

## RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

# Research highlights: Latest homoeopathic research synopsis during October – December 2014

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### **RANDOMISED PLACEBO-CONTROLLED TRIALS OF INDIVIDUALISED HOMOEOPATHIC TREATMENT: SYSTEMATIC REVIEW AND META-ANALYSIS**

**Journal reference:** Systematic Reviews, Volume 3, Issue 1, 2014, Page 142.

**Authors:** Mathie RT, Llyod SM, Legg LA, Clausen J, Moss S, Davidson JR, Ford I

**Summary:** This systematic review and meta-analysis tested the hypothesis that the outcome of an individualised homoeopathic treatment approach is distinguishable from that of placebo. Thirty-two eligible RCTs studied 24 different medical conditions in total. Twenty-two trials had extractable data and were subjected to meta-analysis, generating OR = 1.53 (95% CI 1.22–1.91). Thus medicines prescribed in individualised Homoeopathy may have small, but specific treatment effects. New high-quality RCT research is necessary to enable more decisive interpretation.

**Source:** <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25480654>

### **VETERINARY HOMOEOPATHY: SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF MEDICAL CONDITIONS STUDIED BY RANDOMISED PLACEBO-CONTROLLED TRIALS**

**Journal reference:** The Veterinary Record, Volume 175, Issue 15, 2014, Pages 373-381.

**Authors:** Mathie RT, Clausen J

**Summary:** This systematic review of randomised controlled trials (RCTs) of veterinary homeopathy aimed to assess risk of bias and to quantify the effect size of homoeopathic intervention compared with placebo. The 18 eligible RCTs were heterogenous, representing four species and 11 different medical conditions. Reliable evidence, free from vested interest, was identified in two trials: Homoeopathic Coli had a prophylactic effect on porcine

diarrhoea (OR = 3.89, 95% CI 1.19–12.68,  $P = 0.02$ ); and individualised homoeopathic treatment did not have a more beneficial effect on bovine mastitis than placebo intervention (standardised mean difference -0.31, 95% CI -0.97–0.34,  $P = 0.35$ ). Scarcity of evidences did not allow drawing any confirmatory conclusion.

**Source:** <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25324413>

### **MANAGEMENT OF ALLERGIC RHINITIS**

**Journal reference:** Faculty of 1000 Prime Reports, Volume 6, 2014, Page 94. doi: 10.12703/P6-94.

**Authors:** Solelhac G, Charpin D

**Summary:** In this paper, the authors reviewed the current standard management of allergic rhinitis (pharmacotherapy, allergen avoidance, and possibly immunotherapy), and new directions for future treatment. Though few alternative therapies including homeopathy though have produced some positive results in small trials, but are not recommended. A comprehensive, multi-trigger, multi-component approach is needed, including avoidance of pollutants.

**Source:** <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4191273>

### **COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE THERAPY (CAM) IN THE TREATMENT OF ALLERGIC RHINITIS**

**Journal reference:** Current Allergy and Asthma Reports, Volume 14, Issue 12, 2014, Pages 479.

**Authors:** Kern J, Bielory L

**Summary:** Recent literature was reviewed in regard to alternative therapies including Homoeopathy in the treatment of allergic rhinitis limited to randomised controlled trials. Several studies demonstrated statistically significant benefits

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to patients' quality of life and symptom scoring without providing duration of effect. Although the adverse effect profile is low, additional studies will be required to further promote integration into standard care.

Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25269403>

### MANAGEMENT OF THE EARLY SYMPTOMS OF INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESSES AND EAR, NOSE AND THROAT (ENT) DISORDERS BY PHARMACISTS

**Journal reference:** Homeopathy, Volume 103, Issue 4, Pages 239-249.

**Authors:** Danno K, Cognet-Dementhon B, Thevenard G, Duru G, Allaert FA, Bordet MF

**Summary:** This prospective, observational study was carried out on a random sample of French pharmacies treating patients with early symptoms of ILI or ENT disorders, the types of medicines dispensed and patient satisfaction with the advice received. 573 patients were recruited by 133 pharmacies. 98.4% of patients received allopathic (usually Paracetamol, 33.5%) and 25.3% homoeopathic (*Oscillocochinum*, 56.6%) treatment, usually combined with allopathy. Compliance was good and 77.2% of patients continued treatment for 3 days. Most symptoms improved significantly after 3 days and quality of life was enhanced. 85.9% of patients were satisfied with the advice received.

Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25439040>

### OPEN-LABEL UNCONTROLLED PILOT STUDY TO EVALUATE COMPLEMENTARY THERAPY WITH RUTA GRAVEOLENS 9C IN PATIENTS WITH ADVANCED CANCER

**Journal reference:** Homeopathy, Volume 103, Issue 4, 2014, Pages 232-238.

**Authors:** Freyer G, You B, Villet S, Tartas S, Fournel-Federico C, Trillet-Lenoir V, Hamizi S, Colomban O, Chavernoz N, Falandry C

**Summary:** Based on the findings of *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies eliciting cytotoxic and anti-proliferative potential towards a range of human and animal cancer-cell lines, and delaying tumour progression and increase survival times, a single-centre, open-label, uncontrolled, pilot study was conducted on 31 patients to investigate whether *Ruta graveolens* 9C in empirical dosage can improve Quality of Life (QoL) and tumour progression in patients

with advanced cancer. QoL global health status improved significantly between baseline and week 8 ( $P < 0.001$ ) and week 16 ( $P = 0.035$ ), but was at the limit of significance ( $P = 0.057$ ) at the end of the study. There was no significant change in anxiety/depression or WHO performance status during treatment. *Ruta graveolens* 9C had no obvious effect on tumour progression. Median survival was 6.7 months. The medicine was well-tolerated. Effectiveness of this treatment remains to be confirmed in further studies.

Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25439039>

### EFFICACY OF HOMOEOPATHIC INTERVENTION IN SUBCLINICAL HYPOTHYROIDISM WITH OR WITHOUT AUTOIMMUNE THYROIDITIS IN CHILDREN: AN EXPLORATORY RANDOMIZED CONTROL STUDY

**Journal reference:** Homeopathy, Volume 103, Issue 4, 2014, Pages 224-231.

**Authors:** Chauhan VK, Manchanda RK, Narang A, Marwaha RK, Arora S, Nagpal L, Verma SK, Sreenivas V

**Summary:** An exploratory, randomized, placebo controlled, single blind trial was undertaken testing the efficacy of individualized homoeopathic treatment on 194 school children suffering from Subclinical Hypothyroidism (SCH) with or without Autoimmune Thyroiditis (AIT). Based on primary outcome measures (TSH and/or antiTPOab), three major groups were formed: Group A – SCH + AIT ( $N = 38$ ; high TSH with antiTPOab +), Group B – AIT ( $N = 47$ ; normal TSH with antiTPOab +) and Group C – SCH ( $N = 109$ ; only high TSH) and were further randomized to two subgroups – verum and control. The post treatment serum TSH (Group A and C) returned to normal limits in 85.94% of verum and 64.29% of controls ( $P < 0.006$ ), while serum Anti TPOab titers (Group A and B) returned within normal limits in 70.27% of verum and 27.02% controls ( $P < 0.05$ ). Eight children (10.5%) progressed to Overt Hypothyroidism (OH) from control group. A statistically significant decline in serum TSH values and antiTPOab titers indicates that the homeopathic intervention has not only the potential to treat SCH with or without antiTPOab, but may also prevent progression to OH.

Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25439038>

### **CORE-HOM: A POWERFUL AND EXHAUSTIVE DATABASE OF CLINICAL TRIALS IN HOMEOPATHY**

**Journal reference:** Homeopathy, Volume 103, Issue 4, 2014, Pages 219-223.

**Authors:** Clausen J, Moss S, Tournier A, Ludtke R, Albrecht H

**Summary:** The CORE-Hom database was created to answer the need for a reliable and publicly available source of information in the field of clinical research in Homeopathy. As of May 2014, it held 1048 entries of clinical trials, observational studies and surveys in the field of Homeopathy, including second publications and re-analyses. 352 of the trials referenced in the database were published in peer reviewed journals, 198 of which were randomised controlled trials. The most studied medical conditions were respiratory tract infections ( $N = 126$ ) and traumatic injuries ( $N = 110$ ). The database is already in use and is still being curated.

**Source:** <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25439037>

### **UNICIST HOMEOPATHY AND PRIMARY HEADACHE**

**Journal reference:** Homeopathic Links, Volume 27, Issue 4, 2014, Pages 252-255.

**Author:** Piraneo S

**Summary:** The author presented the outcome of unicist homeopathic therapy of 39 patients suffering from primary headache (nine pain attacks monthly) using a simple score based on the visual analogue score, the number of pain attacks, and the patients' ingestion of traditional drugs. Homeopathic amelioration followed Vijayakar rules. The average follow-up was of seventeen months. According to the SCORE, no patients worsened during Homeopathic treatment (SCORE W), six patients were unvaried during therapy (SCORE I, 15.3%), seven patients had a mild amelioration (SCORE MI, 18%), eighteen patients had great amelioration (SCORE GI, 46%) and eight were cured definitively by Homeopathy (SCORE H, 20.5%). A high percentage of patients reduced or stopped the use of painkillers. The percentage of 67% of good results (SCORE GI plus H) seemed encouraging.

**Source:** <https://www.thieme-connect.com/products/ejournals/abstract/10.1055/s-0034-1383200>

### **NATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR TRANSLATION OF PROVING RAW DATA INTO REPERTORY RUBRICS**

**Journal reference:** Homeopathic Links, Volume 27, Issue 4, 2014, Pages 240-244.

**Authors:** Eastman C, Huenecke JA, Ivons M, Quirk T, Rowe T, Tamplin S

**Summary:** The American Medical College of Homeopathy, Centre for Homeopathic Education NYC, Homeopathy School UK and North western Academy of Homeopathy have prepared guidelines for the translation of raw proving data into repertory rubrics in order to improve the quality and reliability of homeopathic repertories. By publishing these national guidelines in LINKS homeopaths from other countries are invited to also use them, as repertories are international.

**Source:** <https://www.thieme-connect.com/products/ejournals/abstract/10.1055/s-0034-1383237?device=mobile>

### **GLOBAL PROVING OF NATURAL SILVER**

**Journal reference:** Homeopathic Links, Volume 27, Issue 4, 2014, Pages 238-240.

**Authors:** Shukla C, van der Zee H

**Summary:** In 2005, a project was started called Global Proving which involved three substances, Himalayan Crystal Salt, Natural Silver and Arizona Clay. The idea of using a proving not only to get to know the substance but also and primarily to bring about a change in the collective is new in Homeopathy and this global proving was a first experiment. Similar to what Hahnemann already stated that participating in provings has positive effects for the prover we may assume that the participation of larger numbers of people in a proving may have positive effects on the collective. The results of the second substance, Natural Silver, are discussed in this article.

