

Aconitum Napellus

Introduction: A state of fear, anxiety; anguish of mind and body. Physical and mental restlessness, fright, is the most characteristic manifestation of Aconite. Acute, sudden, and violent invasion, with fever, call for it. Does not want to be touched. Sudden and great sinking of strength. Complaints and tension caused by exposure to dry, cold weather, draught of cold air, checked perspiration, also complaints from very hot weather, especially gastro-intestinal disturbances, etc. First remedy in inflammations, inflammatory fevers. Serous membranes and muscular tissues affected markedly. Burning in internal parts; tingling, coldness and numbness. Influenza. Tension of arteries; emotional and physical mental tension explain many symptoms. When prescribing Aconite remember Aconite causes only functional disturbance, no evidence that it can produce tissue change - its action is brief and shows no periodicity. Its sphere is in the beginning of an acute disease and not to be continued after pathological change comes. In Hyperaemia, congestion not after exudation has set in. Influenza (Influenzin).



Scientific Name: *Aconitum napellus*

Synonyms: *Aconitum angustifolium*; Aconite; Monk's-hood; Wolfsbane; Friar's cap; Helmet flower; *Indian names:* Sanskrit. Bisha; *Hindi:* Mithazahar; *Bengali:* Kathbish, Mithbish. *French:* Aconit; *German:* Eisenhut, Sturmhat.

Source: The main source of *Aconitum napellus* is vegetable kingdom. It is a species of flowering plant in the genus *Aconitum* of the family *Ranunculaceae*, native to Asia and North America formerly and endemic to western and central Europe. It is a perennial herb, having perpendicular, tapering tuberous roots. The stem is upright, round, smooth, slightly hairy above and grows upto the height of 2 meter. The leaves are alternate long stalked, hairy on the under surface. They are palmately lobed, the lower more deeply than the upper into three or five segments, which are again divided. The flowers are of dark-violet colour and appear from May to July. They are stalked and racemose. Petaloid sepals five, the upper helmet shaped and beaked, nearly hemispherical, the two laterals are roundish and hairy internally; the lower two are oblong oval.

Macroscopically the roots are tuberous and are either single or in clusters of two or more, the younger smoother root or roots being connected with the older deeply wrinkled roots by means of side branch or branches. Each root is obconical, usually from 4 to 10 cm and 1 to 3.5 cm wide at the crown to which is attached the base of an aerial stem or the remains of the bud with numerous thin, wiry rootlets, the scars left by these. Old roots are brown and the young roots are yellowish-white internally. The external surface is dark brown. Fracture short, horny or mealy.

Microscopically near the tip of the root, cross section show diarch radial bundles, gradually upwards these become successively tetrarch, pentarch and occasionally octarch. The root cortex consists of narrow region bounded externally by a metaderm of about 1 to 4 layers of brownish cells. Cortical cells are pitted cellulosic parenchyma. The endodermis consists of brownish, longitudinally elongated rectangular cells, enclosing a pericycle of about 1 to 20 layers of parenchyma cells. Sclereids are occasionally present in cortex and pericycle. Five to eight bundles of primary phloem alternating with the angles of cambium lies within the pericycle. The metaphloem is a broad band of parenchyma cells, densely packed with starch grains, both simple and compound, 2 - 6 to 15 - 20 μ in diameter. Numerous islets of sieve tissues are embedded in this region; cambium in the upper part of the root, stellate in transverse section, consists of rectangular prismatic cells, enclosing at each angle, a wedge shaped group of parenchymatous medullary ray cells on the inner margin of which is a small primary xylem, containing spiral vessels, the wedge flanked on either side by a small group of secondary xylem, consisting mainly of reticulate and pitted vessels; additional groups of secondary xylem are distributed along the cambium. The medullary rays are indistinct and the pith consists of cellulosic parenchyma.

