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Research Highlights

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Abstract

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COMPLEMENTARY TREATMENT FOR BREAST CANCER

Title: Benefits of homeopathic complementary treatment in patients with breast cancer: A retrospective and cohort study based on the French nationwide health-care database

Authors: Jacques Medioni, Daniel Scimeca, Yecenia Lopez Marquez, Emmanuelle Leray, Marie Dalichampt, Nicolas Hoertel, Mohammed Bennani, Pascal Trempat, Naoual Boujedaini

Journal: Clinical Breast Cancer, January 2023, DOI: 10.1016/j.clbc.2022.10.001

Summary: This was a retrospective and cohort study, based on the French health-care database. The study period was 2012–2013. A total of 98,009 patients were included (mean age: 61 ± 13 years). Homeopathy was used in 11%, 26% and 22% of patients, respectively during the 7 to 12 months before surgery, the 6 months before and the 6 months after. Thereafter, the use remained stable at 15% for 4 years. Six months after surgery, there was a significant overall decrease ($RR = 0.88$, confidence interval $(CI)_{95} = 0.87-0.89$) in the dispensing of medication associated with SEs in patients treated with ≥ 3 dispensing of homeopathy compared to none. The decrease appeared to be greater for immunostimulants ($RR = 0.79$, $(CI)_{95} = 0.74-0.84$), corticosteroids ($RR = 0.82$, $(CI)_{95} = 0.79-0.85$) and anti-diarrheal ($RR = 0.83$, $(CI)_{95} = 0.77-0.88$).

Comments: The study showed increasing use of homeopathy in patients with breast cancer following diagnosis. This use was maintained after surgery and seemed to play a role in helping patients to better tolerate the SEs of cancer treatments.

UTILITY OF HOMOEOPATHIC ALGORITHM FOR COVID-19 DISEASE

Title: Test of a homeopathic algorithm for COVID-19: The importance of a broad perspective

Authors: Anjali Miglani, Raj Kumar Manchanda, Amrit Kalsi, Prabhjeet Kaur, Beenu Saini, Amit Arora, Cheshta Nagrath, Jithesh Thavarayil Kannothe, Ram Kumar Kudiyarasu, Rahul Vardaan, Smita Brahmachari, Ankit Gupta, Shelly Arora, Shirin Balan, Kavita Sharma, Malaya Kumar Ray, Anu Chawla, Manjula Ghuliani, Anurag Pandey, Philippa Fibert, Lex Rutten

Journal: Homeopathy. 2023 Feb. DOI: 10.1055/s-0042-1746196

Summary: This study aimed to prepare an application (app) based repertory for COVID-19, on the data provided by various sources globally. In July 2021, data of 1161 cases of COVID-19 were collected from 100 practitioners. Out of 59 symptoms of COVID-19, 35 symptoms of 11 medicines were considered, and this data were used to calculate the condition-confined

likelihood ratio. Based on data and algorithm, more frequent medicines were *Arsenicum album*, *Belladonna*, *Bryonia alba*, *Camphora*, *Gelsemium sempervirens*, *Hepar sulphuris*, *Mercurius solubilis*, *Nux vomica*, *Phosphorus*, *Pulsatilla* and *Rhus toxicodendron*. Further, algorithm was retested on 358 cases and concordance was seen in 288 cases. After data analysis, *Merc* group was excluded from the algorithm as bias was noticed and the remaining 10 medicines, representing 81.8% of all cases, were included in the preparation of the next version of the homeopathic mini-repertory and app.

Comments: The use of Bayesian mini-repertory and app could improve the effectiveness of homeopathic treatment for COVID-19 symptoms, especially if there are no specific symptoms to indicate particular medicines.

CLASSIFICATION OF HOMEOPATHIC MEDICINES USING LOW-FREQUENCY ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS

Title: Unraveling the low-frequency triggered electromagnetic signatures in potentised homeopathic medicine

Authors: Hari N. Bhargaw, Mohit Sharma, Avanish Kumar Srivastava, Nisanth Nambison, Manoj Kumar Gupta, Mahendra R. Jadhav, Khushwant Singh Gavel, Prabhat Kumar Baghel, Meraj Ahmed.

Journal: Materials Science and Engineering B, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mseb.2023.116365>

Summary: Homeopathic medicines have very low concentrations of metals and other compounds, making it difficult to determine their potencies using modern tools. However, a new experimental technique has been developed that uses electromagnetic fields generated at low frequencies to classify different homeopathic medicines. A primary coil generates the fields at different frequencies and potentised test samples are prepared using Ferrum and α -lactose monohydrate. These samples exhibit distinct electromagnetic responses in a sensing coil, with the responses decreasing logarithmically as the Ferrum concentration decreases. The resolution of the technique improves with higher potencies and it can also be used to distinguish between different compounds in homeopathic medicines. The results of the experiment were compared with other analytical techniques such as Raman spectroscopy, impedance analyser and Fourier transform-infrared analysis, confirming the effectiveness of the technique in classifying potencies and detecting ultra-low metallic concentrations.

