



Review Study On Homeostasis From Homoeopathic Point Of View

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ABSTRACT

Homeostasis refers to the body's ability to maintain stable internal conditions despite external fluctuations. This process is essential for survival, ensuring that parameters such as body temperature, pH, and glucose levels are regulated within a narrow range. Disruption of homeostasis can lead to disease states. This article discusses the mechanisms of homeostasis, including feedback loops and the roles of the endocrine and nervous systems, and highlights common diseases associated with homeostatic imbalance, such as diabetes mellitus, and hypertension, hypothyroidism, acidosis, Understanding the maintenance of homeostasis and its failure is crucial for disease prevention and effective management. Concept of Homoeostasis is very basic fact which verifies by many on different forums & different aspects of Homoeopathic Principles. While framing the concept of Homoeopathy, Pioneers of Homoeopathy has used a logical explanation; which seems unrealistic at that time, but in depth understanding of concept of Homoeostasis in Physiology clears the mist around Principles of Homoeopathy now-a-days. This article is an attempt to correlate the concept of Homoeostasis with Homoeopathic Principles.

KEYWORDS: Homeostasis, Feedback loops, Diabetes mellitus, Hypertension, Hypothyroidism, Acidosis, Disease, Endocrine system.

INTRODUCTION

Homeostasis is the process by which the body maintains a stable internal environment. It is essential for the proper functioning of biological systems, ensuring that factors such as temperature, pH, and electrolyte balance remain within optimal ranges. The body's ability to regulate itself is vital for survival, and any disruption in this balance can lead to disease.

This article explores the mechanisms of homeostasis, how these systems work, and what happens when they fail. By understanding the diseases that result from homeostatic Imbalance, we can better appreciate the role homeostasis plays in maintaining health.

The term homeostasis was introduced by Walter Bradford Cannon of USA, while the French physiologist Claude Bernard be the first man to grasp the principle of internal environment or milieu interne ECF & icf constitute the milieu interne of the internal environment of Claude Bernard.

Our body contains numerous regulatory mechanisms that maintain the constancy of the internal environment despite the challenges that tend to destabilize. These regulatory mechanisms are called homeostatic mechanisms & the whole process is called homeostasis.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

HOMEOSTASIS

Literally this term means 'unchanging' but in practice, it describes a dynamic, everchanging situation where a multitude of physiological mechanisms and measurements are kept within narrow limits. Some important physiological variables are maintained within narrow limits by homoeostatic control mechanisms.

TELEOLOGIC PRINCIPLE:

If a man is exposed to a very hot environment, apparently, his body temperature should rise, this should ultimately kill the enzymes & the man should die. But in real life, the persons living in the hot desert do not die, because human beings have machinery in their body, which cools the body & prevents dangerous rise of temperature, this is called thermal Homoeostasis.

CONTROL OF HOMEOSTASSIS

Homeostasis in the human body is continually being disturbed. Some disruptions came from the external environment in the form of physical insults such as the intense heat of a hot summer day or a lack of enough oxygen for that two-mile run. Other disruptions originates in the internal environment, such as blood glucose levels that fall too low when you skip breakfast. Homeostatic imbalances may also occur due to psychological stresses in our social environment- the demands of work & school, for example. In most cases the disruption of homeostasis is mild & temporary what it is called in Homeopathy by Hahnemann Indisposition, and the responses of body cells quickly restore balance in the internal environment. However, in some cases, the disruption of homeostasis may be intense and prolonged, as in the poisoning foot note of § 67 which is quoted as 'Obstruction and suppression of the healthy Vital force. To this overexposure to temperature extremes, severe infection, or major surgery.