Parts used: The whole plant and root gathered at the beginning flowering. The root is much stronger (in drug strength) than the herbs or leaves, and is more uniform in strength. Usually the root possesses nine times the strength of the leaf. Hence the root has been included. Herbs, growing wild, are richer in drug strength than those cultivated in gardens.

Composition:

***Tincture* θ .**

Drug Strength 1/10

Active ingredient:

Aconite, fresh pulp containing 100 gm.

And plant moisture approximately 350 cc. = 450 gm.

Excipient:

Strong Alcohol = 683 cc.

To make one thousand cubic centimeters of tincture.

Prover Name: Dr. Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann.

Spheres of Action: Perhaps there may not be any organ, tissue or system in the body which is not susceptible to the action of this remedy. Still it predominantly acts on cerebro-spinal nervous system, brain, serous and mucous membrane, blood, cardio-vascular system etc.

Pathogenesis: Aconite causes “turmoil in circulation.” It is capable of irritating brain & cerebro-spinal nervous system producing exalted activity on the circulation, paralyzing the capillaries, resulting in tension and congestion with tendency towards inflammation. The genius of this highly useful remedy is through mental sphere and it is always important to consider the mental symptoms. Its action on heart retards the intensity of its function.

Clinical: Amaurosis. Anger. Apoplexy. Asthma. Blindness, sudden. Bronchitis. Catalepsy. Catheter fever. Chest, affections of. Chicken-pox. Cholera. Cholera infantum. Cold. Coldness. Consumption. Convulsions. Cough. Croup. Cystitis. Dengue fever. Dentition. Diarrhœa. Dropsy. Dysentery. Dysmenorrhœa. Ear, affections of. Enteritis. Erythema nodosum. Excitement. Eye, affections of. Face, flushing of. Fear, effects of. Fever. Fright, effects of. Glands swollen. Glossitis. Gonorrhœa. Haemorrhages. Haemorrhoids; strangulated. Headache. Heart, affections of. Hip-joint, diseased. Hodgkin's disease. Hyperpyrexia. Influenza. Jaundice. Joints, affections of. Labour. Lactation. Laryngitis. Liver, inflammation of. Lumbago. Lungs, affections of. Mania. Measles. Meningitis. Menstruation, disorders of. Miliaria. Miscarriage. Mumps. Myalgia. Myelitis. Nephritis. Neuralgia. Numbness. Oesophagus, inflammation of. Paralysis. Peritonitis. Phlegmasia alba dolens. Pleurisy. Pleurodynia, Pneumonia. Pregnancy. Puerperal fever. Purpura. Quinsy. Remittent fever. Roseola. Scarletina. Shivering. Sleeplessness. Smell, disorders of. Stiff-neck. Testicles, affections of. Tetanus. Tetany. Thirst. Throat, affections of. Tongue, affections of. Toothache. Traumatic fever. Urethra, spasmodic stricture of. Urethral fever. Urine, suppression of. Uterus, prolapsus of. Vaccination, effects of. Vertigo. Whooping-cough. Yawning. Yellow fever.

Constitution:

Physical make-up: Since Aconite is purely an acute drug, consideration of constitution is not of much importance. However, it is indicated in acute cases occurring in plethoric sanguine persons with rigid fibers, dark hair and eyes, full of plethoric habits who lead a sedentary life who are most in need of Aconite are strong, robust people. Aconite is the remedy of the rosy, chubby and plethoric babies.

Temperament: Sanguine temperament.

Relation with heat and cold: No definite stamping can be made in this respect. Still it seems to be a “warm blooded” patient.

Miasm: Psora is the miasm in the background.

Causation: Fear; Fright; Chill; Cold, dry winds. Heat, especially of sun; Injury, Surgical operation; Shock.

