

Original Article

Efficacy of Homoeopathy in Cancer treatment- An observational study

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ABSTRACT:

Background: Cancer incidence and mortality are rapidly growing worldwide. The aim of the present study was to prove efficacy of homoeopathy in cancer treatment and to help the poor patients for better quality of life, and relief in cases of advance pathology. **Methodology:** The 57 patient were registered for treatment, the homoeopathic treatment was given to them considering the totality of symptoms including cause, conflict, stage of disease, present condition of patient. The medicines were given in centesimal dilutions, Fifty millicimal, very low triturations including mother tincture and Bio-chemic. The patients were grouped as per the criterion mentioned in methodology. **Results:** Out of 57 patients of study group 37 (65%) patients observed improvement as positive response while 14 (25%) patients observed no improvement and 6 (10 %) patients were drops out from treatment. **Conclusion:** The present study was carried out to find the efficacy of Homoeopathy in cancer, and the improvement was observed in 65 % cases out of 100%, varied from mild to good. The outcome is encouraging regarding the efficacy of homoeopathy in cancer.

Keywords: Immunity; Cancer; Quality of life.

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INTRODUCTION

Cancer is a major burden of disease worldwide. Each year, tens of millions of people are diagnosed with cancer around the world, and more than half of the patients eventually die from it. ¹ The question of “what causes cancer” has intrigued people for generations. In 1950, the World Health Organization sponsored an international symposium, and the attendees were intrigued by the dramatic variations in the types of cancer found in different areas of the world. It was learned that people who migrated to other countries, developed types of cancer common to their adopted countries, rather than their homelands. This implied that most cancers were caused by exposures in the environment, rather than inherited genetic factors. ²

In many countries, cancer ranks the second most common cause of death following cardiovascular diseases. With significant improvement in treatment and prevention of cardiovascular diseases, cancer has or will soon become the

number one killer in many parts of the world. ¹ The past few decades have seen significant progress in our understanding of cancer aetiology as well as advances in early detection, treatment, and prevention, which have led to declining cancer mortality in the industrialized world. Despite this progress, certain cancers continue to increase in different parts of the world due, in part, to longer lifespans and changing patterns of cancer risk factors. ³ As per homoeopathic view point the over growth is Sycosis, this shows problem with cell division control and growth factors. When this mechanism is distorted, the cell growth becomes out of control and this condition becomes Syphilitic miasmatically. Hahnemann has mentioned the treatment of such diseases with advanced pathologies or one sided disease with paucity of symptoms in his aphorisms. ^{4,5} In the vicinity of Sri Ganga Nagar and surrounding area of Punjab a large number of patients, are suffering from cancer, even one passenger train Bikaner

Express from Abohar to Bikaner, via Bhatinda is commonly known as cancer express because most of the passengers in this train are cancer patients for treatment from PBM Hospital, Bikaner. The present study was undertaken to prove efficacy of homoeopathy in treatment of cancer and to help the poor patients for better quality of life, and relief in cases of advance pathology.

METHODOLOGY

The 57 patient were registered for treatment, the homoeopathic treatment was given to them considering the totality of symptoms including cause, conflict, stage of disease, present condition of patient. In most cases single medicine followed by sac-lac was prescribed in the potency as per need of case. In some cases frequent repetition was adopted with change of medicines. The following listed homoeopathic medicines were prescribed to the patients as per Homoeopathic philosophy as unprejudiced observer:

NuxVom, Aurm met, Aur mur, Aur sulph, Aur iod, Calc carb, Calc ars, Arnica, Mag mur, Sulph, Carcinocin, Cicutavirosa, Baryta carb, Ipecac, Rhus T, Calc Sulph, Thuja, Kali carb, Pulsatilla, Spongia, Staphysagaria, Apis, Nat sulph, Digitalis, Carbo veg, Carbo anilalis, Lyco, Lach, Arg nit, Ars Alb, Bryonia, Ignatia, Nat M, Asarum, Phos, Causticum, Bryonia, Bacillinum, Secale cor, Chelidonium, Hydrastis, Conium, Helleborous Nigra, Millifolium, Platina, Silicea, Nitric ac, Iodum, Kreosote, Opium, Zincum met, Ant. Tart, Germanium, Condurango, China, Belladona, Chamomilla etc.

