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Research Highlights

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Research Highlights

Abstract

Research Highlights

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Research highlights

TOOLS TO ESTIMATE NOISES IN HOMOEOPATHIC PATHOGENETIC TRIALS

Title: An attempt to estimate the noises in homoeopathic pathogenetic trials by employing the Jaccard similarity index and noise index

Author: Kurian Poruthukaren

Journal: Homoeopathy, DOI: 10.1055/s-0041-1735983

Summary: This research paper has highlighted the Jaccard similarity index and the noise index for analysing signs and symptoms due to the trial drug with placebo group as a comparator. The Jaccard similarity index is the ratio of the number of common elements among the placebo and intervention groups to the aggregated number of elements in these groups. The noise index is the ratio of common elements among the placebo and intervention group to the total elements of the intervention group. Homoeopathic pathogenetic trials of *Plumbum metallicum* (Signorini *et al.*, 2005), *Piper methysticum* (Signorini *et al.*, 2005) and hepatitis C nosode (Shah *et al.*, 2013) were selected for experimenting with the computation of the Jaccard similarity index and the noise index. Jaccard similarity index was identified to be 0.080 for *Plumbum met*, 0.107 for *Piper methysticum* and 0.193 for hepatitis C nosode. Noise index was 0.107 for *Plumbum met*, 0.139 for *Piper methysticum* and 0.257 for hepatitis C nosode. A higher index means that the symptoms may not be real drug effects. Such knowledge can help physicians in selecting the optimum medicine and researchers in identifying those symptoms that require further critical verification.

Comments: The Jaccard similarity index and the noise index might be considered as an additional approach for analysing the symptoms of the placebo group as a comparator, resulting in better noise segregation in homoeopathic pathogenetic trials.

HOMOEOPATHY – A PROVEN ADJUNCT THERAPY TO STANDARD CARE IN COVID-19

Title: Efficacy of individualised homoeopathy as an adjunct to standard of care of COVID-19: A randomised, single-blind, placebo-controlled study

Authors: Debadatta Nayak, Juhi Gupta, Anupriya Chaudhary, Krishna Gopal Singh, Abhijeet Deshmukh, Deblina Das, Abhishek Saha, Deepak Kumar, Ashwini Kumar, Ajay Goenka, S K Mishra, Sanjay Gupta, Anil Khurana

Journal: Complementary Therapies in Clinical Practice, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ctcp.2022.101602>

Summary: This randomised, placebo-controlled trial of adjunct individualised homoeopathic treatment with the standard of care for COVID-19 shows significant clinical recovery with early resolution of symptoms with homoeopathic intervention compared to those who received placebo along with the standard of care. The main highlights were earlier recovery by 2 days along with 20 h earlier resolution of fever in homoeopathy plus standard of care. *Arsenic album*, *Bryonia alba* and *Phosphorus* were the most frequently prescribed remedies. The beneficial effect of this integrative approach refutes the possibility of drug-to-drug interaction. This also fulfils the vision envisaged in the National Health Policy of India for integrative management of diseases.

Comments: An integrative approach which includes homoeopathy with standard of care can be a boon for the management of COVID-19 patients in the absence of specific antivirals. Such approach to care can be beneficial not only in early recovery and better clinical outcomes but also in the prevention of complications of COVID-19. It suggests further studies to be conducted with homoeopathy as a standalone therapy in cases of mild and moderate cases of COVID-19.

THE ELECTROSTATIC MODEL OF HOMOEOPATHY

Title: The Electrostatic Model of Homoeopathy: The Mechanism of Physicochemical Activities of Homoeopathic Medicines

