WHAT IS CHIKUNGUNYA?

Our city is affected epidemically with ‘ Chikungunya ’. Every day thousands of people were attacked by this viral infection caused by an alpha virus that is spread by bites from the “ Aedes Aegypti Mosquito ”. The name is derived from the Makonde word meaning “ that which bends up” in reference to the stooped posture developed as a result of the arthritic symptoms of the disease. The “ Aedes Aegypti ” mosquito breed in clear water stagnated in the surroundings, through the bites of this fly; this virus is being transmitted to the people. Chikungunya is not considered to be fatal. It has a widespread outbreak in south India especially in Andra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

The recent research by the Pasteur Institute in Paris claims that the virus had undergone mutation that enables it to be transmitted by Aedes Albopictus (Tiger mosquito). This was the cause of the actual plague in the Indian Ocean and a threat to the Mediterranean coast at present.

Chikungunya - CAUSE

Alphavirus is the cause of Chikungunya that is spread mainly by the bites of mosquito namely Aedes aegypti and Aedes Albopictus.

CHARACTERISTICS: The virus belongs to Togaviridae family (formerly group A arboviruses), Alphavirus genus. The virus is spherical in shape, having single-stranded, positive-sense RNA genome and has enveloped virions 60 nm in diameter.

PATHOGENICITY: It is a self limiting febrile viral disease; characterized by arthralgia or arthritis typically affecting the knee, ankle and small joints of the extremities, high fever, followed by a maculopapular rash; buccal and palatal exanthema can also occur; nausea and vomiting may occur; mild hemorrhage may be present especially in children; unapparent infections are common, immunity is long lasting

EPIDEMIOLOGY: Found in Africa, India, South East Asia and the Philippines

HOST RANGE: Humans, primates, other mammals, birds
Chikungunya - SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

The primary symptoms of Chikungunya include -

- **Fever** which can reach up to 39°C, (102.2 °F - 102.2 °F)
- A **petechial or maculopapular rash** usually involving the limbs and trunk
- **Arthralgia (bodyache)** or arthritis affecting multiple joints, which can be debilitating. The joint pains can be severe and even crippling.
- Arthralgia (or) arthritis affecting with acute pain knees, foot, ankle joints & finger joints.
- Body pain with difficulty to move.
- Headache, Conjunctival irritation and slight photophobia.
- Reddish petechial (or) maculopapular rash usually involving the limbs and trunk with itching.
- Headache, insomnia and extreme degree of prostration lasts for a variable period for about 5 to 7 days.

**ASSOCIATED SYMPTOMS**

- Blackish pigmentation in nose and feet
- Nodular swelling especially in occiput or nape of the neck.
- Bitter mouth with loss of appetite, white coated or yellow coated tongue. Painful gum bleeding.

**DERMATOLOGICAL MANIFESTATIONS**

It is observed in a recent outbreak of Chikungunya fever in Southern India includes the following:

- Maculopapular rash
- Nasal blotchy erythema
- Freckle-like pigmentation over centro-facial area
- Flagellate pigmentation on face and extremities
- Multiple aphthous-like ulcers over scrotum, crural areas and axilla.
- Lymphoedema in acral distribution (bilateral/unilateral)
- Multiple ecchymotic spots (Children)
- Vesiculobullous lesions (infants)
- Subungual hemorrhage
Chikungunya - HOW DIAGNOSIS IS DONE?

- Detection of antigens or antibody to the agent in the blood (serology)
- ELISA is available
- An IgM capture ELISA is necessary to distinguish the disease from **dengue fever**.

**COMPLICATIONS**
- Jaundice
- Gouty arthritis with increased uric acid levels.
- Deranged digestion with anorexia.

**HOMOEOTHERAPEUTICS FOR CHIKUNGUNYA**

1) **Arnica Montana**:

- Used for septic conditions
- Prophylactic for purulent infection
- Fever with pain in limbs joints.
- Sore, lame, bruised feeling all over the body.
- Great sensitiveness to touch or being approached by anyone.
- Ecchymosis in tip of nose and over the inflamed surface.
- Limbs and body ache, as if beaten
- Joints as if sprained.

**Fever:**

- Moaning during fever
- Shivering all over the body
- Heat and redness in head & upper part or the body, while rest of the body is cold.
- Internal heat, hands and feet cold.

**Extremities:**

- Pain in the back and limbs as if bruised or beaten.
- Sprained and dislocated feelings.
- Soreness after overexertion.

