

Dott. Massimo Mangialavori

Oleum animale 2 case

Sandro is a 16-year-old boy who comes to see me accompanied by his parents. My secretary informs me that already since entering the waiting room he has exhibited some reservations about coming and constantly asks his father what will happen to him during the consultation. When I come out of the consulting room to meet him, Sandro turns away his face as if he were hiding behind his father's shoulders. I make him sit down and I leave them alone for a few minutes. When I return, I have the impression that Sandro is not at all calm. He constantly looks around moving extremely slowly. He replies to my initial questions about general issues in a likewise slow manner. He sits with his shoulders curved and hunched with his head almost buried. He gives a very confused history and expresses himself rather vaguely. He looks rather elusive and his gestures are slow and clumsy. Sandro's physique is robust. He is slightly overweight and not very muscular.

His father is the first to speak:

^Sandro recently had an operation for an acoustic neuroma.

We were slow to realise that he had a problem because in the past he had attacks of otitis – twice with perforation of the eardrum – and then the adenoids...so we've always had problems with his hearing.

We've tried various thermal therapies because after the perforations, he had other infections and he even had mycosis.

So when he initially had symptoms of a new drop in his hearing, we underestimated the thing a bit. But then Sandro began to complain of noises in his ears and he said that he always felt his ears were warm and full...

We didn't manage to book an appointment with the specialist before the first symptoms of anaesthesia of the face appeared...some problems with recognising tastes and we were very alarmed when she said that he could not see us very well and he only wanted to stay in the dark.

The auditory evocative potentials and the MRI removed any doubt and they operated on him as an emergency. We went to see the best neurosurgeon in Europe and they did a fabulous job...but Sandro has not recovered since the operation.

We've had various tests and they say that the operation doesn't really have much to do with it and that he probably had some problems before the operation...that perhaps the trauma or the experience of the operation greatly disturbed him.

Sandro has suffered from epileptic attacks since he was 6 years old shortly after he began school. Before this he had some other convulsions which were emotional so we didn't pay too much attention to this either. The paediatrician was the one who realised that things were not functioning as before...he happened to come to the house to see him when he had a high temperature. Sandro had an epileptic fit right in front of him (from the description, he seems that it was a clonic attack).

After this he had medicine and the paediatrician who has still been following him, thought it was a good moment to stop the medicine almost 3 years ago because it was no longer justified. Even if not everyone agreed with him...

§ As a little boy, he always fainted out of the blue...but almost always when he was very emotional and especially when something went wrong...§ if someone broke his toy or if he tried to do something unsuccessfully that required a lot of effort.

But he's had this problem for a long time after, even when the epileptic attacks changed and became different...for example I remember that I did everything to teach him to ride a bike and he found it very difficult...and more than once he had attacks and we couldn't understand how much of this was due to his anger and how much to something else...

He's always been rather a nervous young lad ...

When he was 12 years old, he had a minor vertebral fracture after he dived from a rock into part of the water, which was too shallow.

We had an awful fright but he made a good recovery...at that time he also broke two incisors and we took advantage of this to have quite important work done by an excellent dentist. Sandro had agenesis of both top canines. We had been just waiting for them to finish growing and that was a good opportunity to address the situation thoroughly.

He's still wearing a bite, but soon he'll be able to stop using it.

The vertebral fracture quickly healed, but after this Sandro got a fracture of the fibula, which took a long time to calcify and it worried us considerably. The thing created quite a few problems for him and in a moment of great exuberance, which he could not explain, between plaster casts, tutors and then rehabilitation, he spent almost a year walking very badly.

It was a particularly difficult moment for him in school too...

Do you want to say something, Sandro...?^

The boy looks down and with a shake of his head indicates that he does not wish to say anything.

The father begins again:

^He seemed to suddenly explode inside - much more than his usual shyness...

It seemed that he had really lost his head.

It's true that he's never been a wonder at school but during that year, he was really terrible and we had to intervene by changing his school to avoid exam failure. Unfortunately, his teachers did not understand, but I knew what an experience like that would have meant for him. I'm not his father for nothing...

We think that it was a learning experience for him in any case because that he moved from a phase of – let's say – isolation to a bit of anger...as he was before. He reacted a bit more...and he took it out on us...

But this is something positive: there must be communication with your parents...

I know that homeopaths are also interested in aspects of their patients' personality... Let's say that Sandro is a very harsh judge of himself. He expects a lot of himself and when he doesn't succeed, as he would like, he reacts very badly...

