Research Highlights

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Research Highlights

Abstract
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Acknowledgments and Source of Funding

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**Research highlights**

**Third Wave of COVID-19 (Omicron): A Homoeopathic Research**

**Title:** Homeopathic medicines in third (Omicron) wave of COVID-19: Prognostic factor research

**Authors:** Raj Kumar Manchanda, Anjali Miglani, Amrit Kalsi, Smita Brahmachari, Kamsali Nadigadda Rama, Pawan Goel, Pallavi Kaushik, Anju Jethani, Cheshita Nagrath, Nirmal Yadav Pangtey, Jithesh Thavarayil Kannoth, Kavita Sharma, Shelly Arora, B. Amitav, Pradip Kumar Roy, Ram Kumar Kudiyarasu, Lex Rutten

**Journal:** Homoeopathy, DOI: https://doi.org/10.1055/s-0043-1776758

**Summary:** A prognostic factor research study was conducted in January 2022, during the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on identifying homeopathic medicines and their indications for the treatment of confirmed cases, particularly those involving the Omicron variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. It was an open-labelled multicentre observational study conducted in integrated COVID Care Centres in Delhi, India. Homeopathic medicines were prescribed alongside conventional treatment for confirmed COVID-19 cases that met specific selection criteria. Out of 362 COVID-19 cases, 263 were selected for analysis based on the selection criteria. Common symptoms such as fatigue, cough, sore throat, myalgia and headache were included in the study. Twenty-one different medicines were prescribed, out of which nine were frequently used: Gelsemium sempervirens, Bryonia alba, Hepar sulphuris, Rhus toxicodendron, Pulsatilla nigricans, Arsenicum album, Belladonna, Nux vomica and Phosphorus. Likelihood ratio of 1.3 or greater was considered meaningful, for identifying indications for the frequently prescribed medicines. It is reported that homeopathic medicines demonstrated promising results as an adjunct therapy during the third wave of COVID-19. Medicines used in earlier waves continued to be useful, and their indications were similar. Some new indications for certain medicines emerged during the third wave, emphasising the need for further research. The importance of not restricting treatment to specific medicines and the on-going collection of data for the improvement of the COVID-19 mini-repertory are highlighted.

**Comments:** The study supported the potential usefulness of homeopathic medicines as adjunct therapy for COVID-19, with a focus on identifying indications based on symptoms, especially in the context of emerging variants like Omicron. Homeopathic treatment as an adjunct therapy in such cases paves way for similar trials in pandemics/epidemics.

**A Bayesian Repertory for Acute Viral Infections**

**Title:** Homeopathy for acute viral infections: A Bayesian repertory for reliable use of common symptoms

**Authors:** Lex Rutten, José Eizayaga, Peter Gold, Raj K. Manchanda, Anjali Miglani, Galen Ives

**Journal:** Homoeopathic Links, DOI: https://doi.org/10.1055/s-0043-1778050

**Summary:** A recent worldwide COVID-19 case collection is reported where a Bayesian approach was utilised to assess the prevalence and likelihood ratio of symptoms. A Bayesian repertory and a repertorisation app was developed, and designed to differentiate between selected homeopathic medicines based on common symptoms, either combined or separately. The repertorisation app incorporates a hierarchical approach to categorise the unique combinations of common symptoms specific to each COVID-19 case. The use of the repertory and app is suggested to improve the effectiveness of homeopathy in treating acute viral infections. The hierarchical approach is expected to aid in identifying unique combinations of common symptoms for each case. The app is an opportunity for practitioners to experience the usefulness of the Bayesian approach and common symptoms in case evaluation. The repertory is positioned as an endeavour of homeopathic treatment based on systematic and reproducible data collection.

**Comments:** The authors encourage practitioners to utilise the free repertorisation app based on a Bayesian approach for treating COVID-19 and other acute viral infections. The emphasis is on systematically collecting and categorising common symptoms to improve the effectiveness of homeopathic treatment, with an invitation for practitioners to provide feedback on their experiences with the app. Such technical aids in repertorising common symptoms of other diseases would be fruitful if more research into concept of Bayesian philosophy is conducted for other diseases as well.

**Treatment of Haemorrhoids by Individualised Homoeopathic Medicine**

**Title:** Efficacy of individualised homeopathic medicines in the treatment of haemorrhoids: Double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled trial

**Authors:** Munmun Koley, Vinod Kumar Vimal, Arvind Kumar Verma, Shiv Shanker Pal, Dileep Kumar Sonkar, Smita Vimal, Om Prakash Singh, Shubhamoy Ghosh, and Subhranil Saha