Authors: Shahram Shahabi, John P Borneman

Journal: Homoeopathy, DOI: 10.1055/s-0041-1732306

Summary: This paper attempts to propose a model, called *the electrostatic model of homoeopathy*, to explain a mechanism for the physicochemical activities of highly diluted homoeopathic medicines (HMs). Most criticism of homoeopathy has focused on the inference that in application of Avogadro's number, it is statistically improbable to find a molecule of the original substance in most HMs. According to this proposed model, the source of HMs' action is dipole orientations as electrostatic imprints of the original molecules carried by diluent molecules (such as sugar molecules) or potentiation-induced aqueous nanostructures. The nanoscale domains' contact charging and dielectric hysteresis play critical roles in the aqueous nanostructures' or sugar molecules' acquisition of the original molecules' dipole orientations. The mechanical stress induced by dynamisation (vigorous agitation or trituration) is a crucial factor that facilitates these phenomena. After dynamisation is completed, the transferred charges revert to their previous positions but, due to dielectric hysteresis, they leave a remnant polarization on the aqueous nanostructures or sugar molecules' nanoscale domains. This causes some nanoscale domains of the

aqueous nanostructures or sugar molecules to obtain the original substance molecules' dipole orientations. A highly diluted HM may have no molecule of the original substance, but the aqueous nanostructures or sugar molecules may contain the original substance's dipole orientations. Therefore, HMs can precisely aim at the biological targets of the original substance molecules and electrostatically interact with them as mild stimuli.

Comments: According to the model presented in this paper, the potentiation of original substances induces the dilution materials, sugar molecules or potentiation-induced aqueous nanostructures, to acquire the original molecules' dipole orientations using contact charge transfer and dielectric hysteresis phenomena. The dipole orientations act as electrostatic imprints, so the HMs can affect the original molecules' biological targets but with less affinity.

HOMOEOPATHY TO COMBAT ADVERSE EFFECTS OF ONCOLOGY TREATMENT THERAPY

Title: Improving tolerance and compliance of new targeted therapies with homoeopathy: A major challenge in oncology

Author: Jean-Lionel BAGOT

Journal: OBM Integrative and Complementary Medicine, DOI: 10.21926/obm.icm.2203026

Summary: The study proposes a therapeutic regimen for systematic supportive care of targeted therapies to reduce the side effects. The originality of the treatment lies in combining a symptomatic diluted and dynamised homoeopathic medicine with the patient's constitutional homoeopathic medicine as well as the isotherapeutic agent used for targeted therapy in 7c (10^{-14}). If needs be, the eponymous organotherapy of the organ most affected by the side effects can be added in 4c (10^{-8}). This therapeutic regimen is well accepted and well tolerated. It has been prescribed to approximately 5000 patients over 25 years including those patients who were given hormone therapy. Facilitating tolerance and acceptance of targeted therapies is very important in oncology to fully benefit from the targeted therapies efficacy. Homoeopathy, organotherapy and isotherapy, by supporting the whole body and treating the major side effects, might improve observance and consequently therapeutic results.

Comments: Clinical trials can be carried out following the designs and protocols presented in this article. Homoeopathy can be used in supportive care to improve the quality of life of patients, compliance with oncological treatments and consequently the survival in the absence of drug interaction and significant side effects.

NON-INVASIVE RESOLUTION FOR OVARIAN MASSES

Title: Non-invasive resolution of pathological ovarian masses with homoeopathic treatment – A case series

Authors: Vinitha Edavattath Ramanan, Reshma Radhakrishnan

Journal: Homoeopathy, DOI: 10.1055/s-0041-1735849

Summary: The cases showed a complete resolution of the ovarian masses within 4–15 months of treatment using *Thuja* and other individualised homoeopathic medicines, evidenced by ultrasonography, with normalizing CA-125 values also observed in the case of the endometrial cyst. The MONARCH score was also calculated as +7/13, +9/13 and +9/13 for the three cases, respectively, indicating a positive causal attribution of homoeopathy in the resolution of these pathological ovarian masses.

Comments: Individualised homoeopathy proved to be an effective alternative treatment therapy for pathological ovarian masses where invasive surgery was advised by attending gynaecologists and notably *Thuja* can be useful in the treatment of pathological ovarian masses.