Guiding Symptoms:

1. It is generally indicated in acute or recent cases occurring in young persons, especially girls, of a full, plethoric habit who lead a sedentary life; persons easily affected by atmospheric changes; dark hair and eyes, rigid muscular fiber.
2. Complaints caused by exposure to dry cold air, dry north or west winds, or exposure to draughts of cold air while in a perspiration; bad effects of checked perspiration.
3. Great fear and anxiety of mind, with great nervous excitability; afraid to go out, to go into a crowd where there is any excitement or many people; to cross the street.
4. The countenance is expressive of fear; the life is rendered miserable by fear; is sure his disease will prove fatal; predicts the day he will die; fear of death during pregnancy.
5. Restless, anxious, does everything in great haste; must change position often; everything startles him.
6. Pains; are intolerable, they drive him crazy; he becomes very restless; at night.
7. Hahnemann says: "Whenever Aconite is chosen homeopathically, you must, above all, observe the moral symptoms, and be careful that it closely resembles them; the anguish of mind and body; the restlessness; the disquiet not to be allayed."
8. This mental anxiety, worry, fear accompanies the most trivial ailment.
9. Music is unbearable, makes her sad (Sab., during menses, Nat. c.).
10. On rising from a recumbent position the red face becomes deathly pale, or he becomes faint or giddy and falls, and fears to rise again; often accompanied by vanishing of sight and unconsciousness.
11. Amenorrhoea in plethoric young girls; after fright, to prevent suppression of menses.
12. For the congestive stage of inflammation before localization takes place.
13. Fever; skin dry and hot; face red, or pale and red alternately; burning thirst for large quantities of cold water; intense nervous restlessness, tossing about in agony; becomes intolerable towards evening and on going to sleep.
14. Convulsions; of teething children; heat, jerks and twitches of single muscles; child gnaws its fist, frets and screams; skin hot and dry; high fever.
15. Cough, croup; dry, hoarse, suffocating, loud, rough, croaking; hard, ringing, whistling; on expiration (Caust. - on inhalation, Spong.); from dry, cold winds or drafts of air.
16. Aconite should never be given simply to control the fever, never alternated with other drugs for that purpose.
17. If it be a case requiring Aconite no other drug is needed; Aconite will cure the case.
18. Unless indicated by the exciting cause, is nearly always injurious in first stages of typhoid fever.

Particulars:

Mind: Great fear, anxiety, and worry accompany every ailment, however trivial. Delirium is characterized by unhappiness worry, fear, raving, rarely unconsciousness. Forebodings and fears. Fears death but believes that he will soon die; predicts the day. Fears the future, a crowd, crossing the street. Restlessness, tossing about. Tendency to start. Imagination acute, clairvoyance. Pains are intolerable; they drive him crazy. Music is unbearable; makes her sad (Ambra). Thinks his thoughts come from the stomach--that parts of his body are abnormally thick. Feels as if what had just been done was a dream.

Head: Fullness; heavy, pulsating, hot, bursting, burning undulating sensation. Intercranial pressure (Hedera Helix). Burning headache, as if brain were moved by boiling water

(Indigo). Vertigo; worse on rising (Nux. Opium) and shaking head. Sensation on vertex as if hair were pulled or stood on end. Nocturnal furious delirium.

Eyes: Red, inflamed. Feel dry and hot, as if sand in them. Lids swollen, hard and red. Aversion to light. Profuse watering after exposure to dry, cold winds, reflection from snow, after extraction of cinders and other foreign bodies.

Ears: Very sensitive to noises; music is unbearable. External ear hot, red, painful, swollen. Earache (Cham). Sensation as of drop of water in left ear.

Nose: Smell acutely sensitive. Pain at root of nose. Coryza much sneezing; throbbing in nostrils. Haemorrhage of bright red blood. Mucous membrane dry, nose stopped up; dry or with but scanty watery coryza.

Face: Red, hot, flushed, swollen. One cheek red, the other pale (Cham, Ipec). On rising the red face becomes deathly pale, or he becomes dizzy. Tingling in cheeks and numbness. Neuralgia, especially of left side, with restlessness, tingling, and numbness. Pain in jaws.

