

Case of Tarentula hispanica

Raffaella was 20 months old, and suffering from Down's syndrome. At the time of her first visit, she was being treated with GARDENALE, NOPROM, and other medicines bearing names that the parents didn't remember. The young child seemed to be very calm and paid attention to her surrounding environment. For the major part of the visit, she looked around and was sociable as far as facing strangers were concerned; she often smiled when touched, and paid attention to the toys and colours that I showed her.

Her reflexes could be called normal, and she moved well; she'd begun to walk at the age of 16 months, and by then seemed to be doing well by herself.

Her mother told me:

“She is always full of catarrh: she caught a cold a few months after she was born, and it has never gone away.

She's been coughing a lot for the last few weeks, and this condition has not improved despite the antibiotic therapy and spray that the specialist advised.

She is very lively, and it is difficult to get her to go to sleep: ever since she's been able to walk, she's been running around the house until past midnight, but once she is asleep, she sleeps until the morning, even though she plays the Devil in bed, I always find her uncovered and I noticed she moves a lot in her sleep until she manages to uncover herself.”

I asked her what the child's normal mood is:

“When we disapprove of what she does, she sits down and hides her face; often she throws herself onto the ground and hides her head under her arm. I think she is a touchy child.

Usually, she goes to a quiet corner of the house and plays alone. This often happens when we can no longer find her, because we are exhausted ... she would always attract attention and play ... but at night I am very tired and so is my husband.

Raffaella then finds a quiet corner to hide in and play by herself, and when we go and find her, she no longer pay any attention to us, and is touchy and resentful.

She often sits on the ground and tries to take off her pants and, if possible, also off her underpants.

She likes to make contact with the floor with her bare legs, and also with her bare bottom.

She likes new environments, and we have noticed that she doesn't like to be on the beach, and in the sea she becomes very nervous.

But she loves to play with water ... it is the only thing that persuades her to come along to the beach”

I asked how the child behaved to reprimands:

“She wants to stay by herself, and no longer wants to be taken on the arm, at least not until it is over”

I asked how she responded to music:

“She loves music and tries to find it, she often dances before the television set”

I asked how she ate:

“She has never wanted to eat fruit, except for bananas, but twice she had a high fever, up to 40 degrees (Celsius), after she'd eaten them. Therefore I don't feed her too much of it. At the time, she had eaten four of five in a row.

She has a great taste for raw ham, especially if it is salted, and she has suffered from constipation since birth.

Her faeces have always been like a goat's, little hard balls and not enough of it ... she has started to clear the bowels better after the treatment with GARDENALE.

She wants to drink a lot and is always thirsty, especially at night after dinner, but I think this is due to the amount of ham she eats, and I have to watch the salt in the house, because as soon as she can she starts to lick it”

Undergoing objective examination, Raffaella presented a diffused, whitish appearance, above all on the cheeks; the tongue is very red with various white spots. Her mother told me:

“She has often suffered from thrush, from the first days of her life. I apply gentian violet, but after the treatment with GARDENALE it has become much worse”

I asked her why the treatment with GARDENALE was administered:

“We have the girl checked by a centre that specializes in treating such children, and they told us that there is an adequate cure, an American protocol that they have been experimenting with, giving excellent results (SIC).

I, too, was a bit perplexed because the child had never had any illness, but my husband thought it was a good idea, because he had a lot of confidence in one of his friends who works at this centre”

I considered it unwise to contradict Raffaella's parents, even though I told them that it was difficult for me to follow a case where I couldn't observe at first hand the patient's symptoms. I therefore proposed a type of "support" treatment in addition to the pharmacological drug, but without assuming any responsibility for the result of the treatment itself, and I reserved the right to decide whether I would continue to monitor the case in the future.

I prescribed a dosage of NATRUM MURIATICUM 200 k.

After a few days, the mother called to tell me that Raffaella was coughing much less, the catarrh had disappeared, and her appetite had improved. I advised the mother to continue the treatment and prescribed a placebo, but I was under the impression that she was trying to get my sympathy so that I would continue to monitor the child.

After almost a month, I received another phone call: the old catarrh and cough symptoms had reappeared.

I prescribed NATRIUM M k and, after a few days, the situation became normal again.

I saw Raffaella again three months after the first visit. Her mother told me:

“She is still full of catarrh, the coughing and cold improve for a few days and then return. After the M dosage, the child was well for almost a month, but now she is the same as before.

We've noticed that her reactions are different from a few months ago:

She no longer throws herself on the floor when we disapprove of something, and it takes less time before she comes back to us and makes friends again. Before, she would go and hide herself in corners more often, but she is bad tempered when she is nervous and she sends us away when she is playing by herself ... she does not want to be disturbed.

She has started to eat sweets. too, but ham remains her favourite food.

