

Mercurius solubilis as Genus Epidemicus for the COVID-19 Pandemic

Shailendra Vaishampayan¹ Kirti Mutreja² Sunil Lambe³ Jawahar Shah⁴ Gulnaaz Shaikh⁵

¹Department of Homoeopathic Materia Medica, D. Y. Patil Homoeopathic Medical College and Research Centre and PG Institute, Maharashtra, India

²Department of Homeopathy, Bhaktivedanta Hospital and Research Institute, Thane, Maharashtra, India

³Dasburgs Clinic, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

⁴Welcome Cure, Mind Technologies, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

⁵Dr. Vaishampayan's Homoeopathic Clinic, Mira Road, Thane, Maharashtra, India

Address for correspondence Shailendra Vaishampayan, MD, Dr. Vaishampayan's Homoeopathic Clinic, 5, Sachinum, Unique Park, Lodha Road, Mira Road, Thane 401107, Maharashtra, India (e-mail: shailendravaishampayan@yahoo.com).

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We are writing this letter to propose *Mercurius solubilis* as genus epidemicus for the current coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

From mid-June to mid-July 2020, our team of homeopathic doctors treated 104 patients in two COVID treatment centers—Pandit Bhimsen Joshi Hospital and Sheth P.V. Doshi Hospital—on the outskirts of Mumbai, India, with adjuvant homeopathy. It was observed by the patients, hospital staff, and the management that those patients on adjuvant homeopathy were discharged 3 to 7 days earlier than other comparable patients in the same wards, allowing us gradually to accommodate more severely ill patients who required oxygen, continuous positive airway pressure, or a ventilator.

Twenty-five different homeopathic medicines in total were prescribed to the patients, each receiving individualized treatment according to his or her symptoms. After collecting 143 clinical and individualizing (homeopathic) symptoms of 104 patients and converting those symptoms into rubrics, we repertorized the combined data with the help of the software Hompath, with an aim to arrive at a genus epidemicus. We observed that the medicine *Merc Sol* was at the top of the combined repertorization chart. After reviewing repertory sheets of all 104 patients, we discovered that *Merc Sol* was at the fourth or fifth place of all individual repertorization charts as well.

To substantiate our deduction, we studied the Materia Medica of *Merc Sol* from the original provings of Hahnemann¹ and other sourcebooks.^{2–4} We also searched research articles and case studies about toxicological effects of mercury.^{5–8} These showed that acute exposure to mercury produces an acute respiratory distress syndrome-like presentation, a pic-

ture similar to the COVID symptomatology. Moreover, anosmia, aphthae, gastrointestinal and ocular manifestations that are seen in patients with COVID-19 were produced also by mercury the toxin and mercury the homeopathy-proved medicine. This finding is in accordance with the homeopathic Law of Similars: a substance producing a symptom in a healthy person is able to cure a similar symptom in a sick person.

To confirm our hypothesis, we identified 13 common symptoms of *Merc Sol*, such as indented tongue, salivation, perspiration, and night aggravation, which were present in various intensities in the previously treated 104 patients. We created a 13-point questionnaire and, after obtaining suitable Ethics Committee approval and individual informed consent from the patients, we evaluated 68 further patients in the above-mentioned COVID hospitals. People with at least eight confirmed symptoms from the questionnaire were prescribed *Merc Sol* 200c thrice a day for a week. In our 2-week study at both the locations, we observed a speedy recovery and a hospital stay reduction by 5 to 7 days in all the 68 patients when *Merc Sol* was used along with the standard Indian Council of Medical Research clinical protocol. Many of them were not newly admitted patients but were those who exceeded the mandatory minimum hospital stay. We are now using *Merc Sol* as a preventive medicine for over 1,000 people in a COVID hot-spot area in Powai, Mumbai, with the expressed permission of local authorities.

Following the Hahnemannian method of arriving at a genus epidemicus⁹ (§ 99–103), and deducing it from the combined data of symptoms of more than 100 patients, we arrived at the conclusion that *Merc Sol*, “the deceitful malefic mercury” known for various symptomatic presentations and tissue

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destruction, is *genus epidemicus* of this pandemic. Our efforts are in accordance with the logic of homeopathy proffered by Dr. Stuart Close¹⁰: exact observation, correct interpretation, rational explanation, and scientific construction.

We now appeal to the global homeopathy community to test our findings in their respective areas, designing specific research projects to explore the utility of *Mercurius solubilis* in the COVID-19 pandemic as *genus epidemicus*.

Conflict of Interest

None declared.

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