Mouth: Numb, dry, and tingling. Tongue swollen; tip tingles. Teeth sensitive to cold. Constantly moves lower jaw as if chewing. Gums hot and inflamed. Tongue coated white (Antim crud).

Throat: Red, dry, constricted, numb, prickling, burning, stinging. Tonsils swollen and dry.

Stomach: Vomiting, with fear, heat, profuse sweat and increased urination. Thirst for cold water. Bitter taste of everything except water. Intense thirst. Drinks, vomits, and declares he will die. Vomiting, bilious mucous and bloody, greenish. Pressure in stomach with dyspnoea. Hæmatemesis. Burning from stomach to œsophagus.

Abdomen: Hot, tense, tympanitic. Sensitive to touch. Colic, no position relieves. Abdominal symptoms better after warm soup. Burning in umbilical region.

Rectum: Pain with nightly itching and stitching in anus. Frequent, small stool with tenesmus; green, like chopped herbs. White with red urine. Choleraic discharge with collapse, anxiety, and restlessness. Bleeding hæmorrhoids (Hamam). Watery diarrhoea in children. They cry and complain much, are sleepless and restless.

Urine: Scanty, red, hot, painful. Tenesmus and burning at neck of bladder. Burning in urethra. Urine suppressed, bloody. Anxiety always on beginning to urinate. Retention, with screaming and restlessness, and handling of genitals. Renal region sensitive. Profuse urination, with profuse perspiration and diarrhoea.

Male: Crawling and stinging in glans. Bruised pain in testicles, swollen, hard. Frequent erections and emissions. Painful erections.

Female: Vagina dry, hot, sensitive. Menses too profuse, with nosebleed, too protracted, late. Frenzy on appearance of menses. Suppressed from fright, cold, in plethoric subjects.

Ovaries congested and painful. Sharp shooting pains in womb. After-pains, with fear and restlessness.

Respiratory: Constant pressure in left chest; oppressed breathing on least motion. Hoarse, dry, croupy cough; loud, labored breathing. Child grasps at throat every time he coughs. Very sensitive to inspired air. Shortness of breath. Larynx sensitive. Stitches through chest. Cough, dry, short, hacking; worse at night and after midnight. Hot feeling in lungs. Blood comes up with hawking. Tingling in chest after cough.

Heart: Tachycardia. Affections of the heart with pain in left shoulder. Stitching pain in chest. Palpitation, with anxiety, fainting, and tingling in fingers. Pulse full, hard; tense and bounding; sometimes intermits. Temporal and carotid arteries felt when sitting.

Back: Numb, stiff, painful. Crawling and tingling, as if bruised. Stiffness in nape of neck. Bruised pain between scapulae.

Extremities: Numbness and tingling; shooting pains; icy coldness and insensibility of hands and feet. Arms feel lame, bruised, heavy, numb. Pain down left arm (Cact, Crotal, Kalmia, Tabac). Hot hands and cold feet. Rheumatic inflammation of joints; worse at night; red shining swelling, very sensitive. Hip-joint and thigh feel lame, especially after lying down. Knees unsteady; disposition of foot to turn (Aescul). Weak and lax ligaments of all joints. Painless cracking of all joints. Bright red hypothenar eminences on both hands. Sensation as if drops of water trickled down the thigh.

Sleep: Nightmare. Nightly ravings. Anxious dreams. Sleeplessness, with restless and tossing about (Use thirtieth potency). Starts up in sleep. Long dreams, with anxiety in chest. Insomnia of the aged.

Skin: Red, hot, swollen, dry, burning. Purpura miliaris. Rash like measles. Gooseflesh. Formication and numbness. Chilliness and formication down back. Pruritus relieved by stimulants.

Fever: Cold stage most marked. Cold sweat and icy coldness of face. Coldness and heat alternate. Evening chilliness soon after going to bed. Cold waves pass through him. Thirst and restlessness always present. Chilly if uncovered or touched. Dry heat, red face. Most valuable febrifuge with mental anguish, restlessness, etc. Sweat drenching, on parts lain on; relieving all symptoms.

