

FERRUM PHOSPHORICUM.

Synonyms: Ferroso-ferric Phosphate. Ferri Phosphas .

Common Name: Phosphate of Iron .



Chemical Properties: Formula, $\text{FeHPO}_4 + \text{Fe}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2$. It is prepared by mixing sodium phosphate with sulphate of iron in certain proportions. The resulting precipitate is filtered, washed and dried, and rubbed to a powder, which is bluish-gray from exposure to the air, without odor or taste. Soluble in acids, but insoluble in alcohol or water. It is probably this phosphate which is capable of turning blue, which occurs in the lungs in phthisis in bluish pus and expectorations.

Preparation: The pure phosphate of iron is prepared by trituration, as directed under Class VII, American Pharmacopoeia.

Physiologico-chemical Data: Iron is found in the haemoglobin or coloring matter of the red blood corpuscles. According to Dalton, it is not found in such considerable quantities in any of the other tissues of the body except in hair. In a man weighing 65 kilogrammes (165 pounds) there would be grammes (44 grains) of iron contained in the entire blood of the body. The organic basis of every cell is albumen. Since albumen contains iron, each cell must likewise contain iron. Iron and its salts have the property of attracting oxygen. The iron of the blood corpuscles takes up the oxygen from the inspired air. This is carried to every cell throughout the organism by means of the mutual reaction of Iron and Kali sulph. A disturbance of the equilibrium of the iron molecules in the muscular fibres causes a relaxation. This, occurring in the muscular coats of the vessels, causes a dilatation and accumulation of blood in the blood vessels—congestion—blood-pressure being increased, the walls rupture, and hemorrhage results. Again, if the muscular walls of the intestinal villi suffer a relaxation from the disturbed equilibrium of the iron molecules diarrhoea results; when this occurs in the muscular walls of the intestines themselves the peristaltic action of the bowels is weakened and becomes less active. This causes a tendency to constipation. Anything causing a relaxation of the muscular walls of a vessel, and consequent hyperaemia, such as an injury, finds its remedy in Ferr. phos., as this remedy in minute doses restores the equilibrium to the iron molecules, thus strengthening the muscular fibres. Through its power of attracting oxygen iron becomes a useful remedy in such diseases of the blood corpuscles as anaemia, chlorosis and leucaemia .

General Action: From the above it is readily seen that Ferr. phos. becomes the first remedy in all cases depending on a relaxed condition of muscular tissue wherever found; also for an abnormal condition of the blood corpuscles themselves. If a new supply of iron molecules is given to the relaxed muscle cells, caused by the lack of iron, their normal tonicity is restored, the circular fibres of the vessels contract to normal bounds, with equalizing of the circulation and a abatement of the fever. Its field of action, then, is in all ailments of a hyperaemic or congestive nature, with the usual accompaniments of these conditions, such as pain, heat, swelling and redness, quickened pulse and increased circulation; in a word, all febrile disturbances and inflammations as their onset, especially before exudation commences. Anaemia, want of red blood, etc. Especially useful in debility of children with failing appetite, becoming dull and listless, loss of weight and strength. Ferr. phos. not only improves the strength, but helps to increase the bodily

development and regulates the bowels. This drug is by Schussler supposed to be no longer indicated when exudation or even supuration takes place but if adapted to the individual patient it may still be depended upon. Only when it fails to do any more good should it be relinquished. In many inflammatory and some eruptive fevers, especially in the young and sensitive, seeming to stand midway between the intensity of Acon. and Bellad. and the dulness of Gelsem. Iron is the biochemic remedy for 1. The first stage of all inflammations. 2. Pains that are worse from motion and better from cold. 3. Hemorrhages caused by hyperaemia. 4. Fresh wounds caused by mechanical injuries .

Particular Symptoms:

Mental Symptoms: Indifference to ordinary matter. Loss of courage and hope, better after sleep. Trifles seem like mountains, annoyed at trifles. Hyperaemia of the brain, producing delirium, maniacal mood, mania transitoria. Delirium tremens, very talkative. Dizziness from congestion, consequences of anger.

Head and Scalp: Rush of blood to the head. Headache from a gouty predisposition (Natr. Dull, heavy pain on top, during profuse menses, from cold. Bruising, pressing or stitching pain and soreness to the touch. Pain as if a nail were being driven in one side, over the eye. Congestive headaches, hammering pain, worse right side; pressing a cold object against the spot seems to relieve the pain relieved by nosebleed. Headache with vomiting of undigested food, top of head sensitive to cold air, noise, jar; cannot bear to have the hair touched. Dull right -sided headache from vertex to right supra-orbital region. ' Ill effects of sun-heat (follow with Calc. It is the chief remedy in headaches of children, throbbing sensation in the head, red face and suffused eyes; worse from shaking the head, stooping and motion. Blind headache, sick headache, with vomiting of undigested food; vertigo, with rush of blood to the head. Symptoms of meningitis, with drowsiness and heaviness. First stage of eruptions on the scalp; soreness of scalp; sensitive to cold and touch.

