

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Latest homoeopathic research synopsis during April - June, 2014

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INTERIM RESULTS OF A RANDOMISED CONTROLLED TRIAL OF HOMEOPATHIC TREATMENT FOR IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME

Journal reference: Homeopathy, Volume 103, Issue 3, 2014, Pages 172-177.

Authors: Peckham EJ, Relton C, Raw J, Walters C, Thomas K, Smith C, Kapur K, Said E

Summary: This ongoing three-armed trial investigated the efficacy of Homoeopathy as an additive to standard care in reducing irritable bowel symptom severity score over 26 weeks in 94 patients. Though results are promising, no statistically significant difference could be elicited between the three arms.

Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24931748>

CHINA RUBRA FOR SIDE-EFFECTS OF QUININE: A PROSPECTIVE, RANDOMISED STUDY IN PREGNANT WOMEN WITH MALARIA IN COTONOU, BENIN

Journal reference: Homeopathy, Volume 103, Issue 3, 2014, Pages 165-171.

Authors: Danno K, Rerolle F, de Sigalony S, Colas A, Terzan L, Bordet MF

Summary: The efficacy of additive homoeopathic *China rubra* 7CH to standard therapy was evaluated on the side-effects of Quinine used as treatment for acute malaria in pregnant women in Cotonou, Benin in an open, prospective, comparative, randomised study with the aim to compare the frequency of side effect of Quinine in the two groups. Two-hundred and eleven women were recruited: 105 received quinine plus *China rubra* 7CH (*China* group) and 106 received Quinine only (standard group).

A decrease in proportion of patients presenting with side effects was observed in the *China* group, whereas, the proportion of patients with side effects in the standard group did not change significantly. 72.4% patients in the *China* group and 97.2% in the standard group reported at least one side effect during follow-up. This preliminary study showed promising results in favour of additive Homoeopathy.

Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24931747>

HOMEOPATHIC TREATMENT IN ADDITION TO STANDARD CARE IN MULTI DRUG RESISTANT PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS: A RANDOMIZED, DOUBLE BLIND, PLACEBO CONTROLLED CLINICAL TRIAL

Journal reference: Homeopathy, Volume 103, Issue 2, 2014, Pages 97-107.

Authors: Chand KS, Manchanda RK, Mittal R, Batra S, Banavaliker JN, De I

Summary: A randomized, double blind, placebo controlled study was conducted on 120 diagnosed Multiple Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB) patients (both culture positive and negative) to evaluate the efficacy of individualized homoeopathic therapy as an adjunct to standard care. The outcome measures were sputum conversion, changes in chest X-ray, haemoglobin, Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate (ESR), weight gain, and clinical improvement. There was improvement in all the outcome measures as per intention to treat and per protocol analyses. Additive Homoeopathy in addition to standard therapy appeared to improve outcomes in MDR-TB.

Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24685414>

OBSERVATIONAL STUDY OF ARCTIUM LAPPA IN THE TREATMENT OF ACNE VULGARIS

Journal reference: Homeopathy, Volume 103, Issue 3, 2014, Pages 203-207.

Authors: Miglani A, Manchanda RK

Summary: An uncontrolled observational interventional study was conducted on 34 patients to evaluate the role of homeopathic remedy, *Arctium lappa* in treatment of acne over a period of 6 months. Objective assessment was change in acne lesion counts supplemented with Global Acne Grading System (GAGS) and subjective assessment by using Acne-Specific Quality of Life questionnaire (Acne-QoL). Statistical significant results were seen in lesion counts, GAGS and Acne-QoL score.

Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24931753>

DO HOMEOPATHIC PATHOGENETIC TRIALS GENERATE RECOGNISABLE AND REPRODUCIBLE SYMPTOM PICTURES? RESULTS FROM A PILOT PATHOGENETIC TRIAL OF OZONE 30C

Journal reference: Homeopathy, Volume 103, Issue 2, 2014, Pages 108-112.

Authors: Sherr J, Quirk T, Tournier AL

Summary: The objective of this study was to test whether Homeopathic Pathogenetic Trials (HPTs) could generate consistent and recognisable sets of symptoms in consecutive trials. Seven practising homeopaths, blinded to the homeopathic medicine under investigation (*Ozone 30C*), were given the set of symptoms generated during an unpublished HPT and asked to identify the homeopathic medicine used. The selection of the correct homeopathic medicine from the unrestricted list ($n = 2372$ medicines) by two homeopaths was noteworthy and suggested that such symptom pictures generated by taking an ultramolecular homeopathic medicine were recognizable and specific to the substance taken, and that HPT-generated symptom pictures were reproducible, thus validating the HPT methodology.

Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24685415>

EFFECT OF ORALLY ADMINISTERED POTENTISED CAPSAICIN AND DIHYDROCAPSAICIN IN HUMANS: A HOMEOPATHIC PATHOGENETIC TRIAL

Journal reference: Forschende Komplementärmedizin, Volume 21, Issue 3, 2014, Pages 172-177.

Author: Shah R

Summary: This double blind, randomized, placebo controlled homeopathic pathogenetic trial was conducted on 22 healthy human volunteers (verum: 15, placebo: 7) by administering orally a combination of *capsaicin* and *dihydrocapsaicin* as a single remedy in 30C potency over a period of 5 weeks. In contrast with placebo, qualitatively and quantitatively a distinct symptomatology was elicited, especially pain and inflammation, involving upper and lower respiratory tracts, skin, joints, muscles, gastrointestinal and urinary tract. Clinically usable data were generated and the elicited 136 symptoms were comparable with the toxicological effect of the crude substance.

Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25060156>

COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE (CAM) IN OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY: A SURVEY OF OFFICE-BASED OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS REGARDING ATTITUDES TOWARDS CAM, ITS PROVISION AND COOPERATION WITH OTHER CAM PROVIDERS IN THE STATE OF HESSE, GERMANY

Journal reference: Archives of Gynecology and Obstetrics, 2014 [Epub ahead of print].

Authors: Münstedt K, Maisch M, Tinneberg HR, Hübner J

Summary: This survey elicited Homeopathy as one of the preferable CAM methods for the treatment of puerperal problems, as considered by more than half of the office-based obstetricians and gynaecologists in the state of Hesse, Germany.

Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24973867>

ACCESS TO AND UTILISATION OF THE HEALTH SERVICES AMONG THE PATIENTS IN A GOVERNMENT HOMEOPATHIC HOSPITAL IN WEST BENGAL, INDIA: A CROSS-SECTIONAL STUDY

Journal reference: Journal of Evidence Based Complementary and Alternative Medicine, 2014. [Epub ahead of print].

Authors: Ghosh S, Saha S, Koley M, Kundu M, Mondal R, Patra S

Summary: This cross-sectional survey on 377 patients aimed to assess the knowledge of the patients of health services, current level of

access to and utilisation of services and to identify barriers and socio-economic disparities in an Indian homoeopathic hospital. Mean knowledge score and perceived mean difficulties in access to and utilisation of services were 68.4% and 78.5%, respectively. Knowledge of the services was influenced by age, residence, education, speaking and reading of Bengali language, and income status. Difficulty in access to and utilisation of the health services were influenced by residence, understanding of Bengali language, and monthly household income. Overall, health service access and utilization appeared promising, but needed improvement.

Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24924431>

CAM USE IN PEDIATRIC NEUROLOGY: AN EXPLORATION OF CONCURRENT USE WITH CONVENTIONAL MEDICINE

Journal reference: PLoS One, Volume 9, Issue 4, 2014, Pages e94078.

Authors: Galicia-Connolly E, Adams D, Bateman J, Dagenais S, Clifford T, Baydala L, King WJ, Vohra S

Summary: This study assessed the use of CAM among patients presenting to neurology clinics at two academic centres in Canada. Overall CAM use was 48-78%; however, often remained undisclosed to physicians and pharmacists, increasing the possibility of interactions with conventional drugs. Homoeopathy was among the most frequently used (24%) CAM modalities. Most of the respondents felt that it was helpful, with few or no harms associated.

Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24736474>

COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE AND GENERAL PRACTICE IN AN URBAN SETTING: A DECADE ON

Journal reference: Primary Health Care Research and Development, Volume 15, Issue 3, 2014, Pages 262-267.

Authors: Perry R, Dowrick C, Ernst E

Summary: This survey aimed at ascertaining changes in usage, referral rate, beliefs and attitudes towards CAM during the last decade by the General Practitioners (GP) at Liverpool. GPs felt most comfortable with acupuncture. In comparison with an earlier survey, opinions about Homoeopathy had become less supportive and overall, GPs were less likely to endorse CAMs than previously shown.

Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23574689>

COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE (CAM) USE IN AN ITALIAN COHORT OF PAEDIATRIC HEADACHE PATIENTS: THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG

Journal reference: Neurological Sciences, Volume 35, Issue Supplementary 1, Pages 145-148.

