



## **ALARMING DATA ON AUTOIMMUNE DISEASE**

- Approximately twenty percent or about one in five suffers from at least one these diseases.
- According to the National Institutes of Health, autoimmune disease affects far more patients than the 9 million Americans who have cancer and the 16 million with coronary disease.
- Autoimmune diseases are the eighth leading cause of death among women, shortening the average patient's lifespan by fifteen years.

Autoimmune diseases represent a yearly health care burden of more than \$120 billion, compared to the yearly health care burden of \$70 billion for direct medical costs for cancer.

The average patient with autoimmune disease sees six doctors before attaining a correct diagnosis. Recent surveys conducted by the American Autoimmune Related Diseases Association reveal that 45 percent of patients with autoimmune diseases have been labeled hypochondriacs in the earliest stages of their illnesses.

Rates of these diseases have doubled and tripled in industrialized countries around the world over the past three decades.

The top scientists are convinced that the cause of this epidemic lies primarily in our environment and in all the toxins, pesticides, heavy metals and chemicals that have become a part of our everyday living. 2.2 million women are living with breast cancer and 7.2 million women have coronary disease, an estimated 9.8 million women are afflicted with one of the seven more common autoimmune diseases: lupus, scleroderma, rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, inflammatory bowel disease, Sjogren's syndrome, and type 1 diabetes. All of these can lead to potentially fatal complications.

[http://www.alternet.org/story/80129/the\\_autoimmune\\_epidemic%3A\\_bodies\\_gone\\_haywire\\_in\\_a\\_world\\_out\\_of\\_balance](http://www.alternet.org/story/80129/the_autoimmune_epidemic%3A_bodies_gone_haywire_in_a_world_out_of_balance)

## **Conventional Treatment is Immunosuppression**

This means that a medication is given which reduces the immune response. The focus is on controlling symptoms of inflammation with the use of steroids or non-steroidal drugs. Neither of these addresses the underlying problem. It temporarily stops the inflammatory process but it does not arrest the disease progression.

While steroid drugs do indeed reduce unpleasant symptoms, it is a temporary fix and with repeated use will often lead to tissue damage. These therapeutic interventions most often do not cure the patient but rather relieve pain and discomfort. If immunosuppressive drugs are stopped the disease is likely to be more severe than before. Immunosuppressive medicines are never supposed to be taken indefinitely. On stopping them some day, relapses are likely to occur. It would be much wiser to introduce homeopathic medicines.

## **How is Homeopathic treatment different?**

Homeopathy is known to work well with auto-immune disease and can offer a cure in many cases. It is the 'case' not the 'disease' which is considered treatable or untreatable.

A homeopathic medicine is selected after a full individualized examination and analysis, which includes the medical history of the patient, physical and mental characteristics, family history, presenting symptoms, underlying pathology, possible causative factors, etc.. A predisposition/susceptibility is also often taken into account for the treatment of chronic conditions.

A Classical Homeopath tries to treat more than just the presenting symptoms. The focus is usually on what caused the disease condition. Why 'this patient' is sick 'this way'. The disease diagnosis is important but in homeopathy, the cause of disease is not just probed to the level of bacteria and viruses. Other factors like mental, emotional and physical stress that could predispose a person to illness are also looked for. The correct homeopathic remedy tries to correct this disease predisposition. The focus is not on curing the disease but to cure the person who is sick, to restore health. If a disease pathology is not very advanced, homeopathic remedies do give a hope for cure but even in incurable cases, the quality of life can be greatly improved and limit the progression of the disease or condition.