I know what boys like this are like. I've been training rugby teams for many years...practically since I stopped playing semi-professionally...I had to stop because I had a family and I had already had too many injuries...

I would say this is enough...^

Sandro looks at his father as if to remind him about something important.

**^When he's very stressed, he breaks out in a terrific number of spots: especially on his face and back. They are so big, they seem to almost be cysts...and as you see, I still have the marks of the acne that I had as a boy...and I think that he's terrified to become like me...

He also has a huge amount of seborrhoeic dermatitis on his scalp, his skin is very greasy and he has a lot of dandruff...

§ But I would like my son to speak...^

(Sandro makes a sign of not wanting to say anything)

*** ^The fact is that it's not clear whether he doesn't want to or does not manage, but there are serious problems at school. He says that he has problems with his memory and that he doesn't remember anything anymore. He says that he does not manage to concentrate and that when he tries to, things don't enter his head and he even becomes cold if he tries too hard to do it.

But he seems very absent to us and his teachers...

§ He's always slept a lot but lately I have to really get angry with him in the morning. If it were left to him, he would happily sleep for even 12 hours.

He skips breakfast on Sundays and starts off with lunch and he's even reached the point of asking us if he could eat in bed...

His appetite has completely gone...don't be deceived by appearances because Sandro eats very little...and he has never varied his diet much.

^If it weren't for the potatoes and eggs he loves, he wouldn't eat a thing...but these have been his very limited tastes since he was very little^

*** ^The other important thing is the headache. Since the operation, it's become a serious problem. He used to suffer from it before too, especially when he was very tired and if he was going through intense emotional stress...

§ We're obviously very concerned, but they say that it has nothing to do with his previous problem and that it isn't even a medical issue. But they gave us painkillers in the meantime and he doesn't want them because he says that they make his concentration even worse^

§ "They give me unbearable heat in my head...I often already feel all hot, I get even more itchy, and then there's the dandruff and the spots definitely...and then I cannot manage to study at all when they give me those tablets"

^I basically wanted to try them too to see if what he said was true and I felt less energetic...and that's why we've come to see you...^

§ *** "My head feels very confused and I've always had a bit of the heat that I was telling you about before, but now it's really too much.

Some days I feel that I can smell something burnt and I asked him if very hot dandruff also gives off a terrible smell..."

^He says this because he his dandruff gives off an unpleasant smell and then he ALSO means that for years now he's been producing a lot of earwax, which has a very nasty, smell...I wouldn't know what it's like, but it isn't nice.

And he also doesn't have a great love for soap and water...and since he was little, getting him to have a bath wasn't an easy enterprise.

§ Not even the sea...that time he dived, I was teaching him something and he wanted to overdo it...but this is one of his characteristics.

§ He often does things that are a bit too over the top and then he hurts himself...^

§ *** "I think that my father is right...but shouldn't you give things a go?

He always says that his father was also a sports teacher and that if it hadn't have been for him, he would never have become a rugby champion..."

§ ** "My head feels hot and confused...

§ The pain is tremendously unbearable...and it comes here to my forehead and then it always goes to my eye (right)...right since the operation...

But those hospitals are right...because I had it even before the operation...but since then it's become unbearable...

§ I lie quietly in the dark...and it beats a bit less, otherwise I feel that I have drums inside...and I feel my eye being pushed out.

§ As if there was a finger trying to push it from the inside...

§ And I think about my own things...

§ Before I used to massage my head but now it doesn't have any effect...

§ I began to do it as a child. I used to massage it by myself because sometimes I was afraid because I could no longer feel it and I thought I had lost an ear or a piece of my head...and so I touched it a bit...and I saw that I felt better if I did this...

§ No no...I don't let anyone else touch it. Only I know how and where to touch...

§ When I have a very bad pain, I cannot and I must not eat otherwise I cannot even manage to fall asleep..."

§ *** "I like to sleep loads..."

§ I also like dreaming a lot...but I don't always have nice dreams"

^Why don't you tell the doctor what you often dreamed about when you were little?^

§ "I would often dream about Frankenstein...no...I'm mistaken...not him. My father always says but I always make mistakes...but that thing doesn't even have a name while the doctor does.

§ I often dreamt of the monster...the one that the mad scientist created and that afterwards wanted to kill everyone...but he hadn't even given him a name...and he wouldn't even have been able to return home anyway.

