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## REVIEW ARTICLE

### HOMOEOPATHIC INSIGHT INTO OCCUPATIONAL CANCER

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#### Abstract

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This article is an attempt of explaining occupational cancer by using basic repertories and indications of some commonly prescribed Homoeopathic medicines with different approach towards its prevention. Occupational Cancers are those that occur due to exposure to carcinogenic (cancer causing) agents in the work place. Homoeopathic medicine has great role in preventing and managing the complications with help of some great remedies along with a reportorial approach which help us in our daily practice and give relief to all of them.

#### INTRODUCTION

Different cancerous conditions caused by exposure of carcinogen occurring at workplace are called as Occupational cancer. Some of the carcinogens, which are known include; chemical carcinogens (e.g. benzene), viruses (e.g. Hepatitis B), hormones (e.g. estrogen), natural minerals (e.g. asbestos),

alcohol and radiation (e.g. ultraviolet radiation). It is very complicated process to identify and classify the carcinogens.

Some 666,000 fatal work related cancers occur every year as indicated by The ILO in latest global data. The most common types of cancer due to occupational exposure are skin, lungs, bladder and blood forming organs.

**Skin Cancer** – Sir Percival Pott, surgeon from London observed the occurrence of squamous cell carcinoma of the scrotum among chimney sweepers and first time highlighted the link between occupational exposure and skin cancer in 1775. Statistics show that nearly 75% of occupational cancers are skin which is common amongst gas workers, tar distillers, oil refiners, and dye stuff makers and in industries associated with the use of mineral oil, pitch, tar and related compounds.

**Lung Cancer** –In gas industry, asbestos industry, nickel and chromium work, arsenic roasting plants and in the mining of radio-active substances (e.g. uranium), Lung cancer is supposed to be a hazard. Nickel, chromates, asbestos, coal tar, radio-active substance and cigarette smoking are proved carcinogens for the lungs.

**Bladder Cancer** – Cancer bladder was first noted in aniline industry in 1895. It is tenth most common cancer globally. As per the estimates, around 20% of all bladder cancers in industrialized countries are due to occupational exposure.

**Leukemia** – Exposure to benzol, roentgen rays and radio-active substance give rise to leukemia. Benzol is a harmful chemical and is used as a solvent in many industries. Leukemia may appear long after exposure has ceased.

### Characteristics of Occupational cancer

- They appear after prolonged exposure.
- The period between exposure and development of the disease may be as long as 10-25years.
- Disease may develop even after the cessation of exposure.
- Average age incidence is earlier than that for cancer in general.
- Localization of the tumors is remarkably constant in any one occupation.

### Prevention of Occupational cancers – Health Promotion –

**Pre-placement examination** – it consists of examination of individual for assessing his physical and psychological capacity, so as to place him in a suitable job.

Sanitation in working environment – Good housekeeping, ventilation and the cleanliness are mandatory in industries.

### Health education –

- To change their attitude towards cancer.
- To know the danger signals of cancers.
- To know the hazards of smoking as an aggravating factor in the dusty environment.
- To maintain high standard of personal hygiene.

**Specific protection –**

- Elimination or avoidance of carcinogens in the industry which includes discouraging the workers from adopting harmful manner of life such as smoking.
- Use of protective devices such as masks, apron, gloves, dark spectacles and use of barrier creams.
- Wearing pocket dosimeter for personal monitoring of the radiation.

**Early diagnosis and treatment –** This is done by periodical examination of at risk-group of industrial workers. This screening procedure consists of through physical examination followed by procedures like blood examination, urine examination, X-ray chest, cytology, endoscopy and even biopsy.

**Disability Limitation –** It consists of limiting the development of further disability by giving intensive treatment, when the patients come in advanced stage.

**Rehabilitation –** This is given for those who become handicapped following major surgery such as amputation, lobectomy, etc. They are rehabilitated physically, socially, psychologically and vocationally.

**Repertorial Approach in Occupational Cancers –**

**GENERALITIES – LEUKEMIA** acet-ac., acon., Aran., ars., Ars-i., bar-i., bar-m., benzol., bry., Calc., Calc-p., carb-v., Carbn-s., cean., Chin., chinin-s., coca, con., cortiso., crot-h., Ferr-pic., ip., kali-hp., Kali-p., merc., NAT-AR., Nat-m., Nat-p., NAT-S., nux-v., op., phos., Pic-ac., querc., rad-br., rib-ac., saroth., succ., sul-ac., sulfa., sulph., syph., thuj., tub., X-ray.

**BLADDER – CANCER** crot-h., tarax.

**Chest; cancer; lungs:** acal, acon, am-c, anth, apis, aran, arg, arg-n, ars, ARS-I, bell, brom, bry, cadm, calad, caps, carb-an, carb-v, cist, cob, COB-M, coll, con, crot-h, cund, elaps, eucal, ferr-p, guai, hippoz, hydr, ION-RAD, kali-ar, kali-bi, kali-c, kali-I, kali-p, kreos, lach, lyc, methyl, phos, sang, sec, sil, sulph, ther, tub, verat-v, visc.