Eyes: Suffused eyes. Acute hyperaemia of the conjunctiva. Inflammation of the eyes, with acute pain, without secretion of mucous or pus. Acute conjunctivitis. Conjunctivitis, with relaxation of conjunctiva and photophobia. Pain in the eyeball, aggravated by moving the eyes. Retinitis. Eyes inflamed, red, with burning sensation, sore and red-looking, and retinal congestion. Sensation as if grains of sand were under eyelids. Encysted tumor of the lids. Stye on lower lid of right eye. Neuralgia along inner orbit and nose.

Ears: Sensitive to noise. "Earache after exposure to cold or wet." (Copeland) Inflammatory earache, with burning or throbbing pain, or sharp, stitching pain. Tension, throbbing and heat in the ears. Noises in the ears arising through blood-pressure, from relaxed condition of the veins not returning the blood properly. First stage of otitis; radiating pains, pulsation in the ear; every impulse of the heart is felt there Quick pulse, should be feeble and compressible, indicating marked debility. Circumscribed, dark, inflammatory appearance. Deafness from inflammatory action, or supuration when there is cutting pain, tension or throbbing. Tinnitus aurium. A marked tendency of the inflammatory process to be diffused instead of circumscribed; dark, beefy redness of parts, muco-purulent discharge, if any, and a tendency to hemorrhage; the complete establishment of the discharge is not followed by the relief of the pain; paroxysmal and radiating character of the pain. Inflammation of the external ear. Mastoid process swollen and sore. Chronic, non-suppurative catarrh of the middle ear, with thickening of membrane tympanian probable ankylosis of small bones.

Nose: First stage of all colds in the head, predisposition to catch col. Smarting, especially in the right nasal passage, worse on inspiration. Nasal catarrh, with trickling sensations. Congested nasal mucous membranes. Catarrhal fever. Epistaxis, especially in children, and a concomitant of other complaints. Nosebleed of bright red blood. "Its indication in beginning of colds or in congestion of the mucous membranes anywhere is similar to Aconite, but its period of usefulness is much longer. Unless Aconite be given immediately after exposure in my experience it is useless, but the remedial value of Ferrum phos. continues for several hours.

Face: A florid complexion, with less nerve tension than that of Bellad. Faceache, with flushing, heat and quickened pulse; worse on moving; with throbbing or pressing pain, flushed face, with accompanying sensation of coldness in the nape of the neck flushed face when a precursor of recurring headaches. Anemic, chlorotic face; earthy, pale, sallow. Cheek sore and hot, when cold applications are grateful. Congestive or inflammatory douloureux.

Mouth: Gums hot and inflamed; redness of the mucous membrane of the mouth.

Tongue: Furred tongue, or clean and red, with headache. Inflammation of the tongue with dark red swelling.

Teeth: Toothache with hot cheek, worse with hot, better with cold liquids or food teething troubles with feverishness; great soreness of tooth to touch or pressure. Teeth feel elongated .

Throat: Inflammation of the fauces. Redness and pain Without exudation. Ulcerated throat, to relieve congestion.

Urinary Organs: Frequent desire to urinate; urine spurts out with every cough. Haematuria. First stage of cystitis with heat, pain or feverishness. Diabetes when there is a quickened pulse or when there exists pain, tension, throbbing or heat or congestion in any part of the system. In continence of urine from weakness of the sphincter. Diurnal enuresis depending on irritation of the neck of the bladder. Ischuria; suppression of the urine with heat, especially in little children. Any inflammatory pain in the kidneys. Bright's disease with febrile disturbances. Irritation at the neck of the bladder and prostate. Symptoms are worse the longer the patient stands and better after urinating. Polyuria simplex, excessive secretion of urine.

Sexual organs: Varicocele with pain in testicles. Bubo with heat, throbbing or feverishness. First stage of orchitis or of epididymitis and gonorrhoea. Seminal emissions. Ferr phos. has a close relationship with conditions of irritability of the womb, associated with trouble in the bladder, and also with the lining membrane of the womb. Menstrual colic with flushing of the face and quickened pulse, vomiting of undigested food, so metimes tasting acid. First stage of metritis to remove fever, pain and heat. Excessive congestion at the monthly periods, blood bright red. Menses every three weeks; profuse, with pressure in abdomen and small of the back and pain on top of the head. Bearing-down sensations and constant, dull ovarian pains. Dysmenorrhoea with frequent urging to urinate. Congestive dysmenorrhoea pains before, and during first days off low. Vaginismus vaginitis, vagina dry and hot, pain in the vagina on coition or examination. Spasm of the vagina on account of the increased sensitiveness and dryness.

