

Pele's Hair- Lava Kilauea, Hawaii: Provings and Clinical Cases, Trauma and Transformation

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In 2012 at the LMHI congress in Nara, I already gave an insight into the affections of this new remedy called Pele's Hair which is synonymous to Lava Kilauea. The results of the evaluation of the provings were not ready to be presented then. Today I have got the chance to present a concise summary pooling the most important outcomes of a comprehensive teamwork, certainly a unique approach in the fields of homeopathic remedy proving. To outline this lecture, I'll first introduce you to the substance, then show up the different methods and the structure of provings carried out. The Materia Medica based on the characteristics of a summarized analysis of the outcomes will be presented. Further statements of experts will follow to back up our studies and to safeguard the comparability of provings set up in different styles. Finally clinical indications should be reviewed.

When Robert Müntz and I visited the Hawaiian archipelago in May 2010 to explore rare and endemic plants I intended to go for a very special remedy exclusively to be found at the Kilauea, the most active volcano worldwide. By fortune we found some of Pele's Hair at the edge of the crater.

Substance

Pele's Hair are pyroclast products, volcanic glass fibres, which arise when small particles of molten lava are thrust into the air by the force of the eruption of lava fountains, where they are spun into hair-like strands. The molten rock is thereby stretched into fibres with a diameter of less than a millimeter. In sunlight these are shimmering golden blond. The extremely hot air, the high velocity and the low viscosity of the silicate-poor basalt (theolithbasalt) found at the Kilauea are the prerequisites for the formation of so called achnelithes such as Pele's Hair or drop-shaped Pele's tears. They are generated at a temperature around 1200°, which is identical to the formation of gems. Seawater and wind cool them down to quickly aggregate, before drifting away up to ten kilometers in distance to be shattered into short clasts, because they are extremely fragile. Diana Oettel, a German geologist, explored that Pele's Hair are tubular systems, containing multiple vesicles, according to spherical gas cavities and non stretchable crystals, impressing as knots. The sunrays fractionize along those fine vesicles and therefore those hair like formations get their specific golden shimmer. We get the impression of enlightened materia. This is an incomparable phenomena in nature, somehow reminding us of the character of gem stones, which unfold their magnificence and clarity only as soon as they appear in daylight.

A base estimate was done by Takashi Katsura at the Department of Chemistry in Tokyo's Institute of Technology in 1967.

Regard its chemical contents in descending sequence of the frequencies of occurrence:

CaO, MgO, Al₂O₃, SiO₃, Na₂O, Fe₂O₃, FeO, K₂O, TiO₂, P₂O₅, MnO (H₂O+, H₂O-)

The intense research experience based on my initial trituration proving in June 2010 allowed me to recognize the resonance of the remedy within some of my patients and I immediately started successful treatments. Robert Müntz and I suggested this remedy to be of great importance but of course we needed proper provings to confirm this prime intuition- and soon they followed.

Provings

This comprehensive research work shows the results of a conclusive and supplementary analysis, based on three different proving methods:

A. Classical remedy provings

B. Trituration proving

C. Clinical verifications

ad A.- Four self-contained classical remedy intake provings 2011- 2012

All provings were performed with the remedy in potency C30, provided by Remedia Pharmacy in Austria. Independently Reinhard Flick and I, both aware of the substance, received samples to conduct the provings, which were carried out multi-centered, double blinded and placebo-controlled.

- *1. Remedy proving in Austria, August - November 2011-* Analyzed by Diez S., Induced by Ari C., coordinated and supervised by Diez S.
11 probands, medical doctors and pharmacists, all of them experienced provers.
A complete anamnesis was followed by three days of observation in advance and after intake as long as symptoms aroused.
The remedy had to be taken one time the first day, two times the second day and three times the third day. All probands were advised to stop as soon as clear and precise symptoms would appear.
- *2. Remedy proving in Germany, Berlin, August - November 2011-* Analyzed by Diez S. Induced by Ari C., initially coordinated by Bandelin K., completed, coordinated, and analyzed by Diez S.
4 probands, medical doctors.
- *3. Remedy proving in Austria, Graz, Autumn - Winter 2011-* Analyzed by Swoboda F. Induced by Flick R., coordinated by Eichler W. and Rohrer A.
4 probands, students in education training, some of them never proved before.
Observation started one week in advance and continued as long as symptoms aroused.
The remedy was taken for three days, maximum three times a day. Supervision by the coordinators and students not joining the proving, by daily telephone contact.
- *4. Remedy proving in Austria, Vienna, Winter 2011/12-* Analyzed by Swoboda F. Induced by Flick R., coordinated by Flick R., coordinated and supervised by Baltatics B. and Swoboda F.
10 probands, students, method of remedy intake and supervision as above.

ad B - Trituration proving, Austria, November 2011- Analyzed, coordinated, supervised by Diez S.

