the war. They called me a baby killer and things. I'm enriched in nature, by the light in the grass and the sea. Wonder. Awe.

Question: What is the opposite of this awe feeling.

Judgment on appearances. People looked at me and just saw a "Pig". I left there feeling empty, hiding my tears.

People judge and react – they don't know you.

Everyone is trying to navigate the minefield of judgment based on appearances.

I disdain this.

Having to be someone other than you are.

If you have a strong feeling, people will be mad and hurt.

I'm very sensitive. It makes me feel badly. So I stay away from people.

I feel criticised and hurt.

I feel sorry for them. They pretend. They're frauds.

I lived for three years in a dynamic, dangerous environment. I came alive. I could see things before they happened.

I was a 200 pound guy living without fear. They were full of fear. I've got no time for this.

I always felt I was struggling spiritually.

Question: Dreams?

About being in the jungle.

Erotic dreams.

Nonsensical.

Childhood dream: I run down my street and spread my wings and jump off.

Analysis

Carbon characteristics in this case are:

- Loss of vitality
- No reserves
- Sensation of fainting and sinking
- Mental weakness and inability to read or think
- Vacancy of mind
- Estrangement
- Chemical sensitivity

The main problem emotionally is extreme sensitivity to criticism (and criticising). This is so strong that he avoids "culture" completely. It is a wound to the deepest part of his ego. This shows the Sulphur component.

Rubrics:

- Weakness during the heat of summer
- Heat, Lack of vital
- Heat aggravates
- Ailments after suppressed eruptions
- Confusion of mind after mental exertion
- Confusion of mind during heat
- Fear of people
- Sit, inclination to
- Sits still, silent

Prescription: *Carboneum sulphuratum* MK



In retrospect, I felt that the most likely causative circumstance was the patient's repeated exposure to Agent Orange (Fig. 1). The body has a limited capacity to detoxify itself from these complex carbon compounds. Any repeated or overwhelming exposure to carbon compounds such as formaldehyde, paints, new synthetic carpets, work place exposures, etc., can create a chronic disability in susceptible patients. Many of these patients will need a carbon remedy to reverse the injury. However, the remedy needed is not necessarily the same one that caused the problem. I have found it best to use the remedy that fits the case rather than the initiating agent.

Follow-up

After six weeks

"Things are much better. Some symptoms have dried up. Others are just less frequent. I'm clearer in my mind than in a long time. The nausea is less and less frequent. The fatigue is considerably less but still comes periodically. I only have rare times of exhaustion. It's just a lot better though at times I still get wiped out. In those peri-

ods there is a 'vacancy' of self. I don't recognise my thoughts.

I'm less sensitive to cold.

My wife says I'm much better. I'm playing with my little girl more – I was too feeble and grouchy to do it before. My mood is mellower – I'm in a good mood."

After five months

"I had a bad cold that set me back for a few weeks but recovered without taking anything. Now I can work for two days, then I take off for two days. This is a major improvement. Even when I'm tired and take time off, I never go into the serious collapse state like before and my mind has remained clear the entire time.

I never get nausea now. My hypoglycaemic pattern is nearly gone."

After fourteen months

"I have been well this entire time. I do not feel as robust as I remember myself being, but I can work and carry on my family life easily.

My wife says I am much more available. Irritability is much, much less.

I had a swollen lymph gland in my axilla that had been there for nearly 40 years. It began tickling and since then is getting smaller.

No nausea.

Much less craving for grapefruit. Sleep is good. I'm very grateful."

The patient has remained under my care continuously since 2002 (along with his daughter) and remains much improved needing infrequent repetitions of *Carbon-eum sulphuratum*, eventually receiving 10MK.

References

- ¹ Scholten J. Homeopathy and the Elements. Utrecht, Netherlands: Stichting Alonissos; 2006
- ² Sankaran R. Structure – Experiences with the Mineral Kingdom. Mumbai, India: Homoeopathic Medical Publishers; 2008

Roger Morrison, MD
Hahnemann Medical Clinic
1220 Brickyard Cove Rd. Suite 101
Richmond, CA 94801
USA
E-mail: hmcricmond@gmail.com