



IDIOSYNCRASY (SEC 117)

- Word meaning
- The term idiosyncrasy comes from Greek word idiosynkrasia which means “ a peculiar temperament or habit of the body”.
- Idio – self or one’s own
- Syn – along with
- Crasy – make up or constitution

DEFINITION

Dr. Hahnemann in sec 117 has defined idiosyncrasy as “ peculiar corporeal constitution which although otherwise healthy , possess a disposition to be brought in to more or less morbid state by certain things which seem to produce no impression and no change in many other individuals.”

DISCUSSION

In sec 116 while talking about the sym produced by medicines Dr.Hahnemann says that-

- Some sym are produced more frequently by many individuals.
- Some rare sym in few provers
- Some sym only in few healthy provers.

To this later category of provers in sec 117, he calls idiosyncratic provers.

Examples of idiosyncrasy-

1. Few persons faint by smell of roses.
2. Some persons develop morbid state after eating mussels (a type of shell fish), crabs & roe (eggs / sperms of fish).
3. Some persons develop abnormal sensations after touching leaves of Sumach.



KENT'S VIEWS ON IDIOSYNCRASY

DEFINITION

Dr.Kent defines idiosyncrasy as “ **an oversensitiveness to one thing or few things** “

Types of idiosyncrasy (as per kent)

Clinical types

**Acute idiosyncrasy
idiosyncrasy
(Acute miasm)**

**chronic
(chronic miasm)**

Developmental types

Inherited

Acquired

As per Dr. Kent **psora** is at the bottom in both inherited & acquired idiosyncrasy . Sometimes the same substance to which the person is idiosyncratic can be potentised to cure this hypersensitivity ,but antipsoric treatment is compulsory.

Causes of idiosyncrasy –

a)Any H/O abuse of drugs by the pt.

b)Inherited idiosyncrasy is d/t abuse of drugs by the parents or ancestors.This is particularly observed in mercury & sulphur.

STUART CLOSE'S VIEWS

Dr. Close defines idiosyncrasy as a **habit or quality** which is peculiar to that individual .It is the peculiarity of that constitution , **inherited or acquired** , which makes the individual susceptible to some agents which would not so much affect others.

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Ex.- Some persons show morbid susceptibility & can't eat apples ,strawberrries , peaches, onions, potatoes , milk, shell fish , butter etc. He cites ex. of a pt. who gets attack of asthama & Hay fever if he rides behind a horse , another person developing trembling when coming near a cat. The susceptibility is abnormal in such individuals.

SUSCEPTIBILITY	IDIOSYNCRASY
Definition	Definition
Universal in all living organisms	Manifested by few organisms wrt a specific exciting factor .
May present with various manifestations of deranged health.	May not present with various manifestations of deranged health.
Susceptibility can be made normal by appropriate	Not so easily amenable to treatment

IDIOSYNCRASY	ALLERGY
Definition	It is a state of hypersensitivity of a body to specific substance (allergen / antigen)
Not associated with any pathological change .	Associated with any pathological change .
Inherited as well as acquired	Always acquired
Idiosyncrasy can be modified but not cured .	Can be cured .
It does not increase with time.	I ncreases with time
Can't be tested through investigations	Can be tested through investigations

IMPORTANCE OF IDIOSYNCRASY IN THERAPEUTICS-

- Idiosyncratic provers are very beneficial during **drug proving** as they bring about entire syndrome of drug even with minimum dose of potentised medicine. Hence Dr. H. A. Roberts says that idiosyncratic provers are the good provers for the drugs for which they are idiosyncratic.
- From the standpoint of Hom . prescriber , it is the key to difficult case as the pt. represents his peculiarity himself . Ex. Aggravation from onions.

TREATMENT

As per Dr.Kent psora is at the bottom of both inherited & acquired idiosyncrasy , so **anti-psoric** treatment is compulsory.

As per J H Allen these persons need antimiasmatic treatment , they need similia that in their particular case removes or seperates psora or the tubercular element , whatever may lie behind idiosyncrasy.