Pregnancy and Labor: First stage of mastitis. Morning sickness of pregnancy, with vomiting of food as taken, with or without acid taste. After pains and as a preventive of the fever of lactation.

Respiratory Symptoms: Acute, febrile or initiatory stage of all inflammatory affection of the respiratory tract. Rhinitis, laryngitis, trachitis, bronchitis, pneumonia, pleurisy and pleuro-pneumonia. Bronchitis of young children. Phthisis florida. Expectoration scanty, blood-streaked, chest sore, bruised. It is the chief and first remedy for the stitches in the side, catch in the breath, dyspnoea and cough, and should be continued until free perspiration is established. Congestion of the lungs with debility and oppression. Haemoptysis after a concussion or fall, with short, oppressed breathing and high fever. In bronchial affections with heat and burn in g soreness, no expectoration. In chronic bronchitis when a fresh aggravation sets in. Short, painful, tickling cough from an irritation or tickling in the windpipe. Spasmodic cough with involuntary emission of urine. Hard, dry cough with soreness of the lungs. Cough with rattling of mucus in chest, worse at night. Croup, for the febrile symptoms. Whooping cough with vomiting of food; loss of voice, hoarseness, huskiness after singing or exertion of speaking, soreness, irritation and pain in the larynx.

Circulatory Organs: First or congestive stage of carditis, pericarditis, endocarditis and arteritis. In aneurism, to establish normal circulation and remove complications arising from excessive action of the heart. Dilatation of the heart or of the blood vessels, telangiectsi and naevi. Palpitation of the heart, pulse rapid and quick. Varicose veins. Phlebitis and lymphangitis, first stage. Pulse full, round, not rope like.

Back and Extremities: Stifneck from cold. Pains in the back, loins and over kidneys. Also in knees and ankles, shooting pains. Rheumatic pains worse on motion; movement sets up and increases the pain. Rheumatism felt only during motion and better from warmth. Articular rheumatism, especially of the shoulder ;pains extend to the upper part of the chest, attack one joint after another ; muscular or sub acute rheumatism . Lameness, stiffness from cold. Rheumatic pain in right wrist and in shoulder. Inflamed fingers, first stage of Whitlow. Hip-joint disease for pain, throbbing, inflammation and heat of the soft parts. Strains of ligaments and tendons, tenalgia crepitans, creaking in the sinews at the. back of the hand. Crick in the back (Calc. Hands swollen and painful. Palms of hands are hot).

Nervous Symptoms: Malaise, weariness, great prostration, debility of children, with no organic lesion. Feeling of indolence. Feels the need of a stimulant. Rheumatic paralysis. Nervousness at night. Convulsions with fever in teething children. Epilepsy, with blood rushing to the head. Congestive and inflammatory neuralgias from cold .

Sleep: Sleeplessness from a hyperaemic condition of the brain. Restless at night. Anxious dreams; drowsiness in the afternoon.

Febrile Symptoms: All catarrhal and inflammatory fevers during the chilly or initiatory stage, rigors, heat, quickened pulse and pain Rheumatic, gastric, enteric and typhoid fevers during the chilly stage, heat and feverishness at the beginning of any disease or ailment. Intermittent fever with vomiting of food. Simple cases of scarlet fever. First stage of typhus. Chill every day at 1 P.M. High fever, quick pulse and increased temperature; copious night-sweats; dry heat of palms, face, throat and chest.

Skin: Hyperaemia; from mechanical injuries, fresh wounds, not yet supurating. Capillary congestion, with burning of the skin, more exercise and warmth. Abscesses, boils, carbuncles and felons; at the commencement of these affections. this remedy reduces heat, blood-accumulation, pain and throbbing. Chicken pox, erysipelas and erysipelatus inflammations of the skin, for the fever and pain. Supurative

processes on the skin with febrile symptoms. Measles of, scarlet fever and small-pox. Pimples, acne, for the pain and heat and congestion. Ulcers with febrile accompaniments. Naevus.

Tissues: Anaemia, blood-poverty, want of red blood. Leucomia. Hyperemia. relaxation of muscular fibres of inflammation. Hemorrhages from any part of the body; blood bright red, with a tendency to coagulate rapidly. Epistaxis, especially in children. Mechanical injuries, results of kicks, blows, falls and cuts, for the inflammatory symptoms. Bone diseases when the soft parts are red, inflamed and painful. Dropsy from loss of blood and draining of the system. Varicose veins in young persons. Fractures, especially if soft parts are wounded. First stage of osteitis. Sprains externally as well as internally. Glandular ulceration. Wounds of the soft parts, with inflammatory symptom. To be given in true chlorosis after Calc. phos.