§ I felt very sorry for him and my father showed me the one with Mel Brooks, which he finds very funny, but I don't.

§ It doesn't seem as romantic as the real one to me...I also wanted to see the last one that was made [Robert de Niro]. I liked that best of all... § he was more human and then I was really moved by that old man who understood that there was someone in the hen house and fed him.

§ It seemed more real to me: instead of having a false head and a gigantic body, he was the result of a real experiment...

§ That monster was often in my dreams and I was frightened because I knew that he was roaming in the woods at night and they were all searching for him to kill him...and he didn't want to harm anyone...

§ According to me, it wasn't a horror film but only a very sad story..."

I ASK HIS PARENTS TO GO OUT

§ *** “What my father says is true...I get very angry when I cannot manage to do a thing as I like...

But I rarely manage to do the things in the way I like and so I'm often very nervous...

§ If there is one thing I HATE it's feeling blocked or hindered...

§ I would like to do things in the way I know I can do them but then I get nervous and I can't manage to do anything. And it all gets worse afterwards...”

§ *** “I would like you to help me out with my headache, but also with my spots...

§ THE HEADACHE IS AS IF ONE HALF OF MY HEAD WERE NARROWER THAN THE OTHER...but I don't tell my father this. Otherwise, he would say that I was mad...

§ My father believes that the spots too are also a trifle and he says that they will go away by themselves in a few years. Meanwhile have you seen what my face is like and the scars that my father has on his face?

I don't want to become like that...

§ Not with that face...but I would like to be strong like my father...”

§ *** “What happens to me humiliates me...the last thing in the world that I wanted was to do this to my family, but perhaps it would have been best for my father to let me fail the exams...

Now I can no longer look my friends in the face, as they know that I'm still going to school now only because my father knows another head teacher well...

§ I meant if I go still go to school IN THE CLASS WHERE I AM. I should be a year behind and I don't deserve to be where I am...”

§ *** “That leg seized up...but it still does it now... § It's as if I always had lactic acid and I can never manage to get rid of it... § As soon as I can I take a time out for myself...I already take at least two coffees and my father thinks that I only take one...

§ This operation [neuroma] also was a setback for me. I should have lost another year at school and instead...

I'm still dragging this leg...my friend's father is an osteopath and he says that I'm not breathing properly because of this leg...

I feel that I don't breathe properly...according to me, my brain doesn't get enough oxygen because my nose is always blocked...

§ I'm aware of this because when it's open I taste things better...”

§ *** “The only thing I remember about the convulsions is MY STATE OF CONFUSION AND THE INABILITY TO STAY AWAKE AFTERWARDS AND THEN THE PAIN IN MY TONGUE WHICH I BIT MANY TIMES...”

§ They say that I got over that spell quite well...but according to me, it's left me with problems...

§ I LET PEOPLE INTO MY SACRED SPACE FAR TOO MUCH...then I learnt to set boundaries...but sometimes...

§ I don't know how to explain...what more do you want me to say?"

▼ 1. **WITHDRAWAL** (617)

- * NOSE; OBSTRUCTION (256)
GENERALITIES; FAINTNESS, fainting; tendency; anger, after (8)
- * GENERALITIES; FAINTNESS, fainting; tendency (386)
- * HEAD PAIN; GENERAL; mental exertion, from; agg. (151)
- * MIND; CONCENTRATION; difficult (298)
- * MIND; CONCENTRATION; difficult; studying, reading, while (77)
- * MIND; ABSENT-MINDEDNESS (192)
- * SLEEP; PROLONGED (110)
- * SLEEP; DEEP (208)
- * ~~VISION; DIM~~ (292)
- * ~~TASTE; INSIPID, watery, flat~~ (161)
- * ~~FACE; NUMBNESS~~ (59)

▼ 2. **MORTIFICATION** (221)

- * HEAD PAIN; GENERAL; nervous (116)
- * MIND; ANGER, irascibility; tendency; himself, with (18)
- * MIND; AILMENTS from; mortification, humiliation, chagrin (71)
- * MIND; AILMENTS from; anger, vexation (149)

▼ 3. **Head congestion** (410)

- * EAR; FULLNESS, sensation of (53)
- * HEAD; CONGESTION, hyperemia etc. (292)
EAR; INFLAMMATION; recurrent (8)
- * HEAD; HEAT, General (316)
- * EAR; STOPPED sensation (145)
- * EAR; HEAT (137)

