

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Latest homoeopathic research synopsis during July – September (2014)

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COMPLEMENTARY THERAPIES IN INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASES

Journal reference: Current Drug Targets. 2014 Sept 3. [Epub ahead of print]

Authors: Esters P, Dignass A

Summary: This review aimed to give a concise overview on the existing use of various complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) therapies in Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) patients. Some of the CAM agents exerted plausible biological effects, however, still questionable as most of the reported studies contained methodological problems, and thus warrant further investigation with controlled design to show therapeutic benefits and safety of CAM.

MAKING SENSE OF PRIOR PROBABILITIES IN RESEARCH

Journal reference: Trends in Molecular Medicine 2014 Sept. 30. pii: S1471-4914(14)00144-0. [Epub ahead of print]

Authors: Rutten LA, Mathie RT, Manchanda RK

Summary: Prior probabilities can be so low that putting them to the test makes no sense. Randomized controlled trial (RCT) was demanded because of the low prior probability of clinical methods such as Homoeopathy. Interestingly, the mention of prior chance and its updating using Bayes' theorem arose after a considerable number of RCTs of Homoeopathy were subjected to meta-analysis; this concluded that the results were not compatible with the placebo hypothesis for Homoeopathy.

HOW FEEDBACK BIASES GIVE INEFFECTIVE MEDICAL TREATMENTS A GOOD REPUTATION

Journal reference: Journal of Medical Internet Research, Volume 16, Issue 8, 2014, Page 193.

Authors: De Barra M, Eriksson K, Strimling P

Summary: Online reviews overestimate the benefits of medical treatments, probably because people with negative outcomes are less inclined to tell others about their experiences, and the people who improve are more inclined to tell others about their experiences than the people who deteriorate. This bias can enable ineffective medical treatments to maintain a good reputation.

HOMOEOPATHY IN THE TREATMENT OF FIBROMYALGIA – A COMPREHENSIVE LITERATURE-REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS

Journal reference: Complementary Therapies in Medicine, Volume 22, Issue 4, 2014, Pages 731-742.

Authors: Boehm K, Raak C, Cramer H, Lauche R, Ostermann T

Summary: After searching several electronic databases, this systemic review identified 10 case reports, three observational studies, one non-randomized and four randomized controlled trials (RCTs) on Homoeopathy for fibromyalgia. Standardized mean differences (SMD) with 95% confidence intervals (CI) were calculated and meta-analyzed using the generic inverse variance method. Both case reports and observational studies were predominated by the use of qualitative and not validated outcome measures. Meta-analyses of RCTs

revealed possible beneficial effects of Homoeopathy on tender point count, pain intensity and fatigue compared to placebo; still, any conclusion has to be regarded as preliminary.

THE MAKING CASES COUNT INITIATIVE

Journal reference: Complementary Therapies in Medicine, Volume 22, Issue 4, 2014, Pages 621-624.

Authors: Relton C, Viksveen P, Kessler U

Summary: The 'Making Cases Count' initiative has been created in order to bring about a culture where easily understood, trusted and salient information is regularly made available to all stakeholders in homeopathy. This initiative supports, guides and encourages homeopaths to collect routine data from their patients in a format ready to be transformed into an anonymized, summarized form and strengthened through the use of validated outcome measures by hearing patients' voices.

A GENTLE ETHICAL DEFENCE OF HOMOEOPATHY

Journal reference: Journal of Bioethical Inquiry. 2014 Jul 19. [Epub ahead of print]

Authors: Levy D, Gadd B, Kerridge I, Komesaroff PA

Summary: Recent discourses about the legitimacy of Homoeopathy frequently questioned its scientific plausibility, mechanism of action, evidence base, and ethics of use. Challenging the utilitarian skeptics, the authors suggested that Homoeopathy was not only ethical by fulfilling the needs and expectations of many patients; but also might be practiced safely and prudentially by valuing care and the virtues of the therapeutic relationship; and providing important benefits for patients.

