

Learning from the past: Review of the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy Quarterly Bulletin 1998 (volume 20) and 1999 (volume 21)

AUTHOR'S NOTE

"If you want to understand today, you have to search yesterday" was rightly stated by Pearl S Buck. A brief recapitulation of the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy Quarterly Bulletin (CCRH), volume 20 and 21, will not only unfold the researches done by the council previously but also enable the readers to learn from the wisdom of their predecessors.

Volume 20 (1-2)

Screening of homoeopathic drugs for hypoglycemic activity: An experimental approach

Sundaram E. N. in this study investigated the possible hypoglycemic properties of ten homoeopathic drugs/preparations using rabbits as the animal model. Diabetes was induced in the rabbits by injecting alloxan monohydrate intraperitoneally. Hyperglycemic rabbits were administered test drugs, vehicles, and saline at the dose level of 0.15 ml/kg body weight according to the group allocated. The overall result of this experimental model suggested that the potencies of the drugs *Pterocarpus marsupium* and *Cephalandra indica* in Q and 3X, *Momordica charantia* and *Chionanthus virginica* in Q, *Uranium nitricum* in 3X and 6X, and Alloxan in 6X, 30,200,1M produced a significant fall in blood sugar levels in diabetic animals whereas *Bryonia alba* and *Gymnema sylvestre* in Q and 3X, *Iodium* and *Phosphorous* in 6 and 30, and undynamized preparations of alloxan in 6X, 30,200,1M potencies did not show any hypoglycemic effect.

Anti-tetanus activity of *Hypericum perforatum*: An experimental approach

This study was carried out by Kumar S. and Singh D. M. to evaluate anti-tetanus potential of *Hypericum perforatum* in experimental mice. It was observed that the drug in 30 and 200 potencies at a dose level of 50 µL/100 g b.w. discerned statistically significant protective response to a tetanic dose of strychnine when compared to vehicle/saline/six potencies of test drug-treated groups. Parallel studies with 6 mg/100 g b.w. phenobarbitone sodium administration gave a similar protective response as observed in *H. perforatum* in 30 and 200 potencies.

Research studies in filaria

This is a report by Mishra N. on the study carried out at the Homoeopathic Research Institute, Puri, comprising 352 fresh cases who had filarial attacks but not marked chronic pathology. The aim of the study was to observe the success of homoeopathic therapy in containing these cases from

developing chronic irreversible lymphedema if treated early. Remarkable results were achieved after a follow-up period of 1–3 years as 281 cases out of 352 did not develop lymphedema at all. The remedy that came out to be most effective was *Rhus tox* followed by *Sulphur*.

Additions to a checklist of homoeopathic plants of India

Rajan *et al.* presented this paper, wherein forty species belonging to 36 genera and 28 families of the taxa used in the homoeopathic system of medicine found in Indian subcontinent were analyzed for addition to "A checklist of homoeopathic medicinal plants of India," published by CCRH. The nomenclature of all the taxa was updated, and synonyms from various homoeopathic books/journals were cited along with valid names wherever required. This treatise provided comprehensive and authentic knowledge of particular plants used in homoeopathic system of medicine and its distribution in India.

Workshop on diabetes mellitus and its homoeopathic treatment: A report

A three-day "workshop on diabetes mellitus and its homoeopathic treatment" was organized by the CCRH on August 10, 1998, with a grant-in-aid from the WHO. The aim of this workshop was to disseminate up-to-date information related to the diagnosis and management of diabetes mellitus. The 1st day was totally devoted to the knowledge of the disease. Ram B. K. initiated the session by giving introduction and pathophysiology of diabetes mellitus in detail, followed by Satvik V. and Kaur T. discussing the diagnostic investigations and dietetic management of diabetes mellitus, respectively. The main speaker of the 2nd day was Humranwala P., who distinctively explained through case presentations, ways of differentiating similar looking drugs. On the 3rd day, other three speakers presented their cases and suggested homoeopathic medicines with rare indications in diabetes mellitus.

Volume 20 (3-4)

Diabetes mellitus and Homoeopathy

The authors Sharma A. and Oberai P. compacted all the programs undertaken by the CCRH in research on diabetes in their paper. Under the drug research program, they reported an experiment conducted on alloxan-induced diabetes rats to establish the therapeutic action of homoeopathic drugs vis-à-vis their toxicological and pharmacological spectra. It was revealed that *C. indica* Q and *Absinthium D1/Resina laricis* D3 exhibit perceptible hypoglycemic activity,

Syzygium jambolanum Q was found toxic, and *Abroma augusta* Q has mild hypoglycemic effect. Clinical verification of *C. indica*, *Gymnema sylvestre*, *Abroma Augusta*, and *Syzygium jambolanum* was done. The results validated the symptomatology of diabetes mellitus evolved from the pathogenetic trial of *Abroma augusta*. A clinical research study was carried out on 204 patients of noninsulin-dependent diabetes mellitus to verify the hypoglycemic effects of *C. indica* Q. One hundred and two cases showed varying degrees of improvement, both symptomatic and in blood sugar level after the administration of *C. indica* Q.

The salient features of tribal health problems in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Poddar A. in this paper has presented the scenario of the indigenous tribes of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The author has specifically studied and elaborated the prevalent health problems among the Great Andamanese, Onge, Shompen, Nicobarese, Jarawa, and Sentinelese tribes. Infant and child mortality rates are alarming due to the high prevalence of undernutrition and anemia among Great Andamanese. Helminthic infestations such as *Trichuris trichiura* were frequently found among the Onge tribe. Shompen tribe was relatively healthier among others; however, unbalanced sex ratio poses a threat to future existence of the community. It was observed from a comprehensive health survey that osteoarthritis of the hip and knee was very common among Nicobarese tribe. Very little was known about the health status of the other two tribes because of their isolation from the modern civilization.