**Source:** <https://www.thieme-connect.com/products/ejournals/abstract/10.1055/s-0034-1383205>

### **TRANSCRIPTOME PROFILING OF WHEAT SEEDLINGS FOLLOWING TREATMENT WITH ULTRAHIGH DILUTED ARSENIC TRIOXIDE**

**Journal reference:** Evidence Based Complementary and Alternative Medicine, Volume 2014, Article ID 851263, 15 pages.

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**Authors:** Marotti I, Bettil L, Bregola V, Bosi S, Trebbi G, Borghini G, Nani D, Dinelli G

**Summary:** The objective of the present study was to test the hypothesis whether 7-day-old wheat seedlings, grown from seeds either poisoned with a sublethal dose of As<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> or unpoisoned, showed different significant gene expression profiles after the application of ultrahigh diluted As<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (beyond Avogadro's limit) compared to water (control). The results provided evidence for a strong gene modulating effect of ultrahigh diluted As<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> in seedlings grown from poisoned seeds—a massive reduction of gene expression levels to values comparable to those of the control group was observed for several functional classes of genes. A plausible hypothesis was that ultrahigh diluted As<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> treatment induced a re-equilibration of those genes that were up-regulated during the oxidative stress by bringing the expression levels closer to the basal levels normally occurring in the control plants.

**Source:** <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25525452>

### **MODULATION OF INFLAMMATION RESPONSE TO MURINE CUTANEOUS LEISHMANIOSIS BY HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICINES: THYMULIN 5CH**

**Journal reference:** Homeopathy, Volume 103, Issue 4, 2014, Pages 275-284.

**Authors:** Rodrigues de Santana F, Coelho Cde, Cardoso TN, Laurenti MD, Perez Hurtado EC, Bonamin LV

**Summary:** The effect of thymulin 5cH was evaluated versus control (vehicle) in the experimental murine Leishmaniasis, in order to elucidate some aspects of the parasite-host relation under this homeopathic treatment. *Thymulin* 5CH was found to improve B1 cell activation, more organized and exuberant inflammation response in the infection site, decrease in the number of parasites per field inside the primary lesion and thus phagocytosis efficiency in mice.

**Source:** <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25439044>

### **MODULATION OF INFLAMMATION RESPONSE TO MURINE CUTANEOUS LEISHMANIOSIS BY HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICINES: ANTIMONIUM CRUDUM 30CH**

**Journal reference:** Homeopathy, Volume 103, Issue 4, 2014, Pages 264-274.

**Authors:** Rodrigues de Santana F, Coelho Cde, Cardoso TN, Perez Hurtado EC, Roberti Benites N, Laurenti MD, Bonamin LV

**Summary:** The effects of the homeopathic preparation *Antimonium crudum* 30CH was evaluated on experimental infection induced by *Leishmania* (L.) *amazonensis*. In treated mice, during the acute phase, there was significant increase of the macroscopic lesion, associated to inflammatory oedema, as well increase in the number of free amastigotes and B lymphocytes inside the lesion. Increase of B lymphocytes (predominantly B-2 cells) was also seen in the local lymph node, spleen and peritoneum. In the chronic phase, the inflammatory process in the infection focus was reduced, with reduced phagocyte migration and peritoneal increase of B-1a cells and T CD8 + cells.

**Source:** <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25439043>

### **BLUEPRINT FOR DESIGNING AN AIR-FREE FLUID JET POTENTISER**

**Journal reference:** Homeopathic Links, Volume 27, Issue 4, 2014, Pages 245-251.

**Author:** Walisinghe Pathirana

**Summary:** The proposed fluid jet potentiiser is designed to eliminate three persistent drawbacks of the conventional liquid potency making process. It eliminates the need for the container to be shaken, the need for headspace air over the fluid medium and, most importantly, it prevents an admixture of gases with the dilutions being prepared. The headspace gases may interfere with the purity of the potencies by undergoing potentiation themselves. The dilutions are made to agitate with a fluid jet inside a completely filled air-free stationary potentiising chamber. It operates on a unique principle of a closed-loop



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system of single bore counter current turbulent fluid flow. The new process is expected to produce exclusive medicine specific 'clean homoeopathic potencies' by complete elimination of headspace gases. The expected flow patterns were demonstrated in a laboratory setup using a coloured solution.