Trituration C2 to C4, double blinded, C2 was disposed by Ari C

11 probands, plus the notes of the initial trituration from C1 to C4 of Ari C.

ad C- Clinical verifications - remedy specific symptoms 2010-2013 by Ari C.

18 clinical cases of successfully treated patients were carefully analyzed. Remedy specific symptoms were registered and finally added to the list of symptoms.

In spring 2012, after the provings were completed and analyzed, each of them separately, we established a joint action working team to organize and classify the set of outcomes. Finally after another one and a half years time of intense research Susanne Diez, Franz Swoboda and I managed to characterize the remedy very precisely. Let me present an overview of the results now. For a full and detailed treatise please refer to the Documenta Homeopathica, volume 30, which will be released in the end of this summer.

Materia Medica

The comparative analysis of the different provings led to the following remedy picture showing its specific characteristics according to the key aspect and the guiding themes of the remedy.

The key Aspect is focusing on aetiology, which apparently is based upon a *Trauma*.

Throughout all the provings we encountered traumatic occurrences, caused either physical or psychic. Violence, disasters and even apocalyptic visions were expressed in dreams mainly.

What kind of trauma causes this particular remedy state? The specific force behind Pele's Hair is comparable to an act of nature beyond control, it is not a malicious act. It leads to a *decompensation state* showing stagnation and torpidity, alienation and isolation, a reduced ability of perception and emotional numbness, irritability and suppressed aggression. In the *compensation state* probands enjoyed to work very hard, even under pressure. Disguise and masquerade helped them to find a way to express, hide and seek like, a kind of a sykotic game in a certain way. The inner *resource* of the remedy we met in triturations as well as in the state of cured patients is like a centrifugal force reactivating and regenerating the emotional and physical flow. Dissolved structures due to a reduced perspective faculty were reconnected and stocked and hurt emotions were released.

In the classical intake provings the state of decompensation was dominating during daytimes, but in dreams we found all aspects of the remedy's effects. Trituration provings more clearly demonstrated the coexistence of decompensation, compensation and solution state.

Guiding Themes:

- *Consolidation, Blockage:* Sensations and Symptoms were described as follows: Stiff, torpid, constricted, getting stuck, shut in - causing tense feelings, tense muscles, headache from tension, blocked joints and spine; stagnation of the flow in menses, secretions and circulation.
- *Isolation, Alienation :* Probands and patients felt distant, emotionally reserved, sensations and relations were like cut off, they had alien feelings, were disconnected, remote controlled like and reacted egocentric, indifferent, without empathy and joy.
- *Reduced Perception, Dissociation:* We found cognitive, visual and acoustic disturbances in perception, senses were irritated or numb, the ability to concentrate was increased or reduced, causing confusion of thoughts, especially in taking decisions or in handling the time. States of trance or foggy brained sensations alternated with clarity of thoughts. We even met a dissociative phenomena showing thoughts to be cleared up when senses were reduced.
- *Aggression, Irritability:* In general aggression was expressed in a suppressed form as to make digs on someone, stubbornness, auto aggression, trembling, feeling vulnerable and hurt, being irritated without a reason. In dreams and triturations direct aggression was common too.
- *Cover and masquerade:* To escape from reality, lots of dreams and symptoms were about getting dressed and being made up to go for celebrations. A proband even wanted to take off her skin to get rid from her past.

- *Relationship, family system:* In the provings we faced crossing frontiers and devaluation in relationships. In case reports we found deficient, forsaken feelings and chronically irritated circumstances due to a sudden loss of family members or disastrous family situations passing down generations, depression as a family theme and dreams of ancestors.
- *Energy alternated* in between a low or a high level, even supernatural energy sensations were described. Some of the probands worked hard without taking a break until exhaustion. In case reports we saw patients with excessive demands overestimating their reserves.
- *Transformation :* To overcome obstacles and to dissolve borders transformation processes out of the dark towards the light showed up in dreams and triturations. Half lucidity dreams of the probands revealed shamanistic like rituals, full of life and death symbols, showing visionary aspects of a new life. Dreams of pregnancy, giving birth or of being a child were common.
- *Sign, Signature:* Pele's Hair's appearance in nature put signs upon numerous dynamic symptoms and pictures in the provings such as: To crowd something out, solidification, inner heat, fire, burning heat, blaze, hot flashes, vibrations, colour of champagne, yellow and gold, golden hair, jewels made of glass, shining metal, strands of light, shimmering bright light, a crystal fence, symmetric figures like rays, tubular systems with vesicles, the power of clarity, loss and organisation of structure, gas explosion, pressure wave, natural disasters.

