

Learning from the past: Review of the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy Quarterly Bulletin 2000 (volume 22) and 2001 (volume 23)

AUTHOR'S NOTE

It is apt to say that the past will be your teacher if you learn from it. The Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH) has numerous feathers in its cap in terms of precious and worthy researches carried out in the field of Homoeopathy.

Here is a brief recapitulation of the Quarterly Bulletin, an official publication of CCRH, Volume 22 and 23, published in the years 2000 and 2001, respectively.

Volume 22 (1-2)

First and second issues of Volume 22 of the Quarterly Bulletin are themed as "Drug Standardization Special-I" and are solely dedicated to drug standardization of six indigenous medicinal plants namely *Acalypha indica*, *Andrographis paniculata*, *Acacia nilotica*, *Caesalpinia bonducella*, *Citrullus colocynthis*, and *Momordica charantia*. The detailed information on these medicinal plants has been compiled from the data procured from the Drug Standardization Units established for scientific evaluation.

Each medicinal plant has been described according to its botanical features, distribution, availability, parts used, actions, uses, pharmacognostic aspects, chemical constituents, pharmacology, preparations, its trade and commerce, substitutes, adulterants and agrotechniques used for growing it.

Volume 22 (3-4)

The role of homoeopathic medicines in the treatment of schizophrenia: An analytical report

This analytical report was presented by Shaw R reflecting the scope and efficacy of Homoeopathy in schizophrenia. Fifty cases of schizophrenia including both sexes were spread into four subgroups and were treated in Central Research Institute (CRI) (H), Kottayam, during the year 1988–1990 homoeopathically to analyze their improvement index. Out of fifty cases, six showed excellent improvement, twenty showed moderate improvement, and six showed mild improvement. Group-wise, 2 out of 3 cases of simple schizophrenia, 8 out of 16 hebephrenic schizophrenia, 13 out of 19 catatonic schizophrenia, and 9 out of 12 paranoid schizophrenia cases showed improvement. Depending on the symptomatology, most effective medicines were found to be *Sulphur* (200, 1000, 10M), *Natrum mur* (200, 1000), *Stramonium* (30, 200, 1000), *Nux vomica* (30, 200, 1000), and *Hyoscyamus* (30, 200, 1000).

Drug standardization of *Iris germanica*

Raj J, Tiwari AK and Singh KP in this standardization study reported about the nomenclature, uses, cultivation, collection, parts used, pharmacognosy, pharmacology and toxicology of this medicinal plant.

Establishment of Homoeopathic Information and Documentation Centre

O.P. Verma in this paper highlights the state of development of Homoeopathy with particular reference to India and Southeast Asia, statistically reflecting possible information seekers/users and nonexistence of any well-equipped information center catering to professional informational needs of Homoeopathy in Asia. The paper also highlights the impact of Information Technology on Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy in India and need for establishment of a Homoeopathic Information and Documentation Centre by CCRH to strengthen bibliographical control of the country's own technological output to develop and promote the technical and organizational structure for exchange of data at international level with particular emphasis on Southeast Asia Region and also to create Online Information Services in Homoeopathy.

Volume 23 (1-2)

Drug standardization of *Eclipta Alba*

Raj J, Tiwari AK and Singh KP in this standardization study report about the nomenclature, folklore, medicinal and nonmedicinal uses, distribution, cultivation, collection, parts used, pharmacognosy including microscopical characteristics, pharmacology, and toxicology of this medicinal plant.

Antithrombic activity of *Crataegus oxyacantha* linn. Mother Tincture in albino mice

Singh KP in this paper studied the antithrombic activity of *Crataegus oxyacantha* Linn. mother tincture in adult albino mice. Paralysis and death of an animal following intravenous injection of collagen + epinephrine mixture were considered as an index of thrombosis, which was later confirmed microscopically by observing the aggregation of disintegrated platelets along with white blood corpuscles and red blood corpuscles in the blood capillaries of heart and lung tissues. On the contrary, the ability of *C. oxyacantha* Linn. mother tincture to protect the mice from the paralytic or lethal effect of platelet aggregating agent was considered as an index of antithrombic activity of the drug. It was concluded that *C. oxyacantha* Linn. mother tincture when administered in doses of 0.05ml/mouse twice daily for 3 days

before the intravenous injection of collagen + epinephrine mixture (0.1 ml/mouse) showed protective effects (55.6%) as compared to that observed in the control group.

A review of indian homoeopathic medicinal plants with nomenclatural changes and substitutions

Baburaj *et al.* in this paper reviewed Homoeopathic medicinal plants that have undergone nomenclatural changes as well as those medicinal plants that have altered drug names. A total of 98 species in 81 genera and 46 families of Homoeopathic medicinal plants in India were listed.