**Patient:**

- Feels restless
- Stuporous
- Everything on which he lies seems too hard.
- Complaints constantly of it and keeps moving from place to place in search of a soft spot.
- Unconscious, when spoken to, answer correctly but relapses again.

**Modalities:**
< By least touch, motion
> by lying down.

2) **Eupatorium perfoliatum**

- It relieves pain in limbs and muscles which accompanies with febrile diseases.
- Used in all conditions where there is great deal of bone pain.
- Bone pains, general and severe. Soreness and marked periodicity
  - Tongue: yellow coated

**Extremities**

- Aching in the bones of the extremities.
- Aching in arms and wrists.
- Swelling of left toe.
- Great soreness of joints associated with headache.

**Fever**

- Moaning during fever.
- Fever preceded by thirst.
- Perspiration relieves all symptoms except headache.
- Chills between 7 – 9 A.M.
- Nausea, vomiting of bile at the end of chills.

3) **Bryonia**

- Acts on all serous membranes covering the viscera.
- Aching in every muscle.
- Character of pain is stitching, tearing type < by motion, > rest, so aversion to move
- Mucous membranes all are dry
- Has dry parched lips, mouth.
- Excessive thirst for large quantities of water.
- Rheumatic pain and swelling.
- Dropsical effusion into the synovial and serous membrane.

**Extremities:**

- Knees stiff and painful, arthritis
- Hot swelling of feet.
- Joints red, swollen hot with stitching and tearing pain.
- Constant motion of left arm and leg.

**Fever:**

- Chills with external coldness.
- Internal heat
- Puls full hard, tense and quick.
- Easy, profuse perspiration
· Rheumatic fever and typhoid fever marked by gastro-hepatic complications.

4) **Rhus.tox**

· Effects upon skin, mucous membrane, typhoid type of fever and in rheumatic pains.
· It affects the fibrous tissue markedly joints, tendons, sheaths, aponeurosis, producing pain and stiffness.

**Ailments:**

· From strains, over lifting, getting wet while perspiring, especially after being overheated.

**Fever:**

· Fever with great restless,
· Intermittent chills as if cold water was poured over him followed by heat and an inclination to stretch the limbs
· During heat urticaria.

**Skin:**

· Red swollen, itching intense
· Vesicles, herpes, urticaria, pemphigus, vesicular suppurative forms.
· Burning eczematous eruptions with scale formation.

**Extremities:**

· Hot, painfull swelling of joints.
· Pain, tearing in tendons, ligaments and fascia
· Rheumatic pain spread over neck, joints and extremities > by motion.
· Limbs stiff, paralysed
· Tenderness around knee joint.
· Cannot remains in bed, must change position often to obtain relief from pain.
· Great sensitiveness to open air.
· Lameness and stiffness and pain < on first movement after rest, < on getting up in the morning, < rest.
· > by walking, change of position, > warm application, > stitching out limbs.

5) **Ledum pal**

· Especially affects the rheumatic diathesis.
· Rheumatism begins in the feet and travel upwards.
· Also affects the skin, producing eruptions.

**Fever:**

· Coldness, Lack of animals heat
· General coldness with heat of face.
· Sensation as if cold water over the parts.

**Extremities:**
Gouty pains shoot through the foot, limbs and joints especially small joints.
- Swelling of feet, up to knees, of ankle with unbearable pain when walking, from a sprain or false step.
- Ball of great toe swollen, painful, heels as if bruised.
- Easy spraining of ankles and foot.
- Cracking of joints.
- Pain are sticking, tearing throbbing.
- Rheumatic pains are < motion, < night, warmth of bed and bed covering.
- > only when holding feet in ice-water
- Intense itching of feet and ankles, < from scratching, warmth of bed.

6) **Lycopodium**
- Remedy with uric acid diathesis.
- Symptoms characteristically run from right to left.
- Acts especially on right side of body and worse by 4 – 8 pm.

**Extremities:**
- Numbness also drawing and tearing in limbs
- Tearing pain in shoulder and elbow joints
- Chronic gout with chalky deposits in the joints.
- Pain in the heels on treading.
- As if from a pebble.
- Painful callosities on the soles, toes and fingers contracted.
- Cannot lie on painful side.
- Cramps in calves and toes at night in bed.
- Twitching and jerking of muscles.
- Complaint associated with urinary, gastric and hepatic disorders.

**Fever:**
- Chills between 3 – 4 P.M, followed by sweat.
- Icy coldness, feels as if lying on ice.
- One chill is followed by another
- One foot hot, other cold.