Individuality is also a feature of the two-way influence between the neuroendocrine & immune system, which has explained in the field of psycho-neuro-immunology (PNEI) the ability of the organism to maintain homeostasis despite receiving both cognitive(sensory & emotional) and non-cognitive (viruses, bacteria, various antigens & toxic substances) stimuli. The complexity of human brain, studied by neurosciences, is also individual, since it stems both from genetic/epigenetic and from environmental influencing factors, which affect the neuronal activity. Emotions are also individual, with their adaptive & physiological meaning and their ability to represent the true motivating factors and to play the most influential role in bringing about specific diseases,

Mechanisms of Homeostasis

The body uses various mechanisms to regulate internal conditions

1. **Negative Feedback Loops:** These loops help to maintain balance. For example, when the body overheats, mechanisms such as sweating and vasodilation cool it down. Conversely, when it gets too cold, shivering and vasoconstriction help generate and retain heat.
2. **Endocrine Regulation:** Hormones play a critical role in homeostasis. For example, insulin regulates blood glucose levels, while thyroid hormones control metabolism.
3. **Nervous System Regulation:** The nervous system responds to changes rapidly, adjusting heart rate, breathing rate, and blood pressure to maintain equilibrium.

Disease Conditions Related to Homeostasis Imbalance

1. Diabetes Mellitus

Diabetes is a classic example of homeostasis failure. In type 1 diabetes, the pancreas does not produce insulin, resulting in uncontrolled blood glucose levels. In type 2 diabetes, the body becomes resistant to insulin, also leading to hyperglycemia. Both types can cause long-term damage to the heart, kidneys, and nervous system.

2. Hypertension

Hypertension, or high blood pressure, occurs when the body's mechanisms for regulating blood pressure are overwhelmed or defective. Chronic hypertension leads to strain on the heart and blood vessels, contributing to the risk of heart disease and stroke. Dysregulation of the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system is often involved.

3. Hypothyroidism

Hypothyroidism occurs when the thyroid gland produces insufficient amounts of thyroid hormones. These hormones regulate metabolism, and their deficiency leads to symptoms like fatigue, weight gain, and depression. Without proper metabolic regulation, the body fails to maintain energy balance and normal body temperature.

4. Acidosis and Alkalosis

The body's pH must remain within a narrow range (7.35-7.45) for enzymes and cells to function properly. Acidosis (low pH) and alkalosis (high pH) occur when the body cannot adequately buffer or eliminate excess acids or bases. Conditions such as respiratory diseases, kidney failure, and ingestion of toxic substances can disrupt this balance, leading to life-threatening symptoms.

5. Dehydration

Dehydration results from the body losing more fluids than it takes in, disrupting electrolyte balance. The kidneys, aided by hormones like antidiuretic hormone (ADH), help maintain the body's fluid levels. Severe dehydration can impair kidney functions and cause systemic failure if not treated.

Importance of Maintaining Homeostasis

Homeostasis is essential for health and proper physiological function. Small deviations from normal levels can result in symptoms and disease, while prolonged imbalance can cause irreversible damage to organs and tissues. Modern medical interventions, such as insulin therapy for diabetes or antihypertensive drugs for high blood pressure, are aimed at restoring and maintaining homeostasis. Maintaining a healthy lifestyle, managing stress, and seeking timely medical care are essential strategies for supporting the body's homeostatic processes.

CONCLUSION

Homeostasis is a fundamental concept in physiology, crucial for maintaining health and preventing disease. Failure can result in conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, hypothyroidism, and pH imbalances. Understanding how the body regulates itself, and how this regulation can fail, highlights the importance of maintaining equilibrium for long-term health. Proper disease management often focuses on restoring this balance through lifestyle modifications, medications, and medical treatments. Homoeopathy introduces Homoeostasis, the science which treats dynamic, ever changing situation where a multitude of physiological mechanisms and measurements are kept within narrow limits. Some important physiological variables maintained within narrow limits by homoeostatic control mechanisms which Dr. Hahneman, founder of Homoeopathy explains as a concept of Vital Force which animates the material organism in health and in disease.

Hahneman thus opened the way for bringing homoeopathy under the physiological laws, creating the science of Homoeopathic and giving its rightful place in the 'Circle of the Sciences'. This article is an attempt to understand the co-relation between Homoeopathic Concepts with that of Homoeostasis in Human Physiology. This is a very initial attempt to correlate these concepts; may be polished by detail study at different events.

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