**Source:** <https://www.thieme-connect.com/products/ejournals/abstract/10.1055/s-0034-1383224>

### COMPARED PERSPECTIVES OF ARAB PATIENTS IN PALESTINE AND ISRAEL ON THE ROLE OF COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE IN CANCER CARE

**Journal reference:** Journal of Pain and Symptom Management 2014. pii: S0885-3924(14)00887-2. doi: 10.1016/j.jpainsymman.2014.10.006. [Epub ahead of print]

**Authors:** Ben-Arye E, Hamadeh AM, Schiff E, Jamous RM, Dagash J, Jamous RM, *et al.*

**Summary:** The authors aimed to compare the perspectives of two Arab populations (324 respondents in each group) residing in diverse settings in Palestine and Israel regarding Complimentary Medicines (CM's) role in supportive cancer care by a 27-item questionnaire. Compared with the Israeli-Arab group, Palestinian participants reported significantly higher CM use for cancer-related outcomes, which included more herbal use, and significantly lower use of other CMs including Homoeopathy. Overall, the respondents highly supported CM integration within their oncology institutions aiming to improve quality of life, still differed in their perceived model of CM integration, its treatment objectives and their oncologists' role in CM integration.

**Source:** <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25499828>

### EVIDENCE-BASED MEDICINE AND PREJUDICE-BASED MEDICINE: THE CASE OF HOMOEOPATHY

**Journal reference:** Cadernos de Saúde Pública, Volume 30, Issue 11, 2014, Pages 2368-2376.

**Authors:** Barros NF, Fiuza AR

**Summary:** In a previous quantitative cross-sectional study in 2008, 176 resident doctors at the University of Campinas Medical School, Brazil were interviewed and almost half of them were unfavourable to the inclusion of homeopathy as a subject in the

undergraduate medical curriculum. This qualitative study was conducted to understand their reasons for refusing. 20 residents from 15 different specialist areas were interviewed. Majority of them admitted lack of knowledge for making a judgment about Homoeopathy; none of them made a conscientious objection to it; and the majority demonstrated prejudice, affirming that there is not enough scientific evidence to support Homoeopathy, defending their position based on personal opinion, limited clinical practice and on scarcely available quality information.

**Source:** <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25493990>

### COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE FOR CANCER PATIENTS: RESULTS OF THE EPAAC SURVEY ON INTEGRATIVE ONCOLOGY CENTRES IN EUROPE

**Journal reference:** Supportive Care in Cancer 2014. [Epub ahead of print]

**Authors:** Rossi E, Vita A, Baccetti S, Di Stefano M, Voller F, Zanobini A

**Summary:** A cross-sectional descriptive survey was conducted to map centres across Europe prioritizing those that provide public health services and operating within the national health system in Integrative Oncology (IO). Information was obtained from 123 (52.1%) out of the 236 centres. 47.5% centres provided IO treatments, 24 from Italy and 23 from other European countries. The number of patients seen per year was on average  $301.2 \pm 337$ . The complementary and alternative medicines (CAMs) more frequently provided to cancer patients were acupuncture and Homoeopathy. Treatments are mainly directed to reduce adverse reactions to chemo-radiotherapy and iatrogenic menopause, to reduce pain and fatigue, and to improve anxiety and depression, gastrointestinal disorders, sleep disturbances, and neuropathy.

**Source:** <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25471177>

### PEDIATRIC HOMOEOPATHY: A PROSPECTIVE OBSERVATIONAL SURVEY BASED ON PARENT PROXY-REPORTS OF THEIR CHILDREN'S HEALTH-RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE IN SIX EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND BRAZIL

**Journal reference:** Homeopathy, Volume 103, Issue 4, 2014, Pages 257-263.

**Authors:** Van Wassenhoven M, Goossens M, Anelli M,

Sermus G, Kupers P, Morgado C, Martin E, Bezerra M  
**Summary:** This study including 773 children from six European countries and Brazil was aimed to look at parent-proxy satisfaction with homeopathic treatment prescribed for their children by a homeopathic doctor after a follow-up of two months using a Quality of Life (QoL) questionnaire. Satisfaction with the medical homeopathic consultation was high. Reported differences between baseline and final QoL were positive for all four studied conditions. Patients experienced side-effects which they attribute to homeopathic treatment, reported significant aggravation at the beginning of homeopathic treatment, and also slight aggravation of symptoms. Finally, satisfaction was linked to the perceived competence of the homeopath, the perceived improvement of the main complaint limitations and the completeness of the received information.

