

Review Article

Homeopathic Treatment of Abscess: A Review

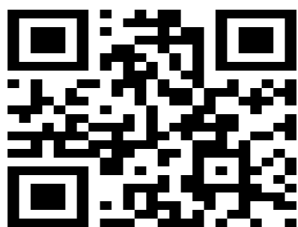
Sitaram Dole, Anupriya A. Alte, Hiral A. Gandhi

Shri Bhagwan Homoeopathic Medical College and P.G. Institute, Aurangabad, Maharashtra, India-431001

ABSTRACT

An abscess is a tender, easily pressed mass generally surrounded by a colored area from pink to deep red. The middle of an abscess is full of pus and debris. Abscesses are of many types and go by different names depending on the part of the skin that they occur in, we call an abscess that forms around a hair follicle as a boil, and such boils are typically formed along areas where hair follicles are dense, including the buttocks, the underarm and the hair neckline on the body. Proper homeopathic treatment can help dry the abscesses thus preventing many surgeries, drainage and dental extractions.

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Address for Correspondence:

Anupriya A. Alte

Shri Bhagwan Homoeopathic Medical College and P.G. Institute, N-6, CIDCO, Aurangabad, Maharashtra, India-431001

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INTRODUCTION

When infected, the human body's defense system may wall off a part of the body wall as a pustule infection-these walled off sections of the body are known as abscesses or an abscess in singular. Abscesses are of many types and go by different names depending on the part of the skin that they occur in, we call an abscess that forms around a hair follicle as a boil, and such boils are typically formed along areas where hair follicles are dense, including the buttocks, the underarm and the hair neckline on the body. A carbuncle is a severe abscess, which usually has a number of centers located at several hair follicles on the body. A noticeable lump is present on the affected region and the skin in the region looks hot, is typically reddened and swollen from the beginning of its formation itself. In such cases, even though the abscess may be minute, the affected skin has highly inflamed tissue and may be extremely painful for patient.

The contents of a ripened abscess are eliminated through the surface of the skin, these results in the immediate relief for the person from the pressure and pain associated with the pustule, this ripening may however take about two weeks from start to finish. Where general signs of fever, and physical fatigue along with swollen lymph glands are evident, it means that the abscess has

become too large or that it has branched out to different areas in the body-these cases are however largely unusual and most abscesses are localized in one region of the body. Immediate medical attention from a qualified doctor is required in all cases where such enlargements occur as they may signal a far more serious condition in the patient's body.

Causes of Abscess:

Abscesses are caused by obstruction of sebaceous glands sweat glands, inflammation of hair follicles, or minor breaks and punctures of the skin. Germs get under the skin or into these glands, which causes an inflammatory response as your body's defenses try to kill these germs.

The middle of the abscess liquefies and contains dead cells, bacteria, and other debris. This area begins to grow, creating tension under the skin and further inflammation of the surrounding tissues. Pressure and inflammation cause the pain. People with weakened immune systems get certain abscesses more often. Those with any of the following are all at risk for having more severe abscesses. This is because the body has a decreased ability to ward off infections.

- Chronic steroid therapy
- Chemotherapy

- Diabetes
- Cancer
- AIDS
- Sickle cell disease
- Leukemia
- Peripheral vascular disorders
- Crohn's disease
- Ulcerative colitis
- Severe burns
- Severe trauma
- Alcoholism or IV drug abuse

Other risk factors for abscess include exposure to dirty environments, exposure to persons with certain types of skin infections, poor hygiene, and poor circulation.

Signs and Symptoms of Abscess:

The symptoms of an abscess depend on where it develops in body.

Skin abscesses

Signs of a skin abscess can include:

- a smooth swelling under your skin that can feel hard or firm
- pain and tenderness in the affected area
- warmth and redness in the affected area
- A visible build-up of white or yellow pus under the skin.
- a high temperature (fever)
- chills

Internal abscesses

Abscesses that develop inside an organ or in the spaces between organs can be more difficult to identify than skin abscesses, because the symptoms can be vague and there may be no obvious external signs of a problem.

The symptoms of an internal abscess can also vary depending on exactly where in the body the abscess develops. For example, a liver abscess may cause jaundice (yellowing of the skin and the whites of the eyes), whereas an abscess in or near the lungs may cause a cough or shortness of breath.

General symptoms of an internal abscess can include:

- discomfort in the area of the abscess
- fever
- increased sweating
- feeling sick
- vomiting
- chills
- pain or swelling in your tummy (abdomen)
- loss of appetite and weight loss
- extreme tiredness (fatigue)
- diarrhoea or constipation

Investigation:

Abscesses should be differentiated from empyema's, which are accumulations of pus in a

pre-existing rather than a newly formed anatomical cavity.

Other conditions that can cause similar symptoms include: cellulitis, a sebaceous cyst and necrotising fasciitis. Cellulitis typically also has an erythematous reaction, but does not confer any purulent drainage.

Abscess Treatment:

Homeopathic Approach

The aim of homeopathy is not only to treat abscess but to address its underlying cause and individual susceptibility. As far as therapeutic medication is concerned, several remedies are available to treat abscess that can be selected on the basis of cause, sensations and modalities of the complaints. For individualized remedy selection and treatment, the patient should consult a qualified homeopathic doctor in person. There are following remedies which are helpful in the treatment of abscess:

• **Belladonna**

When the abscess is red in color during the stage of inflammation, blood boils, there is throbbing pain without formation of pus.

• **Mercurius solubilis**

It is to be used as a homeopathic remedy in the treatment of abscesses that produce thin yellow-green and foul smelling pus; this discharge tends to be extremely acrid.

• **Hepar Sulph**

It acts well in early stages of pus formation, it stops formation of pus or aborts pus in very less time period. It is indicated when the pus starts coming out from an abscess, when the pus is thick, yellow and the patient is sensitive to touch.

• **Silicea**

It acts better when there is low healing power. The character of pus is thin and watery in indolent ulcers which are hard to heal. The patient is chilly; better in dry and warm weather and worse in wet and cold weather.

• **Bryonia Alba**

In the beginning when the part is red with shining, stitching pain; worse by slightest motion

• **Aconite**

Acts very well when there is abscess with extreme redness and shining, fevers with dry hot skin, worse in warm room evening and night.

• **Calcaria Carb**

Abscess when not red but pale and painful

• **Chamomilla**

When the pain is unbearable we can think of this medicine.

• **Merc Sol**

It favors rapid formation of pus, useful for glandular abscess with throbbing pain, worse

from warmth of bed.

- **Fluoric Acid**

To form healthy granulations after Silicea

- **CalcariaSulph**

Excellent remedy for abscess which is slow to heal after rupture, with a continues discharge of yellow pus. Patient desires open air but sensitive to drafts. Tendency to the formation of abscess

- **Pulsatilla**

Copious, bloody, yellowish or greenish pus, worse after taking rich food, and warmth; better in cold, open air

- **Calendula**

When pus is thick and yellow without inflammation.

- **Myristica S**

It is a remarkable remedy for this condition where abscess on ends of fingers and phalanges.

- **Stramonium**

Abscesses with excruciating pain, abscesses in the joints, especially left hip joint.

- **Lycopodium**

Abscesses beneath skin, worse from warm applications and warm.

- **Pyrogenium**

For recurring abscess conditions, it acts well to stop the recurrence.

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