General Modalities:

Aggravation: In warm room, in evening and night; lying on affected side, from music, from tobacco-smoke, dry, cold winds.

Amelioration: By uncovering and in the open air;

Relationship:

Aconitum napellus is related in its action to the other Aconites and to Aconitinum, and also to the Ranunculaceæ, Actæa rac., Actæa spic., Pæon., Podoph., Ranunculus, Staph. Teste places in the Aconite group: Coccul., Cham., Dulc., Cannab. i., Con. But he admits that the relationship is not close, and that Acon. is really without analogues. Acids, wine and coffee, lemonade, and acid fruits modify its action. Vinegar in large doses is antidotal to poisonous effects.

It is antidoted by: Acet. ac., Alcohol, Paris.

It antidotes: Bell., Cham., Coff., Nux v., Pet., Sep., Spo., Sul.

It is often indicated after: Arn., Coff., Sul., Verat.

It is complementary to: Coff. (in fever, sleeplessness, intolerance of pain); Arn. (bruises, injury to eye); Sul.

It relieves ailments from: Act. rac., Cham., Coff., Nux v., Pet., Sep., Sul. Abuse of Acon. calls for Sul. Acon. should be compared with Stram. and Op. in effects of fright; and with Sul. in most of its symptoms. Sul. is the chronic of Acon.; it will often complete an action that Acon. begins, and will cure cases in which Acon. is apparently indicated but fails to relieve.

Compare: Bellad; Cham; Coffea; Ferr, phos.

Compare also: Pul., Lyc., Sec., and Camph. (> from uncovering). Hep. and Coff. (intolerance of pain). Chi. (white stool). Gels. (effects of bad news, fright, anger). Nux and Bry. (diarrhœa from anger). Bry. (effects of cold, dry winds).

Aconitine: (Heavy feeling as of lead; pains in supraorbital nerve; ice-cold sensations creep up; hydrophobia symptoms. Tinnitus aurium 3x). Tingling sensation.

Aconitum Lycotonum: Great yellow wolfsbane. - (Swelling of glands; Hodgkin's disease. Diarrhœa after eating pork. Itching of nose, eyes, anus and vulva. Skin of nose cracked; taste of blood).

Aconitum Cammarum: (Headache with vertigo and tinnitus. Cataleptic symptoms. Formication of tongue, lips and face).

Aconitum ferox: Indian Aconite - Rather more violent in its actions than *A. napellus*. It is more diuretic and less antipyretic. It has proved valuable in cardiac dyspnœa, neuralgia, and acute gout. Dyspnœa. Must sit up. Rapid respiration. Anxiety, with suffocation from feeling of paralysis in respiratory muscles. Cheynes-Stokes breathing. Quebracho (cardiac dyspnœa).

Achyranthes: A Mexican drug - very similar to Aconite in fevers, but of larger range, being also adapted to typhoidal states and intermittents. Muscular rheumatism. A great diaphoretic. Use 6x).

Eranthis hymnalis: (Winter Aconite--acts on solar plexus and works upwards causing dyspnœa. Pain in occiput and neck).

Dose and Administration: Mother Tincture 03 or 04 drops mixed with water three or four times daily. In Neuralgias tincture of the root often preferable, one drop doses (poisonous) or as directed by the Homoeopathic Physician.

Side effects: No significant side effect has been observed in proper dosage.

Contradiction: There is no known contradiction.

Use in pregnancy and breast-feeding: The safety of this medicine in pregnancy has not been studied. Therefore it should be used with caution during these periods. If necessary, consult with homoeopathic physician.

Storage: Keep out of reach of children. Keep away from sunlight. Store in a cool and dry place.

Presentation: 30 ml, 100 ml & 450 ml in bottle.

References:

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