Comment: This study provides an interesting approach to classify homeopathic medicines and detect ultra-low metallic concentrations, but further research is needed to validate the results and expand the scope of the study.

AN *IN VITRO* STUDY USING HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICINE VISCUM ALBUM

Title: *In vitro* growth kinetics of mesenchymal stem cells in cytotoxicity tests using low-diluted *Viscum Album*

Authors: Ana Catarina Viana Valle, Hilana Dos Santos Sena Brunel, Bruno Stéfano Lima Dallago, Lucas Santana Rodrigues, Patrícia Furtado Malard, Rosiane Andrade da Costa, Rafael Rossetto, Rosângela Vieira de Andrade.

Journal: Homeopathy. 2023 Feb. DOI: 10.1055/s-0042-1747682.

Summary: This was an *in vitro* study conducted on the adipose tissue of a healthy dog that was undergoing an elective veterinary procedure. The experiments were performed in three groups: Mesenchymal stem cells treated with *Viscum album* (VA) D1D2 (combination of first and second decimal potency in equal quantity), or diluent, or untreated (control). The cytotoxicity was evaluated by MTT assay. The differentiation was induced in three lineages and apoptotic cell labelling was performed by an Annexin-V test. At the concentration of 10 µL/mL of VA, the number of cells after *in-vitro* culture was maintained when compared with the control group. A significant and gradual decrease in cell viability was recorded as VA concentrations increased. The apoptosis analysis showed that VA at 20 µL/mL presented absolute percentages of initial apoptosis twice as high as at 10 µL/mL, which was similar to the control.

Comments: The result of the study suggests that the use of homeopathic medicine *Viscum Album* – *in vitro*, cytotoxicity of MSC lineages may predict the potential action at different concentrations. These findings demonstrated that VAD1D2 interferes with canine MSC growth kinetics.

A HOMOEOPATHIC COMBINATION AND ROLE OF THEIR INDIVIDUAL MEDICINES

Title: Self-assembled patterns formed in evaporating droplets to analyse bi-component homeopathic preparations in the low dilution range

Authors: Maria Olga Kokornaczyk, Sandra Wurtenberger, Stephen Baumgartner

Journal: Homeopathy. DOI: 10.1055/s-0042-1759543.

Summary: Homeopathic mixture or bi-component preparations are composed of more than one homeopathic medicine in low attenuations. This study was done to know whether the effect of these combinations is a mixture of its compounds or these combinations have altogether different properties. Droplet evaporating method (DEM) was used to find the holistic properties and the properties of each constituent. Two remedies, namely, *Luffa 4x* and *Mercurius bijodatus 9x* as well as their combination were used for analysis by DEM. To capture the outcome patterns on DEM were photographed and evaluated for their gray-scale distribution

and texture using the software image. The outcome of the study was *Mercurius bijodatus 9x* significantly influenced the pattern of *Luffa 4x* and also increased their homogeneity, as well as, the pattern formed by *Mercurius bijodatus 9x* combined with solvent was more heterogeneous than those obtained from a control consisting of two pure solvents.

Comments: This is a basic research to know more about the interaction of different homeopathic medicines in combination. The exact nature of the underlying interaction needs to be studied for further investigations.

EFFECT OF ARNICA MONTANA AS IRRIGANTS ON PUSHOUT BOND STRENGTH OF ROOT FILLINGS

Title: Pushout Bond Strength of Root Fillings after Irrigation of Root Canals Utilising Sodium Hypochlorite, Chlorhexidine and Homeopathic Mother Tincture (*Arnica Montana*)

Authors: Unmesh Khanvilkar, Hitesh Patil, Siddhesh Bandekar, Shirin Kshirsagar, Ajinkya M. Pawar, Dian Agustin Wahjuningrum, Francesco Pagnoni, Rodolfo Reda, Alessio Zanza and Luca Testarelli

Journal: Clinics and Practice. DOI: 10.3390/clinpract13010028.