**Source:** <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25439042>

### **HOMOEOPATHY AND HEALTH RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE: A PATIENT SATISFACTION SURVEY IN SIX EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND BRAZIL**

**Journal reference:** Homeopathy, Volume 103, Issue 4, 2014, Pages 250-256.

**Authors:** Van Wassenhoven M, Goossens M, Anelli M, Sermus G, Kupers P, Morgado C, Martin E, Bezerra M

**Summary:** A survey was conducted using a quality of life questionnaire including 919 adults receiving homeopathic treatment in six European countries and Brazil aimed to look at who were they, their reasons for consultations and expectations and satisfaction with Homeopathy prescribed by a homeopathic doctor after a follow-up time of six months. Seventy-seven percent patients had initially used conventional treatments and 23% other non-conventional treatments. Satisfaction of patients with the medical homeopathic consultation was high. The difference between the final QoL scores after 6 months and the baseline were positive. Patients experienced side-effects which they attribute to homeopathic treatment, reported significant aggravation at the beginning of homeopathic treatment, and also slight aggravation of symptoms. Finally, satisfaction was linked to the perceived competence of the homeopath, the perceived improvement of the main complaint limitations and and the time dedicated to them by the doctor.

**Source:** <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25439041>

### **IMPORTANCE OF COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE APPROACHES FOR PATIENTS WITH PROSTATE CANCER**

**Journal reference:** Der Urologe. Ausg. A, Volume 53, Issue 11, 2014, Pages 1600-1609.

**Authors:** Gschwendtner KM, Klein G, Güthlin C, Holmberg C, Horneber M, Weis J

**Summary:** Competence Network Complementary Medicine in Oncology (COCON), launched by the German Cancer Aid Society, conducted 19 semi-structured qualitative interviews with prostate cancer patients to explore patterns of their CAM use as well as their information and consultation needs. The results show that prostate cancer patients used a range of CM including Homeopathy. Patients desired to have more information and counselling opportunities with regards to CM and more holistic care.

**Source:** <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25297489>

### **HIGH PREVALENCE OF COMPLEMENTARY AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE USE IN PATIENTS WITH GENETICALLY PROVEN MITOCHONDRIAL DISORDERS**

**Journal reference:** Journal of Inherited Metabolic Disease 2014 [Epub ahead of print].

**Authors:** Franik S, Huidekoper HH, Visser G, de Vries M, de Boer L, Hermans-Peters M, Rodenburg R, Verhaak C, Vlieger AM, Smeitink JA, Janssen MC, Wortmann SB

**Summary:** The objective of this study was to evaluate the use and perceived effectiveness of CAM in children and adults with genetically proven mitochondrial disease. The reported use was not only cost-effective, also surprisingly high, with 88% of children and 91% of adults having used CAM in the last 2 years. Homeopathy was one of the most frequently used CAM. 54% of children and 60% of adults reported CAM therapies to be effective.