She has started to go to sleep at about 10 o'clock, and she has less energy to go on playing late into the night. Before, she used to drive me and my husband mad because she wanted to keep us up late”

I asked how the thrush was:

“It disappeared after the first dosage of 200 and, in general, the child's skin is less dry.

But now her eyes are often stuck together, and she has to work hard to open them ... the morning seems to be a critical time for her, she is always more nervous then”

I asked how thirsty she was now:

“She always drinks quite a lot, but I have trouble making sure she doesn't eat the salt I've hidden.

She always wants to drink water: some days she asks me every thirty minutes for something to drink, and drinks more than a glass at a time”

I asked the mother how the checks at the "specialised centre" were going:

“The doctors are content, they say that Raffaella has improved a lot and that she can support a higher dosage of GARDENALE for her age and her body weight”

I reaffirmed my position of giving "support" therapy, and told the mother I would prefer to withdraw from the case if I didn't see substantial changes after the next treatment. The mother was visibly disappointed and tried to appeal to my humanitarian spirit, saying that parents of children suffering from Down's syndrome were confused by so many theories and doctors who often disagree among themselves and that it wasn't easy to make a choice. I replied that they had to choose among so many other aspects of the child's future, and that their request didn't appear to be correct to me, because they asked me to monitor Raffaella as her personal doctor, and I would have to hold myself responsible for a patient who was confronted by an acute pathology.

I prescribed NATRUM MURIATICUM 10 M k.

After a few days, Raffaella had further recuperated, and this time the improvement was more lasting; in the meantime, I asked the mother to visit me with the child for a brief check-up, because I wanted to personally verify the mother's report.

The parents continued with the allopathic therapy, but the mother started to show signs of disagreement with the husband.

I saw Raffaella again five months after the first visit. Her mother told me:

“The child has improved a lot since the 10 M dosage: she no longer has catarrh, and has grown eight little teeth.

She breathes very well and her nose longer drips. Before, her eyes often watered, but this no longer happens.

She does still wake up with her eyes glued together, and is very nervous in the mornings.

She often has a yellow crust around the eyes, which is difficult to get off.

At nights, she is always uncovered and moves a lot in her little bed; if she can, she also removes her socks at night.

She drinks a lot and often has her fingers in her mouth.

However, she controls her head (neck) muscles less well, and her tongue starts to hang out of her mouth.

I have told her so many times to keep her tongue in her mouth as they advised me to make her aware of it but she doesn't pay any attention, and after the while the tongue is again hanging out of her mouth.

She has never done this before, and it is not a very nice sight!”

I asked her how the child reacted to reprimands:

“Now that she is better, she no longer seems to need reprimands. But it is strange ... she isolates herself very much, especially when she does something she knows she should not do. She hides herself away, and you can't hear her. She spends hours in a little corner, or behind an easy chair, or under the bed, and plays by herself”

I asked if she has noticed anything else:

“She has become very sensitive to sounds, and starts to cry when my husband uses a saw or drill in the house. He's a keen do-it-yourselfer, and until recently Raffaella never complained, but for about a month now she can't bear continuous, loud noises ... yesterday she cried as soon as I switched on the dishwasher.

She clutches onto me and wants to be taken on my arm, as if she were afraid, and then she starts to cry, and points to where the sound is coming from”

I asked the mother if she noticed any difference in the child's attitude toward food:

“She still devours raw ham, but now likes fruit more, and not just bananas. She is always very thirsty, but she's stopped licking the salt.

As to bodily functions, she was doing better almost every day, and without doing her needs like a goat, but after an initial improvement with GARDENALE, the constipation returned.

She no longer has thrush, but her mouth is full of little pimples where the nipple touches her skin”

The only thing that objective examination revealed was that the child was more rigid, and without a doubt less lively, but she seemed assuaged rather than calm.

I noticed also profuse salivation that seemed out of proportion to the growth of teeth, because Raffaella almost continuously kept her tongue sticking out of her mouth; in addition, her saliva was full of bubbles and her face reminded of BUFO. I told the parents I could not do anything else for the child if they decided to continue with the allopathic therapy. I invited them to take their time to consider it, and let me know what they decided. Raffaella's father became purple in the face, whereas the mother could not decide whether to side with me or with her husband.

Four months later, the mother phoned and told me that, after consulting another homeopath, she had administered a dosage of NATRUM 50 M, and she appeared to agree with the prescription and was prepared to monitor the child. I said I was happy to see so such a persistent desire to continue homeopathic therapy, but that it would please me more if the parents also had some confidence in the therapy itself.

After a few days, Raffaella's father called and told me he was prepared to again try homeopathic therapy. I made a point of telling him that was not a new attempt, but a first beginning, and asked him what had brought him to this decision.

The father replied that Raffaella seemed dazed, and that they found it more and more difficult to establish good communication with her.

I asked for a year so that I could observe at my ease how the treatment was going, and asked for the child to be brought to me two months after the administration of GARDENALE and the other pharmaceutical drugs had been discontinued.