HAHNEMANN AND PLACEBO

Journal reference: Homoeopathy, Volume 103, Issue 3, 2014, Pages 208-212.

Author: Jütte R

Summary: This study was based upon unpublished documents (e.g. patients' letters) in the Archives of the Institute for the History of Medicine of the Robert Bosch Foundation in Stuttgart, the critical edition of Hahnemann's case journals and the editorial comments. Samuel Hahnemann was the first

physician who administered placebos to his patients (54–85% prescriptions). He had differentiated clearly between homeopathic drugs and pharmaceutical substances (sham medicine). The rationale behind this practice was that Hahnemann had encountered the well-known problem that patients were used to taking medicine on a daily basis as it was typical for the age of heroic medicine. The main reason for giving placebo was therefore to please the impatient patient who was used to frequent medications in allopathic medicine, not only every day but sometimes also hourly.

ADDITIONAL EFFECTS OF HOMOEOPATHY ON CHRONIC PERIODONTITIS: A 1-YEAR FOLLOW-UP RANDOMIZED CLINICAL TRIAL

Journal reference: Complementary Therapies in Clinical Practice, Volume 20, Issue 3, 2014, Pages 141-146.

Authors: Mourão LC, Cataldo DM, Moutinho H, Fischer RG, Canabarro A

Summary: Fifty patients with Chronic Periodontitis (CP) were randomly allocated into two treatment groups: Scaling and root planning (control group) and scaling and root planning with Homoeopathy (Homoeopathy group) and assessed at baseline, after 3 months and 12 months of treatments. After one year, though both groups displayed significant local and systemic improvements, but Homoeopathy group performed significantly better than control group.

OBSERVATIONS ON THE EFFECTS OF ODOURS ON THE HOMOEOPATHIC RESPONSE

Journal reference: Homoeopathy, Volume 103, Issue 3, Pages 198-202.

Authors: Moira McGuigan

Summary: Samuel Hahnemann described disputed homeopathic response by noxious smells (by vomeronasal cells) in the environment. The responses were interfered by various types of pungent or noxious smells, strong animal smells, strong plant and fungal odors, strong perfumes, normal odors in high concentration. This paper presented two clinical cases as an example of disruption of the homeopathic response and also showing the re-establishment of their healing responses after timely repetition of the medicine.

TWO CASES OF FULMINANT HEPATIC FAILURE FROM AMANITA PHALLOIDES POISONING TREATED ADDITIVELY BY HOMOEOPATHY

Journal reference: The Ochsner Journal, Volume 14, Issue 2, 2014, Pages 252-258.

Authors: Frass M, Zagorchev P, Yurukova V, Wulkersdorfer B, Thieves K, Zedtwitz-Liebenstein K, Bursch W, Kaye AD

Summary: The study presented two case reports of severe hepatic failure following intoxication with *Amanita phalloides*. The patients were treated by conventional intensive care treatment with additive classical Homeopathy. First patient suffered from hepatic failure solely, and the second patient experienced associated severe organ failure. The findings showed adjunctive homoeopathic treatment has a role (without any residual pathological sequelae) in the treatment following mushroom poisoning.

COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINES AND CHILDHOOD ECZEMA: A US POPULATION-BASED STUDY

Journal reference: Dermatitis, Volume 25, Issue 5, 2014, Pages 246-54.

Authors: Silverberg JI, Lee-Wong M, Silverberg NB

Summary: The survey analyzed data from the 2007 National Health Interview Survey that included a nationally representative sample of 9417 children to determine the eczema prevalence in association with CAM usage. The survey showed overall, 46.9% of children in the United States used one or more CAM, of which 0.99% used CAM specifically to treat their eczema, including Homoeopathy (0.20%). Several CAMs, including Homoeopathy, used for other purposes were associated with increased eczema prevalence; however, some CAMs might actually be harmful and be associated with higher eczema prevalence.