Repertorium

All significant symptoms corresponding throughout the different proving methods were gathered to be classified and put in order corresponding to mind symptoms and physically to the head to feet schema. Modalities were listed as well. Symptoms in general were intense and long lasting, a fact already known from other basalt remedies.

Remedy Evaluation by Experts

To get things straightened we decided to ask experts, to help us to clearly identify this new remedy. The substance was blinded to be analyzed from different points of view, when selected dreams, symptoms and notes from probandes were offered to them.

- *Jane Tara Cicchetti* is an American homeopath and specialist on dream analysis by C.G. Jung. She established our understanding of deeper aspects in the dreams of the provers by developing a characteristic imagery of dreams. The quest for spiritual transformation and the development of consciousness was repeated in several dreams she confirmed. In general dreams were significant, full of symbols, prophecy and apocalyptic pictures.
- *Irene Schlingensiepen-Brysch* is a German homeopath and known for her own style to do anamnesis towards the source. She explored the papers and by the means of the most spectacular irregularities she identified a mineral remedy, close to stones or gems, she even thought of lava, glass or just a simple metal as titan (which is definitely part of the remedy).
- *Peter Tumminello* is an Australian homeopath specialised on gem remedies. He was asked, weather he could identify a gem in this remedy. Although he found lots of gem specific themes in the provings, his concluded with the statement: "It feels close to a gem but not quite there".

When we further compared the symptoms of Pele's Hair with proving symptoms of Hekla Lava, Etna Lava and Stromboli Lava, the typical basalt specific character was pointed out to

be opposed to gem specific signs. Summing up one can say in Pele´s Hair we find both, the characteristics of basalt remedies and gem stones coexisting.

- *Jörg Hildebrandt* an Austrian homeopath was asked to evaluate the comparability between trituration provings and common intake provings of homeopathic remedies.

Regarding the summarized results of his studies: The comparison of remedy intake proving symptoms from provings 1 and 2 by Diez versus the symptoms of provings 3 and 4 by Swoboda showed 26% similarity. On the contrary all intake proving symptoms compared with the trituration proving symptoms had 24% in common. Therefore he concluded a high quality trituration proving to be quantitatively comparable with a classical proving design. Hildebrandt even compared the symptoms of all intake provings with Hekla Lava proving symptoms and the commons were 15% only. This less significant result confirms diversity.

Indications

Aetiologically the trauma was the major indication to prescribe Pele´s Hair.

Psychic disorders as shortcomings in motivation and expression, psychosocial conduct disorders, excessive demands leading towards a burn-out state, depression with an unstable structure of personality, eating disorders, sleeping disorders, addiction to alcohol and drugs, psycho vegetative disorders, panic attacks, dissociation disorders.

Physical disorders favouring organic systems, due to a cyclic regulation mechanism as skin, mucous membranes, bones, blood circulation, haematopoietic organs, lymphatic system and female hormone cycle. Disorders as headache, vertigo, muscular tension, paraesthesia, cardiac arrhythmia and, uncertain abdominal disorders. Allergic symptoms as well as susceptibility for infections were rather common. Auto immune diseases as multiple sclerosis, rheumatism, Hashimoto thyroiditis showed positive long duration results. Leukaemia was an outstanding and cumulative diagnosis in some of the patients family anamnesis.

In general positive effects in cured patients were convincing and long lasting.

Conclusion

In conclusion one can say Pele´s Hair is a precious remedy to think about and characterized at best by the results of this comprehensive research work. Let me point out the significance of compared proving methods to confirm homeopathic remedy proving outcomes to be more precise than generated by simple intake provings. Supporting documents out of this studies further safeguard the comparability of high quality trituration provings versus classical proving designs. These were the main aims of this work and I hope further studies on this topic will be performed.

My appreciation goes to all colleges sharing this long and partly very exhaustive teamwork. My very special thanks go to Susanne Diez and Franz Swoboda for their passion and tirelessness.

Thank you very much for your attention!

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