

Long-Standing Abscess Resolved With Homeopathy  
 By Wendy Jensen, DVM

This case report details the successful treatment of a long-standing abscess in Lucky, an approximately 60 year-old female Asian elephant. Lucky worked as a logging elephant for decades, then gave tourist rides for decades more, until she finally landed in a sanctuary in 2017. In July of 2019, Lucky presented with an old wound on her left knee that had been oozing liquidy, gray/white purulent material for the past four months. The original likely etiology for the wound was historical trauma from kneeling on hard surfaces.

The recrudescence of this old injury began a few months after a significant change in her living situation at the sanctuary. She had been enjoying unencumbered social time with a young male elephant, Samrat, and then the facility staff determined that for safety purposes he needed to have his mahout present when the two elephants were together. This change impacted the freedom and self-determination of their interactions.

It was decided to treat Lucky with homeopathy. The first step was to list all of her symptoms, including any historical information:

abscess

left knee – (old wound) liquidy, gray/white discharge

lachrymation from both eyes – common in Asian elephants, which are a forest-dwelling species and thus unaccustomed to the constant sunlight of scrubland and open fields (as in Lucky’s present home)

sadness/depression

eyes less sparkling

less joy

“heavy, loaded” attitude

After studying Lucky’s symptom list, rubrics were selected from the Boenninghausen Repertory (Dimitriadis G. *The Boenninghausen Repertory — Therapeutic Pocketbook Method* from *MacRepertory* [computer program]. Version 8.3.6.3 Professional. Arcata, CA: Synergy Homeopathic), which most closely matched her case. This program generates a repertorization chart to illustrate which remedies cover all of her symptoms. Silica and mercurius topped the list, and the symptom picture of each remedy was studied.

	Sil.	Merc.	Caust.	Lyc.	Puls.	Sulph.	Ars.	Calc.	Staph.	Sep.
Analysis	100	91	62	62	59	56	56	54	54	51
General [non regional]{776 1686}; Generals; Eruptions; Abscesses {1433} (24)	4	2			3	2	1	2	1	2
General [non regional]{776 1686}; Mind [& Disposition]; Mind; Sadness [melancholy] {797} (60)	1	1	1	3	3	2		2	2	2
Generals; Ulcers; Pus, discharging [suppurating] {1644}; colour, black {1648}; grey {1651} (10)	3	2	4	2			1			1
Generals; Ulcers; Pus, discharging [suppurating] {1644}; thin {1660}; watery {1662} (27)	3	4	4	2	1	2	3	1	2	
Regional {001 300}; Head; Eyes; Lachrymation [tears] {041} (100)	4	3	1	3	4	4	2	4	4	1

Silica matched her case the most closely. This remedy is often helpful in indolent abscessed tissues producing thin, watery pus. This remedy also includes Lucky’s modality of worse for daylight, as well as her sadness and discontent over the new situation with her friend Samrat. Here are quotes from various sources which show the resemblance of silica to Lucky’s case.

“Its pace is slow and its effects are long-lasting.” “Symptoms...and lesions...develop slowly and tend towards chronicity.” (Farrington H. *Homoeopathy and Homoeopathic Prescribing*. New Delhi, India: B. Jain Publishers; 2001, p. 186)

“...every hurt festers, stubborn suppuration, abscess, torpid cellular tissue.” (Boger CM. *A Synoptic Key to the Materia Medica*. New Delhi, India: B. Jain Publishers;1992, p. 303)

From the Tissues section: “...suppuration: pus copious or scanty; brown and watery; gelatinous; thin and watery; very putrid....During process of ulceration it seems to clear wound of its decayed masses and to promote healthy granulations.” and then in the Skin section: “...small wounds in skin heal with difficulty and easily suppurate.” (Hering C. *The Guiding Symptoms of Our Materia Medica*. Vol. [9]. Paharganj, New Delhi, India: B. Jain Publishers;1995)

One dose of silica 200C was given on 7/12/19. A few days later the abscess discharged some bloody creamy pus, and the wound healed. There has been no re-occurrence for the past seven months of followup. She did not get to have her friend back without his mahout, but she does have a dog for companionship. Much thanks and gratitude to all the wonderful people caring for Lucky!