GENERAL PRACTITIONERS USING COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE DIFFER FROM GENERAL PRACTITIONERS USING CONVENTIONAL MEDICINE IN THEIR VIEW OF THE RISKS OF ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS: A POSTAL SURVEY FROM GERMANY

Journal reference: J Prim Care Community Health. 2014 Aug 20. pii: 2150131914546332. [Epub ahead of print]

Authors: Kowall B, Breckenkamp J, Berg-Beckhoff G

Summary: A total of 2795 German General Physicians (GPs) were randomly drawn and sent an either long or short self-administered postal questionnaire on electromagnetic field (EMF) related topics. Study findings disclosed that CAM-GPs perceived stronger associations between EMF and health problems than COM-GPs. And among CAM-GPs, GPs using Homoeopathy perceived EMF as more risky than GPs using acupuncture or naturopathic treatment.

TASK-SHIFTING CHALLENGES FOR PROVISION OF SKILLED BIRTH ATTENDANCE: A QUALITATIVE EXPLORATION

Journal reference: Int Health. 2014 Aug 4. pii: ihu048. [Epub ahead of print]

Authors: Chandhiok N, Joglekar N, Shrotri A, Choudhury P, Chaudhury N, Singh S.

Summary: An in-depth interview were conducted on 37 AYUSH practitioners working as skilled birth attendance (SBA) under innovative task-shifting strategies and 36 program managers (trainers) in three states (Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Odisha) of India. The study findings revealed that training needs included dedicated trainer, more hands-on practice, strengthening training on newborn care practices and management of complications. The barriers encountered were conditional involvement in SBA-related work, a discriminatory attitude at the workplace and lack of legal/regulatory authorization.

HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL VIEWS AND EXPERIENCES OF COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE THERAPIES IN OBSTETRIC PRACTICE IN NORTH EAST SCOTLAND: A PROSPECTIVE QUESTIONNAIRE SURVEY

Journal reference: British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Volume 121, Issue 8, 2014, Pages 1015-1019.

Authors: Stewart D, Pallivalappila AR, Shetty A, Pande B, McLay JS

Summary: A prospective survey was carried out on 135 healthcare professionals (midwives, obstetricians, anesthetists) in Grampian, North East Scotland. Out of 87% responses, only 32% had recommended the use of CAMs to pregnant women. Although univariate analysis identified

that those who recommended CAMs were significantly more likely to be midwives who had been in post for more than 5 years, had received training in CAMs, were interested in CAMs, and were themselves users of CAMs, but the only variable retained in bivariate logistic regression was personal use of CAM. Homoeopathy was one of the most frequently (50%) recommended CAM modalities.

PHYSICIAN PRACTICING PREFERENCES FOR CONVENTIONAL OR HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICINES IN ELDERLY SUBJECTS WITH MUSCULOSKELETAL DISORDERS IN THE EPI3-MSD COHORT

Journal reference: Clinical Epidemiology, Volume 6, 2014, Pages 333-341. [Epub ahead of print]

Authors: Danno K, Joubert C, Duru G, Vetel JM

Summary: A one year observational study (EPI3 cohort) was conducted among general practitioners (GPs) in France and the sub-analysis was carried out on elderly subjects aged 70 years. Quality of life was measured using the Short Form-12 questionnaire and telephonic interview was conducted with Quick Dash questionnaire, EIFEL scale or Lequesne index at 1, 3 and 12 months. NSAID use was significantly higher in elderly MSD patients consulting a conventional practice and mixed practice GP than homoeopathy practice GPs. In contrast, analgesic use and MSD evolution were similar in the three groups.

INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION: MERGING NURSING, MIDWIFERY AND CAM

Journal reference: British Journal of Nursing, Volume 23, Issue 13, 2014, Pages 740-743.

