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Review Paper

Miasmatic Patterns in Recurrent Renal Calculi: Myth, Model or Mechanism?

Dr. Ravindra Kumar Kumawat, Dr. Anjali Singh*

Dept. Of Repertory and Case Taking, Dr. M.P.K Homoeopathic Medical College, Hospital and Research Center, Saipura, Sanganer, Jaipur

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ABSTRACT

Recurrent renal calculi represent a chronic, relapsing clinical condition characterized by repeated stone formation despite symptomatic or surgical interventions. From a homoeopathic standpoint, such recurrence raises fundamental questions regarding the underlying constitutional and miasmatic background of the patient. This article critically examines the concept of miasmatic interpretation in recurrent renal calculi and evaluates whether miasms should be regarded as a mere philosophical myth, a clinical model for understanding chronicity, or a plausible mechanism guiding individualized homoeopathic management. Emphasis is placed on repertorial reasoning, case-taking priorities, and practical clinical application, in alignment with contemporary homoeopathic academic standards.

INTRODUCTION

Renal calculi (nephrolithiasis) are among the most common urological disorders, with a significant tendency for recurrence. Conventional management primarily focuses on metabolic evaluation, dietary modification, and surgical removal; however, these measures often fail to prevent recurrence. Homoeopathy approaches such conditions not merely as localized pathology but as expressions of an underlying chronic disease process. Hahnemann, in *The Organon of*

Medicine, emphasized that true cure in chronic diseases is unattainable without an understanding of the miasmatic background. In this context, recurrent renal calculi provide a relevant clinical entity for exploring the practical utility of miasmatic analysis. This article aims to critically analyze whether miasmatic interpretation in recurrent renal calculi is an outdated myth, a conceptual model, or a clinically meaningful mechanism.

***Corresponding Author:** Dr. Anjali Singh.

Address: PG Scholar, Dept. Of Repertory and Case Taking, Dr. M.P.K Homoeopathic Medical College, Hospital and Research Center, Saipura, Sanganer, Jaipur

Email ✉: devanjaliraj2427@gmail.com

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Renal Calculi: A Brief Clinical Overview

Renal calculi are formed due to supersaturation of urine with crystallizable substances such as calcium oxalate, uric acid, cystine, or phosphate salts. Clinically, patients may present with:

- Recurrent renal colic
- Hematuria
- Dysuria
- Burning during urination
- Associated gastrointestinal or metabolic complaints

From a homoeopathic perspective, the recurrence of stones despite removal indicates a deeper constitutional susceptibility rather than an isolated local disorder.

Concept of Miasm in Homoeopathy

Hahnemann described miasms as fundamental chronic disease influences that distort the vital force and predispose individuals to chronic pathology. The three classical miasms—psora, sycosis, and syphilis—represent distinct patterns of reaction, progression, and tissue involvement.

Miasmatic analysis does not replace pathological diagnosis but supplements it by providing insight into the *why* behind disease persistence and recurrence.

Miasmatic Interpretation of Recurrent Renal Calculi

Psoric Background

The psoric miasm is often reflected in functional disturbances without marked tissue destruction. In renal calculi, psoric features may include:

- Early-stage stone formation
- Functional dysuria
- Burning pains relieved by warmth
- Anxiety about health and future suffering

Psoric cases often respond to constitutional remedies when addressed early, potentially preventing structural pathology.

Sycotic Influence

Sycosis is strongly associated with excess, accumulation, and proliferation. In recurrent renal calculi, sycotic traits are frequently evident:

- Repeated stone formation
- Thick, turbid urine with sediments
- History of suppressed discharges
- Concomitant metabolic disorders

Clinically, sycosis provides a compelling explanatory model for the tendency toward repeated calculi formation.

Syphilitic Component

Syphilis represents destructive and degenerative pathology. In advanced or complicated cases of renal calculi, syphilitic features may manifest as:

- Structural kidney damage
- Hydronephrosis
- Severe colicky pains with tissue breakdown
- Progressive loss of renal function

Such cases often require deep-acting antisypilitic remedies as part of a comprehensive constitutional approach.

Repertorial Approach in Case Taking

For postgraduate students and clinicians, repertorial analysis in renal calculi must go beyond diagnostic rubrics. Commonly utilized rubrics include:

- *Kidney – stones*
- *Urine – sediment – sand-like*
- *Pain – kidney – colic*



However, exclusive reliance on pathological rubrics leads to superficial prescribing. Miasmatic evaluation emerges from:

- Past history
- Family history
- Mental and emotional traits
- Reaction to stress and illness

Thus, miasm is inferred from the totality, not mechanically selected from a repertory.

Myth, Model, or Mechanism?

Myth?

Critics argue that miasms lack empirical validation and remain speculative constructs. When applied dogmatically, without correlation to case data, miasmatic labeling indeed risks becoming a myth.

Model

As a conceptual model, miasms provide a structured framework for understanding chronicity, recurrence, and individual susceptibility. In this sense, miasms function as a clinical lens rather than a literal pathological agent.

Mechanism

While not a biochemical mechanism, miasmatic theory operates as a therapeutic mechanism within homoeopathy by guiding remedy selection, potency, and repetition. When applied judiciously, it helps explain why certain patients repeatedly form calculi despite apparent removal of causative factors.

Clinical Implications for Practice and Education

For students and practitioners, the value of miasmatic analysis lies in its ability to:

- Prevent symptomatic prescribing
- Improve long-term outcomes
- Address recurrence rather than episodic relief

Teaching miasmatic reasoning alongside repertory and case taking enhances clinical depth and prevents mechanical prescribing habits.

CONCLUSION

Miasmatic interpretation in recurrent renal calculi should neither be dismissed as a myth nor accepted uncritically as a literal mechanism. It is best understood as a clinically useful model that integrates chronic predisposition, constitutional susceptibility, and disease expression. When grounded in thorough case taking and intelligent repertorial analysis, miasmatic understanding remains a relevant and effective tool in contemporary homoeopathic practice.

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