**Skin; cancer:** abr, acet-ac, acro-c-f, alum, alumn, AMBR, anac, ANAG, anil, ant-c, ant-m, ANTHR, apis, ARAN, arbu arg, ARG-N, arn, ARS, ars-br, ARS-I, ars-s-f, ars-s-r, ASTER, aur, aur-ar, aur-I, AUR-M, aur-m-n, aur-s, bar-c, BELL, BROM, BUFO, cadm, cadm-s, calc, calc-f, calc-I, calc-ox, calc-p, CALC-S, calc-sil, calen, CANTH, CARB-AC, CARB-AN, CARB-V, CARBN-S, carc, card-m, caust, cham, chel, chim, chin, chin-s, chr, chr-ac, CIC, cinnb, cist, CLEM, coloc, CON, CROT-C, crot-h, CUND, cyrt-p, des-ac, dor, dulc, echi-a, eos, epip, eup-per, EUPH FERR, ferr-pic, fl-ac, formal, fuli, GALI, ger-r,

glyc, GRAPH, helio, HEP, hippoz, HO, hom, HYDR, hydr-ac, HYDRC IOD, ion-rad, KALI-AR, kali-bi, kali-c, kali-chl, KALI-CY, KALI-I, kali-m, kali-p, KALI-S, KREOS, LACH, LAP-A, lob-c, LOB-E, LYC LYSS, mag-m, MAG-S, maland, MANG, med, merc, MERC-C, MERC-I-F, methyl, mill, morg-g, mur-ac, nat-c, nat-m, nectrin, nept-m, NIT-AC, nux-v, onop, oxal, OZON, passi, PETR, PH-AC, PHOS, PHYT, pix-l, psor, psoral-c, puls, RAD-BR, raja-s, RAN-B, RAN-S, RHUS-T, rumx, rumx-a, sabin, sars, SCROPH-N, SED-A, SED-R, semp, SEP, SIL, sol, sol-n, spong, SQUIL, STAPH, stram, SUL-AC, sul-I, SULPH, syph, tab, tarent, TARENT-C, thiosin, THUJ, thul, uran-n, visc, X-RAY, xan, ZINC.

### Homoeopathic Therapeutics

1. **Arsenicum album** Epithelioma of face; rapidly progressing ulceration; thin, bloody, offensive discharge; sharp, burning pains and extreme sensitiveness to cold air. Burning pain and excessive thirst, desire for acids, aggr. from cold drinks and cold diet, amel. from hot drinks; vomiting of all he takes; terrible sensation of weakness and exhaustion, with anxiety in region of stomach. Acrid, corroding, burning discharges, often very offensive, light or dark-colored; rapid emaciation, parchment-like dryness of skin (Ars. iod., Ars. brom.).
2. **Aurum metallicum** Cancer with scirrhus-like hardness; pains like those of a bruise, with shooting and drawing; the mind constantly dwelling on suicide; pus greenish, ichorous, putrid (Aur. ars.).
3. **Carbo animalis** Cachexia fully developed. Scirrhus cancer on the forehead; violent pressing in loins, small of back and thighs during menses, with chilliness and yawning; weak, empty feeling in the pit of the stomach; it checks the putrid taste, the waterbrash, and contracting, spasmodic burning; scirrhu with dirty bluish, loose skin or red spots on skin, burning and drawing towards axilla; axillary glands indurated.
4. **Conium maculatum** Bleeding of ulcers with a secretion of foetid ichor; cancerous swelling and induration of glands; induration of lymphatics of lip after contusion; cancer of face and lips, spreading ulcers; swelling of mesenteric glands; axillary glands swollen; it acts best in the first stage of scirrhus.
5. **Crotalus horridus** Cancer with great haemorrhagic tendency; with bloody salivation; craving for stimulants; cancer fungoid, malignant sarcoma, cauliflower excrescence, with much tendency to haemorrhage; weak, debilitated constitutions.

6. **Lachesis mutus** Melanotic, colloid and encephalotic cancer; ulcers sensitive to touch, with ichorous, offensive discharge; blood dark, non-coagulable; violent burning, gangrenous spots; open cancer has a dark, bluish-red appearance, with blackish streaks of decomposed blood; pains increase rapidly until relieved by a profuse discharge of blood; violent pains as if a knife were thrust through abdomen, which has to be relieved from all pressure; coughing or sneezing causes stitches in affected parts.
7. **Muriaticum acidum** Cancer, deep ulcer, with black base and inverted edges; hard lump growing into a deep, warty ulcer.

## CONCLUSION

Occupational cancers are becoming more common with the advent of diverse occupations. The complications associated are multifold. The role of homoeopathy in this respect is definitely encouraging as it encompasses wholistic concept. It takes

the man as a whole in consideration and the medicine prescribed on the concept of wholism facilitates the health in general and the promotion of constitution in particular.

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