**Source:** <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25303853>

### **HOMOEOPATHY SATISFACTION IN IRAN**

**Journal reference:** Iranian Journal of Nursing and Midwifery Research, Volume 19, Issue 5, 2014, Pages 496-502.

**Authors:** Mahmoudian A, Sadri G

**Summary:** This descriptive cross-sectional study was conducted in 2008 on 125 patients from the city

of Isfahan, Iran. Patient satisfaction was assessed in three main areas (general health, physician performance, and symptoms relief) using a valid questionnaire. The results were compared with those of a similar study conducted in 2004 on 240 patients. Mean score of satisfaction with homoeopathic treatment was  $77.48 \pm 6.36$  out of 100. In 2004, it was  $77.4 \pm 8.13$ . The highest level of satisfaction was related to relief of symptoms. Higher degree of satisfaction with therapy was significantly associated with higher duration of treatment. The four symptoms that showed better improvement were headache, gastrointestinal disturbances, fatigue, and insomnia. Given the documented benefits of Homeopathy and less cost, it seems rational to encourage its scientific practice and its integration into mainstream health care.

Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25400678>

### **HERING'S LAW ASSESSMENT TOOL REVISITED: INTRODUCING A MODIFIED NOVEL VERSION—PATIENTS' RESPONSE ASSESSMENT TOOL AFTER HOMOEOPATHIC TREATMENT (PRATHOT) IN CHRONIC CASES**

**Journal reference:** Journal of Evidence Based Complementary and Alternative Medicine, Volume 19, Issue 4, 2014, Pages 260-266

**Authors:** Saha S, Koley M, Arya JS, Choubey G, Ghosh S, Ganguly S, Gosavi T, Ghosh A, Ali SA, Gupta N

**Summary:** The authors modified the available Hering's Law Assessment Tool (HELAT) and developed a new tool—Patient Response Assessment Tool after Homoeopathic Treatment (PRATHoT) in chronic cases through Delphi technique for systematic categorization of probable outcomes following individualized homeopathic treatment in chronic cases. The tool was drafted after literature review and iterative Delphi rounds with multidisciplinary expert panel and achieving the desired level of multirater agreement. Following pilot testing, the tool was implemented on 37 patients suffering from knee osteoarthritis over 6 months. Logistic regression analysis confirmed that higher PRATHoT score was significantly associated with achieving pain visual analogue scale responses from the second follow-up visit onwards. The tool appeared to have acceptable psychometric properties; hence, may be considered as a promising tool, amendable for further development.

Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25053753>

### **THE TEACHING AND APPLICATION OF ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE IN MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMMES**

**Journal reference:** Hu Li ZaZhi, Volume 61, Issue 6, 2014, Pages 5-11.

**Author:** Chiang HS

**Summary:** There is great diversity in alternative medicine, with some alternative therapies supported by evidence and covered by insurance. However, there also remain fraudulent medical practices that may be harmful to health. Medical staff must be properly educated so that they can provide patients and their family a proper understanding and attitude toward alternative medicine. Therefore, alternative medicine should be included in the standard medical education curriculum. Offering classes on alternative medicine in university for more than 10 years, the author shares his experiences regarding potential content, lecture subjects, group experience exercises, and in-class activities. This article is intended to provide a reference to professors in university medical education and offer a possible model for alternative medicine education in Taiwan.

Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25464950>

### **SUCCESSFUL MANAGEMENT OF REFRACTORY CASES OF CANINE DEMODICOSIS WITH HOMOEOPATHY MEDICINE GRAPHITIS**

**Journal reference:** Journal of Parasitic Diseases, Volume 38, Issue 4, 2014, Pages 417-419.

**Authors:** Ranjan R, Dua K, Turkar S, Singh H, Singla LD

**Summary:** Present case reports described successful treatment of two refractory cases of canine demodicosis using orally administered Homoeopathy medicine *Graphitis 200C* two drops once daily for 2 months. Complete cure from the disease was observed without any adverse effects, thus substantiating promising role of Homoeopathy for management of canine demodicosis.

Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25320495>

**Compiled by:**

Subhranil Saha, Munmun Koley

Senior Research Fellows, Clinical Research Unit (Homoeopathy), Siliguri, Darjeeling, West Bengal, India.

E-mail: [drsubhranilsaha@hotmail.com](mailto:drsubhranilsaha@hotmail.com)

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