Significance of physicochemical standardization in homoeopathy *Psoralea corylifolia* linn. as a model drug

In this study, the importance of standardization of drugs with particular emphasis on identification of genuine drug samples in Homoeopathic system of medicine was highlighted. The physicochemical standards, viz., physical constants, T.L.C. profiles, and spectrophotometric absorbance, of *Psoralea corylifolia* Linn. were laid. The authors Subramanian P and Kumar S concluded that the physicochemical standardization ensures the quality products to consumers as well as benefit and reputation to manufacturers.

Volume 23 (3-4)

Workshop on rheumatoid arthritis

A 3-day workshop on, "Role of Homoeopathy in improving the quality of life of rheumatoid arthritis patients" was organized by CCRH from September 10 to September 12, 2001, with a grant-in-aid from the WHO. The aim of this workshop was to disseminate up-to-date information on the latest advancement related to diagnostic and management of rheumatoid arthritis through Homoeopathy.

The 1st day of the workshop was devoted to an insight into the genesis of the disease and its complications. In the first scientific session, Malhotra R gave a detailed talk on the epidemiology, etiology, pathophysiology, clinical features, laboratory investigations, differential diagnosis, diagnosis, and management of rheumatoid arthritis. In the second session, Mishra RK covered the complications and presentation of rheumatoid arthritis, followed by Swamy MK covering the prevention of deformities and management of rheumatoid arthritis.

The 2nd and 3rd day of the workshop were totally devoted to Homoeopathic treatment covering various facets of rheumatoid arthritis, its management in various stages including the role of dog's saliva (*Lyssin*) and bowel nosodes in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and a comparative study between the modern medicine and Homoeopathy in its treatment. An analytical study on 25 cases of rheumatoid arthritis was also presented during the workshop.

Role of dog's saliva in chronic diseases with special reference to rheumatoid arthritis

For this study, ten cases with a dominant female sex with a ratio of female:male = 2.3:1 were taken with a definite history

of dog bite before the onset of symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis. Quantum improvement of 4%–16% in 3 weeks' time after administering *Lyssin* 200/3 doses-12 hourly was observed. The cases were followed up for 12 visits and each visit was conducted at an interval of 3 weeks. Average improvement was seen to the extent of 36% on Compound Annual Growth Rate % scale and an arbitrary scale was made based on pattern of Hamilton Depression Rating Scale, as the benchmark.

Homoeopathic management of rheumatoid arthritis

In this paper, Chauhan talked about rheumatoid arthritis from the point of view of Homoeopathic disease concept categorizing it to be predominantly sycotic miasmatic dyscrasia. The predisposition, causation, history, hereditary, physical and mental markers, and modalities are also highlighted. The pathology and symptomatic presentation of various stages namely latent primary and secondary are also discussed with the stage-specific therapeutic aim and intervention.

Rheumatoid arthritis, improving the quality of life:

A comparative study

The author Chakravarty R presents a comparative study of clinical status of forty patients each, treated with modern system of medicine and with Homoeopathic medicine. Forty patients aged between 40 and 50 years of age with morning stiffness and arthritis of three or more joints were enrolled in both the groups and followed up for 1 year. It was concluded that Homoeopathy is superior to modern system of medicine in proving quality of life as well as cost-effectiveness.

Managing rheumatoid arthritis: The bowel nosodes way

The author Nayak C presented a double-blind trial, in which 46 patients were enrolled. Homoeopathic medicines including bowel nosodes were compared with placebo for 3 months. *Arnica*, *Arsenicum album*, *Bryonia alba*, *Calcarea carbonica*, *Causticum*, *Ignatia*, *Lachesis*, *Lycopodium*, *Morgan*, *Natrum muriaticum*, *Nux vomica*, *Opium*, *Pulsatilla*, *Rhododendron*, *Rhus tox*, *Ruta*, *Sepia*, *Sulphur*, *Sycotic co.*, and *Thuja* were frequently used medicines in the trial. The results of the study showed that patients on Homoeopathic medicines were significantly improved while those on placebo did not.

A retrospective study on 38 patients to study the effects of bowel nosodes in rheumatoid arthritis concluded that out of 38 patients, marked improvement was noticed in 12 patients and moderate improvement in 11 patients.

Rheumatoid arthritis: An analytical study of 25 cases

In this paper, Gopinadhan S presents an analytical study of 25 cases of rheumatoid arthritis treated under the project psychosomatic disorders at CRI (H), Kottayam, from 1992–1995. Majority of the patients' psychological factors were found to be precipitating factors of the complaint. It

was also found that 20 out of 25 cases were improved with *Rhus tox* and *Pulsatilla*, the most useful potencies being 200, 1M and 10M. Twenty-two out of 25 cases showed improvement, and out of these 22 cases, 21 showed marked reduction in intensity and frequency.

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Conflicts of Interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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