*4. HEAD PAIN; LOCALIZATION; Forehead; eyes; above; right (99)

*5. GENERALITIES; FOOD and drinks; potatoes; desires (20)

*6. GENERALITIES; FOOD and drinks; eggs; desires (23)

▼ 7. **recurrent otitis** (16)

EAR; INFLAMMATION; media, middle ear; recurrent (11)

EAR; INFLAMMATION; recurrent (8)

8. TEETH; AGENESIA (2)

*9. SMELL; ODORS, imaginary and real; burnt (10)

*10. GENERALITIES; INJURIES, blows, falls and bruises; Bones, fractures; slow repair of broken bones (26)

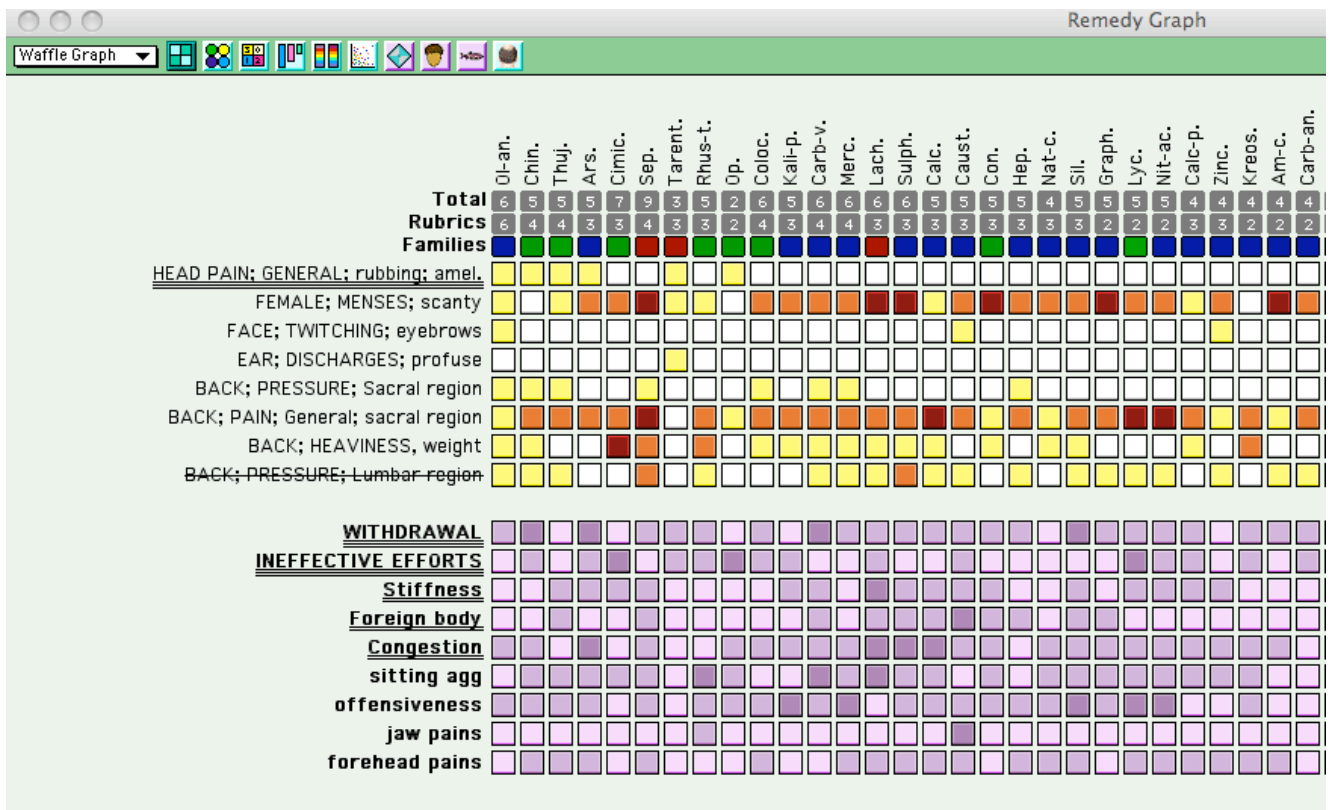
*11. FACE; ERUPTIONS; acne (162)

*12. BACK; ERUPTIONS; acne (11)

▼ 13. **convulsions** (429)

- * GENERALITIES; CONVULSIONS; children, in (86)
- * GENERALITIES; CONVULSIONS; clonic (155)
- * GENERALITIES; CONVULSIONS (429)

*14. ~~VISION; DIM~~ (292)



I prescribe Oleum animalis Q1 and Sandro takes it for two weeks before he reacts with a bad attack of headache that forces him to call his parents to take him home from school.