Authors: Dalla Libera D, Colombo B, Pavan G, Comi G

Summary: This survey pointed out the pattern of CAM use in an Italian cohort of paediatric headache patients. Amongst various CAM modalities, Homoeopathy was a frequently used (47%) therapy; however, preferences varied among prescribers. Integrated approach with meticulous investigations concerning the safety and efficacy of CAM modalities were warranted.

Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24867852>

THE MATHEMATICS OF DILUTION

Journal reference: Homeopathy, Volume 103, Issue 2, 2014, Pages 143-146.

Author: Chatterjee BK

Summary: Examination of dilution using the Langmuir adsorption model showed that homoeopathic medicines might not be as dilute as a simplistic application of Avogadro's principle suggested, due to surface effects.

Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24685420>

ANTI-RHEUMATOID AND ANTI-OXIDANT ACTIVITY OF HOMEOPATHIC *GUAIAECUM OFFICINALE* IN AN ANIMAL MODEL

Journal reference: Homeopathy, Volume 103, Issue 2, 2014, Pages 133-138.

Authors: Sarkar A, Datta P, Das AK, Gomes A

Summary: This study evaluated the anti-rheumatic and anti-oxidant activity of homoeopathic *Guaiacum officinale* mother tincture, 30C, and 200C on iatrogenically induced rheumatoid arthritis in male albino rats. After treatment, significant normalization of the inflammatory biomarkers was observed in the *Guaiacum* group compared to control group. These findings suggest that homoeopathic *G. officinale* possesses anti-rheumatic and anti-oxidant activity in experimental animal and these activities may be more significant in higher potencies.

Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24685418>

EXPLORING THE EFFECTS OF HOMEOPATHIC APIS MELLIFICA PREPARATIONS ON HUMAN GENE EXPRESSION PROFILES

Journal reference: Homeopathy, Volume 103, Issue 2, 2014, Pages 127-132.

Authors: Bigagli E, Luceri C, Bernardini S, Dei A, Filippini A, Dolara P

Summary: The present study was designed to explore the effects on global gene expression profiles of human immortalised prostate epithelial cells by means of microarrays, using *Apis mellifica* mother tincture (MT) and its 3C, 5C, 7C dynamised dilutions. Gene expression was modified and inhibitory effects on regulatory processes of inflammation and oxidative stress was observed.

Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24685417>

REPRODUCIBILITY OF EFFECTS OF HOMEOPATHICALLY POTENTISED GIBBERELIC ACID ON THE GROWTH OF LEMNA GIBBA L. IN A RANDOMISED AND BLINDED BIOASSAY

Journal reference: Homeopathy 2014, Volume 103, Issue 2, Pages 113-126.

Authors: Majewsky V, Scherr C, Arlt SP, Kiener J, Frrokaj K, Schindler T, Klocke P, Baumgartner S

Summary: This study investigated the reproducibility of the formerly observed effects of homoeopathically potentised *Gibberellic Acid* (GA3) on growth of duckweed (*Lemnagibba L.*). Growth rate increased in contrast to the former study and most biologically active potency levels differed. Gibbosity (a specific growth state of *L. gibba*) seemed to be a necessary condition for reactivity to potentised GA3.

Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24685416>

COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE FOR CANCER PAIN: AN OVERVIEW OF SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS

Journal reference: Evidence Based Complementary and Alternative Medicine, 2014, Article ID 170396.

Authors: Bao Y, Kong X, Yang L, Liu R, Shi Z, Li W, Hua B, Hou W

Summary: This review identified, apart from other CAM modalities, evidence of Homoeopathy (Traumeel®) in alleviating cancer pain. The evidence levels were low to moderate due to high risk of bias and/or small sample size of primary studies. Future large and rigor randomized controlled studies are needed to confirm the benefits obtained.

Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24817897>

PATTERNS OF COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE (CAM) USE IN CHILDREN: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

Journal reference: European Journal of Pediatrics, 2014 [Epub ahead of print].

Authors: Italia S, Wolfenstetter SB, Teuner CM

Summary: This review summarised the findings for prevalence (10.9-87.6% for lifetime use and 8-48.5% for current use) and predictors (higher parental income and education, older children) of CAM use among children/adolescents. The respective percentages for Homoeopathy (highest in Germany, UK, and Canada) ranged from 0.8-39% (lifetime) and from 1-14.3% (current). Prevalence rates varied widely regarding CAM modality, country, and reported recall period.

Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24782030>

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