7) **Influenzium**
- Has stimulating action in extreme weakness, prostration and fatigue.
- Asthenia and anoxemia.
- General stiffness and ill feeling, with chills and headache.

**Extremities:**
- Rheumatism during humid and cold weather.
- Nose : Oculonasal catarrh, influenza and sinusitis.

8) **Natrum Phosphorium**
Remedy arising from excess of lactic acid.
Ailments with excess of acidity.
Yellow creamy coating on the posterior part of the roof of mouth.

**Extremities:**

- Rheumatism of knees joint
- Weariness, aching in the wrists and finger joints.
- Hamstrings sore, synovial crepitation.
- Rheumatic arthritis.

9) **Pyrogenium**

- Remedy for septic states with intense restlessness.
- Remedy also used for typhoid, typhus, chronic malaria, sewer gas poisoning.
- All discharges are horribly offensive.

**Fever:**

- Coldness and chilliness.
- Septic fevers; latent pyogenic conditions.
- Chill begins in back
- Temperature rises rapidly.
- Great heat with profuse, hot sweat, but sweating does not cause a fall in temperature.

**Extremities:**

- Aching in all limbs and bones.
- Bed feels too hard.
- Great debility in morning.
- Soreness better by motion.
- Rapid decubitus of septic origin.

10) **Gelsemium**

- General prostration, tired feeling.
- Dizziness, drowsiness, dullness and trembling
- Muscular weakness.
- Complete relaxation and prostration
- Headache with muscular soreness of neck and shoulders.

**Fever:**

- Wants to be held because he shakes so much.
- Puls slow, full, soft, compressible.
- Chills up and down back, radiating from sacrum to the occiput.
- Heat and sweat stages, long and exhausting.
- Dumb-ague with much muscular soreness, great prostration, violent headache.
Chills without thirst.

**Extremities:**
- Loss of power of muscular control.
- Cramps in muscles of forearm.
- Excessive trembling and weakness of all limbs.
- Fatigue after slight exercise.

**Modality:**
- < damp weather, thinking of ailments.
- > Continued motion.

11) **Lachesis:**
- Used in septic states, and other low forms of disease when system is thoroughly poisoned and the prostration is found.
- Delirium tremens with much trembling and confusion.
- Left side principally affected, complaints go from left to right side.
- “Great sensitiveness to touch”
- Cannot bear even bed clothes to touch her, it causes uneasiness.
- All symptoms are < in morning on waking, or wakes her from sleep, sleep into aggravation.

**Fever:**
- Fever annually returning, paroxysm every spring.
- Fever with chills in the back, feet icy cold, hot flushes and hot perspiration.
- Fever with stupor or muttering delirium, sunken countenance, falling of lower jaw.
- Tongue dry cracked, black, trembles protruded with difficulty, catches between teeth.

**Extremities:**
- Left sided joints are predominantly affected
- Pain in tibia
- Shortening of tendon.
- Pain in joints < touch.

12) **Medorrhinum**
- Indicated for chronic ailments due to suppressed gonorrhoea.
- Chronic Rheumatism.
- Stage of collapse and trembling all over.
- Edema of limbs, dropsy of serous sacs.

**Fever:**
- Wants to be fanned all the time.
- Chills up and down back.
Coldness of legs, hands, forearms.
- Flashes of heat in face and neck,
- Night - sweat and hectic sweat.

13) **Nux Vomica**

- A Remedy for sudden onset of fever
- Violent headache with Redness of Eye
- Fever with chilliness
- Especially adapted to digestive disturbance, portal congestion.

**Fever:**

- Paroxysms anticipated in the morning
- Aching in limbs and back with gastric symptoms.
- Chilly, must be covered in every stage of fever.
- Chillness on being uncovered yet he does not allow being overed.
- Bilious Headache better by vomiting.
- Tongue: Anteriorly clean, posteriorly yellowish

**Extremities:**

- Cracking in the knee joint during motion.
- Cramps in calves and soles
- Drags his feet when walking.
- Joint pain < by touch, < morning, > hard strong pressure.