The attack continues for more than two days despite stopping the remedy. During the days that follow, both Sandro and his family are concerned about the appearance of some paraesthesia that along the trigeminal nerve path. The symptoms alternate between a sensation of intense burning that seems to culminate in a kind of anaesthesia. It then begins again periodically and especially during the night.

I recommend that he take Q1 but the symptoms are relieved without any satisfactory improvement. The switch to Q3 seems to be more crucial. In fact within a day his symptoms disappear completely.

I suggest that he continue taking Q3 regularly.

After almost three weeks Sandro wakes up with a sensation of dullness and of obstruction in both ears. This seems to reduce his hearing capacity. The appearance of a foul-smelling discharge from the right auditory canal makes me think that it is only a heavy production of cerumen. The ENT specialist confirms this and cleans out both auditory canals.

Sandro himself is the one who asks me if he can continue taking the remedy at least once a week and before homework or important tests, asserting that he has noticed

a greater ability to concentrate. Despite this Sandro prefers not to take the remedy too often as he has the impression that a side effect is reduced hours of sleep. We see each other again 4 months after the initial appointment. This time only his father comes with him and he remains in the waiting room.

!! “Perhaps it’s not very important to you but I’m really pleased that I have less spots. I hardly have any on the back and I only have a few left on my face. I’ve been very careful NEVER to squeeze them because I know that a mark can stay afterwards.

But the dandruff has not decreased much even if it doesn’t seem to have the same nasty smell as before.

§ The situation is different in my ears too. Before I used to always have a bit of discharge and since that moment when I felt that I was becoming suddenly deaf, I’ve been better. I realised only afterwards that I always had the sensation that sounds were a bit muffled... § now I can hear high-pitched sounds very well and sometimes they really disturb me. When the bell rings at school, I feel like that sound is entering my ears and it’s rather annoying...the sound of car horns also hit me like splinters...

§ It’s true that they are the sounds of two alarms...do you think that perhaps they piss me off a bit because I don’t want to be alarmed?

§ I don’t like to be alarmed. I would like things to glide by peacefully...but everything is so frenetic in this world...

§ I would like to do things in my own time. Do you know something? Do you remember the story about the tortoise and the hare? We’ve recently studied it in school. I liked it a lot.

§ I believed that this problem of a frenetic lifestyle was something modern and recent...and instead I was very surprised to see how the ancient Greeks thought the same thing very many years ago, without cars, mobile phones and the Internet...

§ It’s obvious to me that the tortoise is the winner. I would have said it without evening studying this...and even if it weren’t so, it’s what I prefer.

§ I feel a bit forced to play the hare...the racing hare. But I’m not made like this so...

§ my family, my father especially...but then the teachers too like the one you see in the pictures...they all run, they have huge muscles...even super heroes such as Batman and Spiderman all have body-building physiques...

§ I think that statues are much nicer and they have nice physiques but much more normal. I’ve seen photographs of the Olympics a few decades ago and the athletes weren’t so swollen... the boxers don’t even have all the muscles they have now...have you seen the type of body build that the swimmers or 100 metre runners had? Have you noticed how swollen they are now?

§ My father says that this is the progress of science applied to sports’ medicine. Others call it doping...”

§ *** “I’m really happy when I hear my father and mother telling me about when I was small. I would have liked to have a brother, but my mother has something that made it impossible.

I know that they’ve done all they can for me and I feel the duty to do the same for them.

My father says that there is nothing more wonderful in the world than seeing me happy...and I think the same. BUT HE MANAGES AND I DON’T ALWAYS...in fact not much.

§ The most horrible thing in the world is...knowing that I cannot manage to do this. And I’ll never be able to do some things § for example my grandfather played rugby and my dad became better than him...but I’ve never been able to play rugby and...to tell the truth, I don’t like playing sport much. I prefer watching it on TV.

§ I would have liked at least to show him something more with my studies...because he says that he would have preferred to have studied something better instead of becoming a PE [physical education] teacher...but...

