



THE HOMOEOPATHIC QUILL

ISSN: 3108 - 1215

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Understanding of Arsenic Album, a Homoeopathic Medicine by second year BHMS student

Ms. Ishwari R. Wakle

¹Second Year BHMS, Ahmednagar Homoeopathic Medical College, A'Nagar

Article Received: 25 / 12 / 2025

Article Published: 10 / 01 / 2026

Arsenicum album is a **deep-acting** homoeopathic polychrest, classically taught in 1st BHMS as a remedy of anxiety, restlessness, burning pains and profound prostration, especially in gastrointestinal and respiratory disorders. For second-year students, the focus is on source, sphere of action, characteristic symptoms and modalities at an exam-oriented, yet clinically meaningful, level.

Basic drug identity

- Source: White oxide of arsenic (arsenic trioxide, As_2O_3) used in potentised form in homoeopathy.
- Miasmatic background: Mainly psoric-sycotic with strong destructive, degenerative tendencies (ulceration, gangrene, malignancy described in classical materia medica).
- Sphere of action:
 - Gastrointestinal tract – gastritis, food poisoning, vomiting, diarrhoea.
 - Respiratory system – asthma, bronchitis, dyspnoea with anxiety.
 - Blood and nutrition – anaemia, emaciation, great weakness.

Mental and emotional picture

- Marked anxiety and fear: fear of death, fear of disease, fear of being alone; constantly thinks something serious will happen.
- Great restlessness: cannot lie still; changes place, tosses about, yet feels weak and exhausted.
- Desire for order and control: fastidious, perfectionist, very tidy, dissatisfied if things are not in proper place.
- Insecurity and dependence: wants company, reassurance; feels worse when alone despite irritability and criticism of others.

Physical generals and keynotes



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- Great prostration: rapid sinking of vital force, faintness, exhaustion out of proportion to illness.
- Burning pains: burning “as if on fire” anywhere (stomach, skin, ulcers) but paradoxically better by warmth (hot drinks, hot applications).
- Chilly, desires warmth: wants warm room, warm clothing, warm food and drinks; very sensitive to cold air.
- Periodicity and sepsis: tendency to low, septic states, malignant fevers, offensive discharges and ulcerations in classical descriptions.

Particulars important for 2nd BHMS

- GIT symptoms:
 - Vomiting and diarrhoea after spoiled food, bad water, ice creams etc. – “acute food poisoning” picture.
 - Vomiting immediately after eating or drinking; drinks small quantities frequently (sips water), not large draughts.
 - Stools: watery, offensive, burning in anus, with great exhaustion and anxiety.
- Respiratory symptoms:
 - Asthma with anxiety, worse after midnight, patient sits up, leans forward, very restless.
 - Cough with burning in chest, weakness and fear of suffocation.
- Skin and ulcers:
 - Burning eczemas, urticaria, ulcers with burning pains, tendency to gangrene described in keynotes

Modalities and exam points

- Aggravation:
 - After midnight (often 1–3 a.m.), at night generally.
 - From cold, cold food and drinks, cold air.
 - From exertion; lying on affected side; during sepsis or after spoiled food.
- Amelioration:
 - By warmth in general, warm applications, warm drinks and food.



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- By company and reassurance in mental sphere.
 - Common clinical uses (for student level):
 - Acute gastroenteritis/food poisoning type pictures with anxiety, restlessness, burning and prostration.
 - Some cases of asthma and allergic conditions with similar mental and physical generals.
 - Supportive role in septic, malignant or degenerative conditions when symptom totality corresponds, as described in classical texts and recent reviews.

Ms. Ishwari Rajendra Wakle

Second BHMS Student

AHMC, A'nagar