14) **Sulphur**

- It is a great Anti-psoric remedy
- Has elective affinity for the skin where it produces heat and burning with itching.
- Very red lips and face, flushing easily

**Fever:**

- Fever- remittent type.
- Frequent flashes of heat
- Violent ebullitions of heat throughout entire body.
- Dry Skin and great thirst, disgusting sweats.
- Tongue: White, with red tips and borders

**Extremities:**

- Rheumatic pain in left shoulders
- Heaviness, paretic feelings
- Rheumatic gout, with itching.
- Burning in soles and hands at night.
- Drawing and tearing in arms and hands
- Stiffness of knees and ankles.
Cannot walk erect, stoop shouldered

**Skin:**
- Pruritus especially from warmth, in evening.
- Itching burning, < scratching and washing.
- Dry scaly, unhealthy skin, pimply eruption, pustules.
- Every little injury suppurates

15) **URTICA URENS**
- A remedy for gout and uric acid diathesis
- Favours elimination
- Rheumatism associated with urticaria like eruptions.

**Extremities:**
- Pain in acute gout.
- Pain in ankles, wrist, deltoid.
- Fever: Fever of gout, great heat in bed with soreness over abdomen

**Skin:**
- Rheumatism alternates with nettle rash.
- Itching blotches
- Urticaria, burning heat with formications
- Violent itching.
- Sensation of heat and itching.
- Erythema with burning and stinging.

**Modalities:**
- < water, touch, cold moist air.

16) **ACTEA SPI CATA**
- Is a rheumatic remedy especially of the small joints.
- Tearing and tingling type of pain.
- Rheumatism especially in wrist joints
- Pain worse from touch and motion

**Extremities:**
- Rheumatic pains in small joints, wrist, finger, ankles and toes.
- Swelling of joints from slight fatigue.
- Wrist swollen, red, worse by any motion.
- Paralytic weakness of hands.
- Lame feeling in arms, pain in knee
- Sudden lassitude after talking or eating.
17) BENZOIC ACID

This remedy produces and cures symptoms of uric acid diathesis, with high coloured and very offensive urine.
- Gout with asthma.

**Extremities:**
- Joints cracks on motion, tearing with stitches.
- Pain in tendoachillis.
- Rheumatic gout, nodes very painful.
- Gouty deposits, ganglion swelling of wrist.
- Pain and swelling in knees.
- Bunion of great toe, with tearing pain.
- Urine: Excess of uric acid present.

18) BELLIS. PERENNIS:

- Excellent remedy for sprains and bruises.
- Lameness as if sprained.
- After gout, debility of limbs.
- Sore, bruised feeling in the pelvic region.

**Extremities:**
- Joints sore, muscular soreness.
- Pain down anterior of thighs.
- Wrist feels contracted as from elastic band around joints.
- Sprains with great soreness.
- Railway spine.
- It is a princely remedy for old labourers, especially gardeners.
- Itching of back and flexor surface of thighs.

19) BELLADONNA

- It produces active congestion of the joints and muscles.
- Belladonna is always associated with hot, red skin, flushed face, glaring eyes, throbbing carotids.
- Heat, redness, throbbing and burning.
- It stands for violence of attack and suddenness of onset - acute inflammatory condition.
- Pain and fullness especially in forehead, also in occiput and temples.
- Pain < light, < noise, < jar, < lying down in afternoon.
- > by pressure or tight bandage.
- Fever: A high feverish state, with burning pungent, steaming heat.
- Head hot, feet icy cold during fever, fever with out thirst.
- Tongue: Strawberry tongue.

**Extremities:**
- Shooting pain along limbs.
- Joints swollen, red, shining, with red streaks radiating along the limbs.
Tottering gait.
Shifting rheumatic pains
Jerking limbs and spasms involuntary limping.

20) CAUSTICUM

It acts mainly in chronic rheumatic, arthritic and paralytic affections, indicated by tearing, drawing pains with deformities of the joints.
Contraction of tendons and flexor muscles.
Restlessness at night, with tearing pains in joints and bones.
Burning and soreness are characteristic.

Extremities:

Dull tearing pain in hands and arms.
Heaviness and weakness of weakness of extremities
Tearing joints, unsteadiness of muscles of forearms and hands.
Numbness and loss of sensation in hands.
Contracted tendons, weak ankles.
Cannot walk without suffering.
Rheumatic tearing pain in limbs.
Restless legs at night.

Modalities:

< from motion of carriage, expose to chill.
> warmth, especially heat of bed.

21) COLCHI CUM

Affects markedly the muscular tissues, periosteum and synovial membranes of joints.
Has specific power of relieving the gouty paroxysms.
The parts are red, hot, swollen.

Extremities:

Sharp pain down the left arm.
Limbs, lame, weak, tingling.
Joints stiff and feverish, shifting rheumatism
Inflammation of great toe, gout in heel.
Cannot bear to have it touched or moved.
Knees strike together, can hardly walk.
Edematous swelling and coldness of legs.
Stubbing the toes hurts exceedingly.