When I realise that I really cannot manage, I get so discouraged and then I go into a vicious cycle...and things always go worse”

§!!! “The headache got worse. I got well.

§ He has stopped coming and so it’s gone badly for him. I’ve been better apart from the time that he came at the beginning of the treatment...”

!! “By the way, I wanted to say that I would like to understand better how to use the drops. § I’m a bit afraid of taking them too often because I feel that they keep me more awake. I’m definitely less tired and I can study more easily...but I’m then afraid to stay too wide awake...”

§!! “I’m a bit sorry to have less sleep, you know. Before I was happy to sleep until late on Sundays...but now I have more time to study and read...and before I could not study and read much because I didn’t have time to do both things...

I like reading a lot and then I liked sleeping and staying in bed to remember what I had read and to fantasize a bit over it...

§ I always have several dreams...and it seems strange that this interests a doctor...

§ I dreamt of doctors...perhaps surgeons because they had those gowns that they use for operations. I think that the last operation I had shook me a bit because it’s not the first time that I have dreams about them operating on the brain...

§ I don’t really remember clearly now but the one that shook me the most was where I couldn’t understand why they were changing someone’s brain and then he

was left with the same face and if the brain is used to recognising a different face, it mustn't be easy...

I then have other types of dreams where I seem to be on safari...I see many plants and trees around...but I don't properly understand because I know that it's a living forest but I rarely see trees with leaves...and I don't know why it seems to be a forest in autumn but I'm in Africa and I know that there is no autumn there..."

§! "I hardly feel that heat in my head that I was telling you about before...only when I'm really tired..."

But it's something strange that I forgot to tell you. I tend to feel the cold a lot and my feet are usually cold.

§ I feel that my heat has distributed itself better. MY HEAD IS LESS HOT AND MY FEET LESS COLD..."

The father contacts me afterwards telling me that they and the teachers are satisfied with Sandro. They see that he is more serene and has a greater interest in his studies.

The father was very struck by his interest in certain literature on mythology and for the passion that Sandro shows for philosophy. A subject that he admits always interested him but that he never managed to understand very well.

I advise that he continue on Q3 once or twice a week.

After almost 3 months, towards the end of the school year, Sandro complains of a bit of fatigue. It seems that he is set his heart on having good marks and he is making an effort with the support of the teachers but above all thanks to the confirmation received from his own results.

I suggest that he move on to Q5 and Sandro still takes it at the same dose with good results.

In the meantime, the symptoms with which he originally presented are no longer present apart from the occasional mild headache that improves with a few hours' sleep or after taking the remedy.

Sandro succeeds in building some good relationships with some classmates for the first time and they seek his assistance in the subjects where he begins to show signs of excelling.

His teacher by chance introduces him to the game of chess and within a few months, Sandro proves to have unexpected gifts so much so that he enrolls into a chess circle and begins to take lessons. Within a few months, he participates in his first competitions.

Shortly after his first victory, Sandro sends me via email an account of his dream.

“My father had invited me to take a special flight to go to Stromboli to see close-up a fresh eruption of the volcano. But when we got there, it was difficult to land with the seaplane because the lava the lava that reached the sea released such smoke that it was impossible to see. So we had to settle with the nearby island and from there we could still enjoy the marvellous spectacle all the same. You could see the trail of the lava that almost got as far as the sea because lower down there was only the vapour. I was worried thinking about all those poor dead fish, of the coral, the sea urchins and the another animals hat lived on the rocks while my father told me that volcanic lava carries lots of mineral nutrients and especially a special rock that that would make the coral return that the fishermen had already made disappear several years ago to make themselves rich and that were almost completely extinct. Then there were vulcanologists who said that we humans are the only animals who do not recognise earthquakes and volcanic eruptions in time. Even hens are capable of knowing when an eruption will occur while we humans who consider ourselves so intelligent don't even know how to organise ourselves to escape in time and return when the earth is enriched by new minerals. There was also the head of the team who lived on the island because it was the best observation point and he told me that life on the earth would never have existed without volcanoes and meteorites...and that we had a very limited vision of something much more important”

Sandro is now actually about to conclude his studies on Philosophy at University. During these years he has taken the remedy occasionally during some sporadic headache attacks and he has always had good results. The most significant, painful attacks have always followed results, which were beneath the expectations of the work he put into his study or in some important chess matches. Despite all the improvement, Sandro seems to digest better - but still not very well - what he considers to be some small failures.