**Journal:** Journal of Integrative and Complementary Medicine, DOI: 10.1089/jicm.2023.0228

**Summary:** A placebo-controlled trial is conducted for other diseases as well.
Summary: Haemorrhoids is a painful condition with engorgement of veins of the rectum which is seen frequently (50% of the population) worldwide. Although the conventional treatment includes invasive surgery, a safe and non-invasive therapeutic option of homeopathy is in vogue for the treatment of haemorrhoids. In this context, a double-blind, randomised placebo-controlled trial was conducted on subjects of primary haemorrhoids of Grades I–III, using individualised homeopathic treatment in one group and placebo in the controlled group. It included 140 women and men aged between 18 and 65 years diagnosed with primary haemorrhoids Grades I–III for at least 3 months. Patients were randomised into Group 1 (n = 70; IHMs plus concomitant care; verum) and Group 2 (n = 70; placebos plus concomitant care; control). Patients were assessed at baseline and every month till 3 months by anorectal symptom severity and quality-of-life (ARSSQoL) questionnaire, as primary outcome measure and EuroQol 5-dimensions 5-levels (EQ-5D-5L) questionnaire and EQ visual analogue scale (VAS) as and secondary outcome measure. Out of the 140 randomised patients, 122 were protocol-compliant. Intention-to-treat sample (n = 140) was analysed. Statistically significant between-group differences were observed in the ARSSQoL total (P < 0.001) and EQ-5D-5L VAS (P = 0.001) favouring IHMs over placebo. Sulphur was the most frequently prescribed medicine.

Conclusions: Individualised homeopathic medicines demonstrated distinguishable results over placebo in the treatment of haemorrhoids. Such evidence demonstrating positive scope of homeopathic treatment is a great harbinger of non-invasive alternative treatments in case of surgical diseases.

Demonstration of Immune Modulatory Effects of Arsenic album 30C

Title: Arsenic album 30C exhibits crystalline nano structure of arsenic trioxide and modulates innate immune markers in murine macrophage cell lines

Authors: Suvasmita Rath, Jyoti Prava Jema, Kamali Kesavan, Sagar Mallick, Jyotsnarani Pradhan, Gagan Bihari Nityananda Chainy, Debadatta Nayak, Subhash Kaushik, Jagneshwar Dandapat

Journal: Scientific report, DOI: 10.1038/s41598-024-51319-w

Summary: This study was done to elucidate the mechanism underlying the immune-priming effects of Arsenic album 30C in a murine macrophage cell line, hence, to demonstrate a crystalline nanostructure resembling arsenic trioxide. Structural analyses were done using transmission electron microscopy and X-ray diffraction revealed the presence of crystalline As₂O₃ nanoparticles with a cubic structure in the drug. In addition, signs of M1 macrophage polarisation were detected using surface-enhanced Raman scattering in RAW 264.7 cells, accompanied by increased expression of the M1 cell surface marker CD80 and the transcription factor NF-κB. Furthermore, treatment with the drug led to a significant upregulation of pro-inflammatory cytokines such as iNOS, tumor necrosis factor-α, interleukin-6, and COX-2, without altering levels of reactive oxygen species and apoptosis in treated cells. The treatment with Arsenic album 30C also resulted in enhanced expression of toll-like receptors 3 and 7 at both transcriptional and translational levels.

Comments: This analysis showed the first evidence of the presence of crystalline As₂O₃ cubic nanostructures in Arsenic album 30C, which facilitate the modulation of innate immunity by promoting macrophage polarisation.

A review of Quality Assessment of Health Economic Evaluations

Title: Overview and quality assessment of health economic evaluations for homeopathic therapy: an updated systematic review

Authors: Thomas Ostermann, Julia Burkart, Sabine De Jaegere, Christa Raak, and Steven Simoens


Summary: This systematic review was conducted from January 2012 to July 2022 across electronic databases by two independent reviewers. They screened records, extracted data and assessed study quality using the Consensus on Health Economic Criteria (CHEC) list. The review was done on total of 21 studies released from 1993 to 2021, all of which evaluated for both the expenses involved and the health effects associated with homeopathic treatment for respiratory tract and ear disorders, atopic dermatitis, chronic arthritis, dyspepsia, diabetic polyneuropathy, etc. Analysing both, homeopathic treatment was found to be at least equally effective, if not more, for lower or comparable costs compared to control interventions in 14 out of 21 studies. CHEC values varied from 2–16, with older studies (pre-2009) generally having lower values (mean ± SD: 6.7 ± 3.4) compared to newer studies (9.4 ± 4.3).

Comments: The chronological development of CHEC assessment results showed improvement over time, the favourable cost-effectiveness of homeopathic treatments.

Allium sativum Abrogates Atherogenic Events in Macrophages

Title: Homeopathic preparation of Allium sativum abrogates OxLDL mediated atherogenic events in macrophages: An in vitro and in silico approach

Authors: Thangarajeswari Mohan, Abinayaa Rajkumar, Gokulprasanth Panchalingam, Debadatta Nayak, Malathi Raghunathan, and Kalaiselvi Periandavan

Journal: The Journal of Ayurveda and Integrative Medicine, DOI: 10.1016/j.jaim.2023.100850

Summary: This study showed the anti-atherogenic effect of Allium sativum in 6C and 30C potency against the oxidised low-density lipoprotein (LDL)-induced cellular inflammation in IC-21 macrophage cells using in vitro studies which included cell viability assay using MTT Di-oxy LDL treatment, lipid peroxidation, analysis of cytokines using ELISA, quantitative polymerase chain reaction, and assessing the prevention of cellular cholesterol accumulation. The study also used a computational approach to predict the effects of Allium sativum on the macrophages.
Employing complementary medicine may present challenges in adhering to scientifically endorsed treatments. Therefore, it is essential for physicians and health-care providers to identify the utilisation of non-conventional therapies early in the patients and initiate the discussion with them the potential risks and benefits associated with them and stress the importance of adhering to their pharmacological treatment.

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**Conflicts of interest**

None declared.

**References**


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