HOMOEOPATHY – EFFECTIVE TREATMENT OPTION FOR ADHD

Title: Is homoeopathy effective for attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder? A meta-analysis

Authors: Katharina Gaertner, Michael Teut and Harald Walach

Journal: Paediatric research, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41390-022-02127-3>

Summary: The prevalence of attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is increasing, with poor compliance to treatment, and additional treatment options are warranted. Thirty-seven online sources were searched with a last update in March 2021. Studies investigating the effects of individualised homoeopathy against any control in ADHD (ICD-10 category F90.0) were eligible. Six studies were analysed. All but one were randomized and showed low-to-moderate risk of bias; two were controlled against standard treatment and four were placebo controlled and double blinded. The meta-analysis revealed a significant effect size across studies of Hedges' $g = 0.542$ (95% CI: 0.311–0.772; $z = 4.61$; $P < 0.001$) against any control and of $g = 0.605$ (95% CI: 0.05–1.16; $z = 2.16$, $P = 0.03$) against placebo ($n = 4$). The effect estimations are based on studies with an average sample size of 52 participants. Individualised homoeopathy showed a clinically relevant and statistically robust effect in the treatment of ADHD.

Comments: Although individualised homoeopathy has shown evidence of effectiveness in the treatment of ADHD in several small trials, this is the first systematic review and meta-analysis. This data may encourage caregivers to consider cotreatment or referral to individualised homoeopathy when treating childhood ADHD.

HOMOEOPATHY IN GASTROINTESTINAL DISORDERS

Title: Gastrointestinal disorders and homoeopathy – A retrospective study

Authors: R. Sitharthan

Journal: Advancements in Homoeopathic Research. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.48165/ahr.2022.7.3.6>

Summary: This is a retrospective study analysing the previous case history to assess the efficacy of homoeopathy in gastrointestinal disorders. Case records of 261 patients diagnosed with gastrointestinal disorders who had visited OPD of NHRIMH Kottayam Kerala had been retrospectively analysed to find out the most common gastrointestinal disorders and frequently indicated useful remedies in managing the patient.

The most common gastrointestinal disorders for which patients visited were cholelithiasis, gastritis and GERD. Most frequently indicated medicines were Nux vomica (20.69%), sulphur (16.48%), Bryonia (9.96%), Argentum nitricum (9.58%) and Lycopodium (9.20%). The study showed drastic improvement in all the patients, which proves that homoeopathy is highly effective in gastrointestinal disorders. It was found that maximum affection is in the age group of 51–60 and least in the age group of 91–100 and females were most affected than males.

Comments: The study shows that the vulnerability and frequency of disease may decrease when the medicine is prescribed on the basis of individualisation.

TRITURATION PROCESS ENHANCES CHARACTERISTICS OF SOLID MIXTURES

Title: Physicochemical properties of zinc and lactose in solid mixtures: Influence of trituration process

Authors: Clarissa Fontes, Adriana P. Oliveira, João V.C. Batista, Cleo Martins, André Rossi, Enrique R. Yapuchura, Priscila Furtado, Paloma Meireles, Marcia Alves Marques Capella, Paulo H.S. Picciani, Carla Holandino

Journal: Homoeopathy, DOI: 10.1055/s-0041-1735984

Summary: The study was conducted to evaluate the physicochemical properties of dynamised solid mixtures, namely metallic zinc and lactose, evidencing the interactions between all chemical components by different analytical techniques. Atomic absorption spectrometry analysis detected zinc up to the third decimal dilution mixture. The trituration process induced changes in diffraction patterns of dynamised solid mixtures and in both peak intensity and position in XRD (X-ray diffraction) experiments; such changes became measurable in mixtures containing higher concentrations of zinc. Scanning electron microscopy micrographs showed a significant reduction of particle size throughout the trituration process. The crushing process highlighted enthalpy variations, probably due to interatomic changes in which zinc metal would be organized in specific domains, generating higher organized crystals, as evidenced by XRD. Thermal analysis is a sensitive tool to differentiate dynamised and non-dynamised samples regarding enthalpy values, with changes in the crystallinity and consequent solubility of these mixtures.

Raman analyses showed variation in vibration frequencies due to the dynamisation procedure.

Comments: Since the scientific evidence on this topic was almost non-existent, this study contributes effectively in the understanding of solid dynamised homoeopathic systems.