Pharmacognosy: Its significance and perspectives in homoeopathic drug research in India

Pharmacognosy is a branch of science that deals with the history, distribution, cultivation, collection, selection, preparation, commerce, evaluation, identification, preservation, and use of drugs. Rao P. P. in this paper explains how the factors such as climate, temperature, rainfall, and altitude influence drug production. The author also highlights the importance of the evaluation of crude drug through the identification of raw drug and determination of quality and purity. The methods employed to evaluate are organoleptic, microscopic, biological, physical, and chemical. About 96 drugs had been pharmacognostically worked out in the Drug Standardisation Unit, Hyderabad, till 1998.

In another paper, Rao P. P. and Rajagopal T. in view of the potential therapeutic value of *Cytisus scoparius* as heart tonic, diuretic, and cardiac and respiratory stimulant undertook the pharmacognostic study of its young stems. They presented the histochemistry, microscopic characters, preliminary color reactions, and ultraviolet (UV) studies of *C. scoparius* in their paper to lay down the standards for preparation of this drug.

Clinical research study on Japanese encephalitis

During the epidemic of Japanese encephalitis (JE) in October 1991, *Belladonna* was worked out as genus epidemicus based on the epidemiological investigations conducted by the CCRH

in four districts of Uttar Pradesh. A single dose of *Belladonna* 200 was distributed as a preventive drug to 322,812 persons in 96 villages. Follow-up of 39,250 patients revealed no signs and symptoms in this population. However, by 1998, Gorakhpur in Eastern Uttar Pradesh had become endemic for JE. Based on the study conducted in 1991, a preliminary controlled study to analyze the effects of *Belladonna* as prophylactic in JE was initiated. A unit was setup in Gorakhpur, and protocol was formulated with defined parameters to conduct the study. The protocol is presented by Sharma A. and Oberai P. in this paper.

Volume 21 (1-2)

This special issue of the bulletin on "Wheezing Syndrome" presented the activities of the Clinical Research Unit, Shimla, on the assigned project on bronchial asthma in a synoptic form. A study on 331 patients of asthma showed that simultaneous use of homoeopathic medicines with bronchodilator drugs and inhalers is not only effective but also perhaps the only method to treat drug-dependent patients, and allopathic medicines can be gradually withdrawn in a tapering off manner. The author Sharma S. R. further in his synopsis detailed about bronchial asthma, its triggering factors, and its management along with the case reports.

Koppikar S. P. in another paper of this issue has concisely given the postures or expressions of forty homoeopathic remedies in acute asthmatic situations, which are almost definite pictures of their respective patients.

Patel R. P. in his paper entitled, "Bronchial Asthma, A study with reference to repertory in the selection of drug(s)" listed the pathognomonic as well as the nonpathognomonic/uncommon rubrics of the disease followed by ranking of drugs which are coming out prominently from the study of common and uncommon rubrics.

Volume 21 (3-4)

Placebo therapy/iatrotherapy

It is a literary review presented by Shaw R., wherein he tried to bring forth the excerpts on iatrotherapy. He began by giving the glimpse of the meaning of the word "placebo" and how it had cropped in the medical literature. The article quoted dictum of various authors of medicine about the placebo effects, evolution of placebo therapy, and mode of placebo effect. He also discusses that ethical implications must be considered when the effects of new drugs are assessed in controlled trials.

Study of antifertility effects of some homoeopathic drugs in experimental animals: A preliminary trial

This study intended at finding a safe, acceptable, and inexpensive homoeopathic medicine with antifertility properties. Sundaram E. N. investigated the antifertility effects of six homoeopathic drugs (*Juniperus sabina*, *Viburnum opulus*, *Azadirachta indica*, *Achyranthes aspera*, *Crocus sativus*, and *Caulophyllum* in Q) for their antioviulatory and anti-implantation effects in female rats and four drugs (*Lycopodium*, *Turnera diffusa*, *Sabal serrulata*, *Vitex agnus-castus* in Q) for their antispermato-genic activities in male mice. The results obtained from this

preliminary study indicated that homoeopathic drugs possess antifertility activities in experimental rats.

Phytochemical standardization of *Acorus calamus* Linn

Acorus calamus L. is a semiaquatic perennial aromatic herb that produces creeping rhizomes similar to ginger. Because of its important medicinal value in the clinical conditions of diarrhea, dysentery, kidney, liver, and skin troubles, the phytochemical standardization of *A. calamus* was done at the Homoeopathic Drug Research Institute, Lucknow, by the CCRH to lay down a standard for raw drugs and finished products. Subramanian *et al.* attempted to study the physicochemical constants, chromatography, and UV absorbance of *A. calamus* and concluded that the drug can be easily identified and differentiated by these parameters.

Financial Support and Sponsorship

Nil.

Conflicts of Interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

Manjula Narang Kapoor

Senior Research Fellow,
Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy,
New Delhi, India
E-mail: drmanjulananarang02@gmail.com

This is an open access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 License, which allows others to remix, tweak, and build upon the work non-commercially, as long as the author is credited and the new creations are licensed under the identical terms.

Access this article online	
Quick Response Code: 	Website: www.ijrh.org
	DOI: 10.4103/0974-7168.188243

How to cite this article: Kapoor MN. Learning from the past: Review of the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy Quarterly Bulletin 1998 (volume 20) and 1999 (volume 21). Indian J Res Homoeopathy 2016;10:211-3.