Summary: This study investigated the pushout bond strength of root fillings in radicular dentin using three different irrigants: NaOCl, CHX and *Arnica montana* mother tincture. The experiment was conducted using 60 human permanent single-rooted extracted teeth. The root canals were instrumented using the Pro Taper universal rotary system and prepared up to F3 apical size. The roots were randomly divided into three groups based on the irrigation solution used: Group I: NaOCl followed by saline, Group II: *Arnica montana* followed by saline and Group III: CHX followed by saline. The canals were coated with AH Plus sealer and obturated with #F3 gutta-percha. Each root was sliced into three 2 mm thick slices, labelled coronal, middle and apical and tested using a universal testing apparatus. The results showed that NaOCl significantly decreased the bond strength of AH Plus to dentin, but both CHX and *Arnica montana* were able to reverse the compromised bond strength caused by NaOCl. This study suggests that the use of NaOCl as an irrigant may lead to reduced binding capacity of AH Plus to root canal walls, but irrigating with *Arnica montana* or CHX can reduce this risk.

Comment: This study provides useful information on the effect of *Arnica Montana* mother tincture on the pushout bond strength of root fillings, but further research is needed to validate the results and determine the clinical implications of these findings.

CASE REPORTS ON FOLLIUCLOGENESIS BY FOLLICULINUM IN SNAKES

Title: Action of *Folliculinum 6ch* on folliculogenesis in the snake python regius (Shaw, 1802) – Two Case Reports

Authors: Melina Castilho de Souza Balbuena, Jessica Amancio Martins, Gideli de Paula Coelho

Journal: Homoeopathy. DOI: 10.1055/s-0042-1759847.

Summary: *Folliculinum* is homoeopathic medicine from the sarcode kingdom that can be used for normalising the oestrous cycle and reproductive functions. This present study reports two cases in which two female pythons, *Python regius* (Shaw, 1802), were treated with *Folliculinum* 6ch in a zoological park. The female pythons who were not having any history of reproduction were administered two globules of *Folliculinum* 6ch by nasal and oral route after mixing with 200 mL of water. To assess the outcome, ultrasound of follicular activity was done before and after administering the medicine that is, 6 and 15 days, which revealed improvement in follicular homogeneity. Further, the weight of the reptiles also increased. The modified Naranjo Criteria for Homoeopathy scored +8 in each case, which also shows the causal relationship between the use of homoeopathic medicine and outcome.

Comment: Veterinary use of homoeopathy with reliable evidence further expands the scope of homoeopathy. Along with that, a research study with a good design can also be done to support or refute the scientific evidence.

USING PROGNOSTIC FACTOR RESEARCH IN COVID-19

Title: Homeopathic Medicines in Second Wave of COVID-19: Prognostic Factor Research

Authors: Raj Kumar Manchanda, Anjali Miglani, Moumita Chakraborty, Amrit Kalsi, Baljeet Singh Meena, Prabhjeet Kaur, Beenu Saini, Amit Arora, Cheshta Nagrath, Jithesh Thavarayil Kannothe, Ram Kumar Kudiyarasu, Rahul Vardaan, Smita Brahmachari, Yogesh Kumar, B. Amitav, Pramod Konthembath, Ankit Gupta, Suresh Kumar Lolugu, Pawan Goel, Shelly Arora, Shirin Balan, Kavita Sharma, Anu Chawla, Malaya Kumar Ray, Vineetha Susan Jacob, Udesha Kumar, Vikas Kumar Verma, Rahul Kumar Singh, Abishes Saha, Manjula Ghuliani, Paramjeet Kaur, Shruti Gora, Meeta Gupta, Brender Sharma, Lex Rutten.

Journal: Homoeopathy. 2023, DOI: 10.1055/s-0042-1748881.

Summary: Prognostic factor research is based on Bayes' theorem i.e. posterior odds = likelihood ratio X prior odds. This study was done to find out the most common medicines prescribed during the second wave of COVID-19. It was a

retrospective, multicentre and observational study performed during March 2021 to May 2021 on confirmed positive cases of COVID-19. The data were collected from integrated COVID care centres, in which homoeopathic medicines were prescribed with conventional treatment. Before starting, selection criteria were formed and cases were analysed accordingly. Total 769 cases were given treatment out of which 255 cases were excluded from the study and 514 cases were included for analysis. The most common symptoms were found to be cough, fever, muscle/bone pain, throat pain, increased thirst, dry cough, headache, loss of appetite, fatigue and dry mouth. The most frequently prescribed medicine was *Bryonia alba*, *Arsenic album*, *Pulsatilla*, *Belladonna*, *Gelsemium*, *Hepar sulph.*, *Phosphorus*, *Rhus tox.*, and *Merc sol.*

Comment: While considering a virulent pandemic like COVID-19, add-on homoeopathic medicine seems ethical and at the same time shows the beneficial effect of relieving the symptoms of COVID-19.

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Nil.

Conflicts of interest

None declared.

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