APIS MELLIFICA – HOMOEOPATHIC REMEDY FOR DENGUE SHOCK SYNDROME

Title: Dengue shock syndrome: Its similarity with anaphylaxis and with the homoeopathic medicine *Apis mellifica* (European Honeybee)

Author: Cornelia Richardson-Boedler

Journal: Homoeopathy, DOI: 10.1055/s-0041-1734027

Summary: The study has highlighted the role of homoeopathic remedy *Apis mellifica* as a prophylactic and therapeutic medicine for the life-threatening dengue shock syndrome with features of anaphylaxis. In both dengue and anaphylaxis, immunoglobulin E activates, and released vasoactive mediators (importantly histamine, tryptase and platelet-activating factor) cause a vascular permeability, enabling shock. In dengue, another mechanism, namely antibody-dependent enhancement, due to secondary infection with a heterologous dengue serotype, is associated with release of vasoactive mediators. *Apis mellifica* proved to be effective for plasma leak, shock and the serous effusion noted in dengue patients.

Comments: *Apis mellifica* is suggested as a preventive and curative homoeopathic therapy. However, volume replacement therapy remains the crucial clinical allopathic intervention, preventing and diverting the shock syndrome.

HOMOEOPATHY IN SUBCLINICAL HYPOTHYROIDISM

Title: Homoeopathic Treatment of Subclinical Hypothyroidism – A Series of 19 Cases

Authors: Luiz Carlos Esteves Grelle, Luiz Antonio Bastos Camacho

Journal: Homoeopathy, DOI: 10.1055/s-0041-1734028

Summary: Subclinical hypothyroidism (SCH) is defined as an elevated serum thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH) level associated with normal total thyroxine (T4) or free thyroxine (FT4) and total triiodothyronine (T3) levels. The aim of the study was to analyse the evolution of serum TSH levels after a therapeutic homoeopathic intervention in women older than 40 years with SCH. This study is a series of 19 female cases of SCH, with serum TSH levels between 5 and 10 mIU/L, treated exclusively with homoeopathic medicines and followed for a mean duration of 69 months. The homoeopathic therapeutic intervention was successful in 68% of the patients, with serum TSH levels back within the normal range (0.5–5.0 mIU/L).

Comments: This case series supports the use of homoeopathic therapy as an option for managing SCH, with advantages for

achieving therapeutic goals with lower risk of adverse effects. Controlled studies may confirm the potential benefit suggested by this study.

EFFECTIVENESS OF HOMOEOPATHY IN CANCER MANAGEMENT

Title: Homoeopathy effects in patients during oncological treatment: A systematic review

Authors: Anna Wagenknecht, Jennifer Dörfler, Maren Freuding, Lena Josfeld and Jutta Huebner

Journal: Journal of Cancer Research and Clinical Oncology (2022), Doi: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00432-022-04054-6>

Summary: In this systematic review, clinical studies from 1800 until 2020 were included to evaluate evidence of the effectiveness of homoeopathy on physical and mental conditions in patients during oncological treatment. However, out of these studies, only 18 were included at endpoints. A total of 2016 patients were included, of whom 1594 were analysed, due to 422 drop-outs. The number of patients of breast cancer ($n = 1448$), lung cancer ($n = 213$), gastrointestinal cancer ($n = 54$), haematological cancer ($n = 45$), head-and-neck tumours ($n = 40$), renal cell cancer ($n = 28$), sarcoma ($n = 23$), pancreas cancer ($n = 9$) and other types of cancer ($n = 61$). The therapy concepts include single and combination homoeopathic remedies (used systemically or as mouth rinses) of various dilutions. Outcomes assessed were the influence on toxicity of cancer treatment (mostly hot flashes and menopausal symptoms), time to drain removal in breast cancer patients after mastectomy, survival, quality of life, global health and subjective well-being, anxiety and depression as well as safety and tolerance.

The included studies reported heterogeneous results: Some studies described significant differences in quality of life or toxicity of cancer treatment favouring homoeopathy, whereas others did not find an effect or reported significant differences

to the disadvantage of homoeopathy or side effects caused by homoeopathy. The majority of the studies have a low methodological quality.

Comments: This systematic review examined diverse conditions, differing in participant population, treatment options, prognosis and survival rates. Only 11 studies were included for endpoints including nine randomised control trials and two controlled trials. Approach to homoeopathic treatment and objectives of treatment in adjunct to the anticancer treatments over 200 years add to the diversity of the studies and the participants.

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Conflicts of interest

None declared.

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