Modalities: All the pains of this remedy are aggravated by motion and are relieved by cold. Acts brilliantly in old people.

Homoeopathic Data: Ferr. phos. was proved by J. C. Morgan, M. D., in 1876. The symptomatology is to be found in Allen's Encyclopedia, vol. x, and in the Cyclopaedia of Drug Pathogenesis, vol. ii. The wide and extensive usefulness of this drug is entirely owing to its introduction by Scussler. The provings up to the present time do not give a sufficient basis for the broad clinical applications that have been made of it according to the indications of Schussler, although the provings, so far as they have gone, support these.

Dose & Administration: Triturations and dilutions from the 6x to the 12x are recommended by Schussler, although for anaemia much lower preparations have been used, as the 1x or 2x. Competent and trustworthy observers have found it advisable not to use this remedy below the 12x at night, as it is exceedingly liable to cause sleeplessness. Its external application is also recommended by Schussler in such diseases as sprains, wounds, hemorrhages, hemorrhoids, etc. Cures with the 200th potency are reported in catarrh, summer complaint, gonorrhoea, etc. Dr. Morgan (the prover) uses the 30th potency in water in scarlatina.

Relationship: Corresponding as it does to the first stage of inflammation without exudation, its nearest analogue is Acon. It stands midway between Acon. and Gels. Schussler expresses himself as follows in regard to the use of Acon. for similar indications: "In the cases in which the vegetable remedy Acon. is used for irritation- hyperaemia- the basis of the first stage of all inflammations- the practice is indirect biochemistry. Regarding the way and the mode in which Acon. can bring about a cure, there are two possibilities to be thought of. Either the Acon. molecules, which have reached the seat of the disease, serve as a temporary substitute for iron molecules, which have ceased to perform their function, but only until the function all disturbance has been repaired by means of the Vital circulation, or the Acon. molecules cause at once the introduction of new iron molecules into the diseased tissue, and are themselves ejected as foreign bodies as soon as the integrity of the latter has been restored- a fate which naturally also would be shared by those Acon. molecules which might have served as substitutes. Each of these possibilities would rest on indirect biochemistry. The healing of the irritation hyperemia- however, by means of procedure." (Walther's Ed. Of Schussler's Diphth.) Aconite has a more bounding pulse and the characteristic restlessness and anxiety; Gelsem. a more soft, flowing pulse and more drowsiness and dulness. In anaemic conditions compare also China, with which it has many symptoms in common. It is interesting to note that the tree from which China is obtained is always found in a ferruginous locality. In its action upon the respiratory organs it clearly stands between iron and phosphorus. Like Ferr, it is

indicated in congestion of the respiratory organs, even when there is considerable fever. Especially notice that the oppression and dyspnoea, both of which are extremely marked in Ferr. and Phosphor., are duplicated in this compound and afford good indications for its use; so, in a general way, symptoms of oppression like Phosphor. should be treated by this drug. (Allen, Handbooh.) Ferr. phos. corresponds in many points also to Bryon, Bellad. and Arnica, and to Hepar and Mercur., especially in acute inflammation of middle ear. In the debility, loss of strength and vitality of children, it is the remedy if the flesh be firm, complexion delicate, hair light and curly but Sulphur takes its place in dark-complexioned children, with flabby muscles, long and lank hair and moist skin. In the rheumatic affections of the aged, when the muscles are stiff and weakened, with a disposition to painful cramps, compare Strych. phos. California Zinfandel wine, a pure claret, the product of the Vine growing in a volcanic, Virgin soil, strongly impregnated with iron, possesses virtues in cases of anaemic tendency, probably due to the iron soil on which it grows. After Ferr. phos. is frequently indicated Kali mur. (See therapeutical part.) Especially in diphtheria, pneumonia, croup, etc., etc. In chlorosis, follow or precede Calc. phos. In hemorrhoids, Calc. fluor. In diabetes, Natr.sulph. In broncho-pneumonia, Tart. emet. In ear affections, catarrhal deafness, Calendula and Hydrastis.

Side Effects: No significant side effect has been observed in proper dosage.

Contraindication: There is no known contradiction.

Use in Pregnancy: The safety of Ferrum Phosphoricum in pregnancy has not been studied. Therefore it should be used with caution during pregnancy. Use as per Physician Advice.

Storage: Keep out of reach of children. Keep away from direct sunlight. Store in a cool and dry place.

Presentation:

Power: 3x, 6x, 12x, 30x, 60x, 200x.

Pack Size: 30 gm in PET bottle, 100 gm & 450 gm in Container.

References:

1. **The Twelve Tissue Remedy of Dr. Wilhelm Heinrich Schuessler.**
2. **Homeopathic Materia Medica by Dr. William Boericke**
3. **Systemic Materia Medica by K.N. Mathur**