At the next consultation, the mother reported:

“The child is still very reserved ... at the smallest argument she withdraws to a corner, and for days will not speak.

She always wants to go and hide, she plays for hours on end by herself and doesn't want to be disturbed.

She made herself a little corner with a rug and some books, which outlines the space where she plays. She doesn't want to be approached by anybody, otherwise she becomes very nervous and aggressive, and even starts to bite us if we insist”

I asked the mother if her attitude to music was the same as before:

“She often dances, and she likes the music, but doesn't want us to dance with her, it seems we may only watch ... but when she hears certain commercial tunes or other beat tunes, or the music that we listen to in the house, she becomes very angry and starts to cry.

She cannot tolerate loud sounds either, to the point that my husband has built himself a small workshop in the garage in order to work undisturbed. When she hears a moped out in the street, she immediately leaps into my arms and starts to cry.

She still craves for ham, but no longer wants to eat salt. She still loves bananas, and she still drinks quite a lot, especially at nights.

At nights she always uncovers herself and tries to take her socks off; when I put her romper suit on her, she wakes up and will not sleep until I take it off again”

Analyzing and reading the case again, I realized how superficial and preconceived my earlier prescription on NATRUM had been, even though the remedy perhaps had a beneficial result.

I therefore decided to prescribe TARENTULA HISPANICA M k.

After about twenty days, I received a phone call from the mother, who told me that the thrush and the intense hypersensitivity to sounds that often made Raffaella cry, had reappeared. I prescribed a placebo.

Two months after the prescription of TARENTULA, I saw Raffaella again. Her mother told me:

“The child is much more lively, but without being such a terror as before. We reached a nice compromise with the doctors who monitored her, because at last they have accepted our decision, but asked to be allowed to continue to monitor the child. They even seemed almost satisfied because they placed the child in the control group for their statistics.

Raffaella is lively and plays well, also with the other children in the kindergarten.

We have started sending her to swimming lessons, and she has a lot of fun, and swims well, better than the other children.

She had no further case of thrush, nor of discharge from the eyes; we went to the seaside, and she stayed of her own accord on the beach.

She holds her tongue in her month and is, without a doubt, more attentive and seems more quick-witted”

I told the mother that the child's condition depended to a large degree on the discontinuation of GARDENALE. She replied:

“But I have read something on the homeopathic use of TARENTULA, and I agree with its prescription ... my daughter now has a different attitude toward music.

She no longer becomes upset when she hears music that she doesn't like, and she starts to dance as soon as the Coca-Cola commercial comes on. She loves music, and sings and dances with all music we and her teachers play for her. She no longer cries at the slightest sound and has assumed a different attitude toward our limited reprimands”

I congratulated the mother with the confidence she had shown in a homeopath and in homeopathy.

I noticed that the women felt embarrassed, because she probably had not understood whether this was a scolding or a genuine acknowledgement.

I asked for an explanation about the child's response to reprimands:

“She still withdraws, but now seems more proud than resentful, because a short time later she returns and behaves as if nothing had happened, and she has learned to say "okay" when we make her say something. She has become a bit wild with her little cousin. She pushes her and throws her on the ground if she feels that she's getting too little attention.

But she is very sweet when she sees the child cry, to tell the truth, and according to the teachers is nice to all the children in the kindergarten. She kisses and embraces the other kids, and wants to kiss the boys on the mouth”

I asked how the child behaved at kindergarten:

“The teachers says that now she is more inclined to play with others, but that after a while she becomes bored and prefers to play by herself.

At home, she seeks our company but also needs her own spaces.

The doctors say that she had made great progress in letting us enter her rug space to play with her, even if we need to ask her permission ... if we don't, she becomes angry”

I asked about the child's attitude toward food:

“She no longer prefers bananas, but still loves ham.

But she drinks much less than before, and no longer prefers salt, nor salted ham, but now likes sweet ham. Her intestines function beautifully, she has never been this regular”

I noticed also that Raffaella held her mouth well closed and that her movements were coordinated.

The child was quietly playing behind the cabinet in my office, and every once in a while would poke her head out and throw me a smile.

About five months later, I received a telephone call from the mother, saying that Raffaella had been sent home from kindergarten with a fever of 40 degrees and much enlarged tonsils.

I advised her again to administer TARENTULA M k, and the symptoms disappeared in a few hours, only to reappear two days later.

I again prescribed TARENTULA 10M k, and the child healed rapidly.

After a year Raffaella, got a little brother and seemed very happy with the new arrival.

She does not show any particular signs of jealousy, and is happy to help the mother take care of the baby.

Until now, the child has been growing well and has responded promptly to the treatment with 10M k that I have administered from time to time over a period of about four years, and always with the best results.

The only problem they complain about at school, is that she wants to kiss the little boys on the mouth.