Modalities:

Tearing pains, < in the evening, < at night and < from touch.
< Motion
> Stooping.
DIETIC MANAGEMENT – CHIKUNGUNYA

Avoid the following food Items:

- Fish
- Liver
- Kidney
- Meat Extract & soup
- Beans
- Brinjals
- Cabbage
- Cauliflower
- Green Peas
- Mushroom
- Spinach
- Pulses
- Avoid more pain killers
- Avoid more spicy fried food.

FOOD TO BE ALLOWED:

- All Vegetables
- All Fruits
- Milk & Milk products
- Eggs
- Cereal
- Bread & Chappathi
- Rice, Maize & Ragi
- Yam & Vegetables
- Fluids / 3 litres per day
- Horlicks
- Rice Kanchi

IN LABORATORY INVESTIGATIONS

In many cases the level of uric Bilirubin & CRP levels are elevated

The Normal Bilirubin Level is 0 - 1 mgs for Total and 0 - 0.4 for Direct

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Total / mgs/dl</th>
<th>Direct / mgs/dl</th>
<th>Indirect mgs/dl</th>
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<td>6 yrs</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Mr. S</td>
<td>26 yrs</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>7.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Mr. D</td>
<td>22 yrs</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.9</td>
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<td>4.</td>
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<td>34 yrs</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>0.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
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<td>28 yrs</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.0</td>
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<td>7.</td>
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<td>3 yrs</td>
<td>1.3</td>
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### Serum uric acid level was raised in many cases

Some Examples below

The Normal Range is Male: 3.4 - 7.0 mgs/dl & female 2.5 - 5.7 mgs/dl

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<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
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<th>Sex</th>
<th>Value / mgs/dl</th>
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<td>51</td>
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<td>5.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Mr. Bh</td>
<td>40</td>
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As a preventive measure for chikungunya we gave preventive medicines like

1) Rhustox - 30, 4-0-4 Bfood
2) Eup.Perf - 30, 4-0-4 Bfood
3) Influenzium - 200, 4 morning BF

We gave this medicines to nearly 8,000 persons. These preventive medicines are very effective.

Only 5% of people are getting chikungunya even after taking preventive medicines due to following causes:

a) Irregular intake of medicines
b) Negligence
c) Taking too much coffee and tea during the intake of medicines
d) Vitality of the patient may be very weak up those who are suffering from lone term disease like Diabetes, Anaemia, Kidney diseases, Cardiac patients, Chronic Arthritis.

According to the present indications, we are giving the homoeo medicines for rapid recovery.
People get recovered in 5-7 days maximum. The weakness and tiredness will be rectified in another 2-3 days of time.

In over all homoeopathy system of medicines is giving a great result in chikungunya.

**SOME OF THE MEDICINES TO CURE CHIKUNGUNYA :**

a) Arnica
b) Bryonia
c) Eup.perf
d) Lachesis
e) Lycopodium
f) Ledum. Paul
g) Influenzinum
h) Medorrhinum
i) Rhus.tox

**Free Chikungunya Medical Camps**

1) On 13/8/06 we have conducted the free chikungunya awareness camp in Madan Homoeo Clinic, Adambakkam, Chennai – 88. We had supplied preventive medicines to nearly more than 750 persons.

2) On 15/8/06 we have conducted another camp in “ Narumukai Apartments ”, Adambakkam, Chennai – 88, and supplied preventive medicines for nearly 450 persons.

3) On 11/10/06, we have undergone “ Chikungunya Awareness walk Athon “ conducted by Lions club International, Dist 324 - A6, by Lion P. Elangovan, Region Chair person – Region - IV

4) On 17/8/06, we conducted a camp on preventive measures of chikungunya in Saint Brittos Academy, Velachery, Chennai - 42. We had supplied medicines to all teaching and non- teaching staffs; they were all prevented from getting Chikungunya.
5) On 24/8/06, we had conducted the same program in Mount Christian Matriculation, School, Adambakkam, Chennai.

6) On 31/8/06 we had conducted a Mega camp in Giridhara Vilas Kalyana Mandapam, Adambakkam, chennai - 88, in which many got benefited. Nearly we gave 300 preventive medicines and 250 curative medicines.

7) On 8/12/06, we had conducted a camp in Elluvilai, Thiruchendur dist and given preventive medicines for nearly 500 patients.

Totally we gave preventive medicines for nearly 10,000 persons and also 20,000 curative medicines at my clinic.