Authors: Netherwood M, Derham R

Summary: In 2010, third-year students enrolled on adult nursing, midwifery, Homoeopathy and complementary therapies degree courses took part in two workshops and a focus-group discussion for interprofessional education (IPE). The common aim of patient-centered care allowed students to recognize the benefits of a more integrated health system like interaction, breaking down prejudices, knowledge of self and others, common aims; and organizational limitations.

GEOGRAPHICAL AND TEMPORAL DISTRIBUTION OF BASIC RESEARCH EXPERIMENTS IN HOMOEOPATHY

Journal reference: Homoeopathy, Volume 103, Issue 3, 2014, Pages 193-197.

Authors: Clausen J, van Wijk R, Albrecht H

Summary: The database HomBRex (Homoeopathy Basic Research experiments) was established in 2002 to provide an overview of the basic research already done on Homoeopathy. Since 2002, the total number of experiments listed has almost doubled. In July 2013, the database held 1868 entries. Most publications were reported from France (267), followed by Germany (246) and India (237). The oldest database entry was from Germany (1832).

DIVERSE BIOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF ELECTROMAGNETIC-TREATED WATER

Journal reference: Homoeopathy, Volume 103, Issue 3, 2014, Pages 186-192.

Authors: Yamabhai M, Chumsenga S, Yooat K, Srila W

Summary: A study on the effect of electromagnetic-treated water on both animal and plant cells suggested diverse biological outcomes. Purified de-ionised water was treated by boiling, exposure to microwave radiation, and low frequency electromagnetic oscillation Molecular Resonance Effect Technology (MRET), before being used to prepare media for culturing human peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) from three healthy females. PBMC culture in MRET-activated medium showed significantly less oxidative metabolism in comparison to other types of water. Additionally on soybean, results indicated that both MRET- and microwave-treated water greatly enhanced the length of the root.

ANTICANCER POTENTIAL OF CONIUM MACULATUM EXTRACT AGAINST CANCER CELLS IN VITRO: DRUG-DNA INTERACTION AND ITS ABILITY TO INDUCE APOPTOSIS THROUGH ROS GENERATION

Journal reference: Pharmacogn Mag. Volume 10, Issue Supplementary 3, 2014, Pages S524-S533.

Authors: Mondal J, Panigrahi AK, Khuda-Bukhsh AR

Summary: *Conium* treatment on cancer cells illustrated reduced cell viability and colony formation at 48 hours and inhibited cell proliferation, arresting

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cell cycle at sub-G stage. *Conium* treatment also led to increased generation of Reactive Oxygen Species (ROS) at 24 hours, increase in MMP depolarisation, morphological changes and DNA damage in HeLa cells along with externalization of phosphatidyl serine at 48 hours. While cytochrome c release and caspase-3 activation led HeLa cells toward apoptosis, down-regulation of Akt and NFκB inhibited cellular proliferation, indicating the signaling pathway to be mediated via the mitochondria-mediated caspase-3-dependent pathway.

ANTIPLASMODIAL POTENTIAL OF HOMOEOPATHIC DRUGS CHELIDONIUM AND NOSODE AGAINST PLASMODIUM BERGHEI INFECTION

Journal reference: Journal of Complementary and Integrative Medicine, Volume 11, Issue 3, 2014, Pages 195-201.

Authors: Bagai U, Walter NS

Summary: In this study, antimalarial efficacy of combination of two homoeopathic drugs *Chelidonium*

30C and *Nosode 30C* was evaluated *in vivo* against *Plasmodium berghei* infection. Biochemical assays were performed to assess the levels of hepatic and renal function biomarkers upon drug treatment using diagnostic kits. The combination demonstrated considerable *in vivo* antimalarial activity with chemosuppression, enhancement of mean survival time of mice, less increase in levels of the liver function marker enzymes and maintenance of renal sufficiency tested in serum of treated mice than those observed in infected control; thus establishing the effectiveness and safety of the combination.

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