Total 57 drugs prescribed, 26 were 1st prescription among 57, rest in follow up. In 12 patients no other medicine was used in follow up. The medicines were given in centesimal dilutions, Fifty millicimal, very low triturations including mother tincture and Bio-chemic. The patients were grouped as per the criterion mentioned in methodology. Data so obtained was tabulated and expressed as required.

RESULTS

Out of 57 patients of study group 37 (65%) patients observed improvement as positive response while 14 (25%) patients observed no improvement and 6 (10 %) patients were dropped out from treatment (table 1, graph 1).

Table 1: Efficacy of Homoeopathy in cancer

Variables	n=57
Patients observed improvement as positive response	37 (65%)
Patients observed no improvement	14 (25%)
Patients dropped treatment	6 (10 %)

DISCUSSION

Homeopathy does not have highly effective remedies for cancer in its literature, and has been limited to palliating the adverse effects of chemo/radiotherapy. Research into substances that can produce neoplastic diseases (carcinogens), may lead to them being used to treat the

cancer they cause, according to the principle of similarity.⁶ The present study was undertaken to prove efficacy of homoeopathy in treatment of cancer and to help the poor patients for better quality of life, and relief in cases of advance pathology. Out of 57 patients of study group 37 (65%) patients observed improvement as positive response while 14 (25%) patients observed no improvement and 6 (10 %) patients dropped treatment. Thus, the improvement was observed in 65 % cases which varied from mild to good. The outcome is encouraging regarding the efficacy of homoeopathy in cancer. Balzarini A et al⁷ tested the effectiveness of homeopathic treatment for skin reactions during radiotherapy treatment for breast cancer. Patients (n = 61) were randomized into a group receiving three granules of belladonna 7CH twice daily and X-ray 15CH once daily (the “CH” means centesimal Hahnemannian potency) or a group receiving placebo. Patients treated with homeopathy noted less hyperpigmentation and a decrease in skin temperature, but these differences were no longer significant by the end of the 10-week follow-up. Total severity scores favoured homeopathy, but statistical significance for the difference was noticed only during recovery. Jacobs J et al⁸ evaluated homeopathy for menopausal symptoms in 83 breast cancer survivors. Patients who suffered from an average of 3 hot flushes daily for a month before the trial were randomized into three groups: a placebo combination and a verum single remedy; a verum combination medicine and a verum single remedy; and two placebo combinations. Single remedies consisted of 35 different homeopathic medications, mainly sepia, calcarea carbonica, sulphur, lachesis, and kali carbonicum (mostly high potencies). The combination remedy was “Hyland’s menopause,” which contains amyl nitrate, sanguinaria canadensis, and lachesis. No significant differences were found between the three groups in terms of symptom score over a 1-year period. A significant improvement in general health score was observed in both homeopathy groups as compared with the placebo group. A significant increase in headache was observed in the combination homeopathy group.

Various authors have carried trial by administering homeopathic complex medication (HCM) to patients. Lopes L et al⁹ carried a study with aim for the activation of mice peritoneal macrophages when submitted to in vivo and in vitro Canova treatment. The results demonstrated a greater spreading ability in Canova treated macrophages, a higher phagocytic activity of non-infective microorganisms (Saccharomyces cerevisiae and Tripanosoma cruzi epimastigotes) and a tendency to lower the phagocytic activity of the infective microorganisms T. cruzi trypomastigotes and Leishmania amazonensis, when compared with control cells. The net results demonstrate that Canova medication is an effective stimulator of macrophage activity Thus, HCM stimulated the endosomal/lysosomal system and the phagocytic activity of

MΦ interacting with *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and *Trypanosoma cruzi* epimastigotes

In a study by de Oliveira CC et al,¹⁰ NADPH oxidase activity was increased after HCM ingestion, as did that of inducible nitric oxide synthetase (iNOS) which led to production of reactive oxygen species and nitric oxide. Piemonte MR et al¹¹ carried a study to analyze IL-2, IFN- γ and TNF- α production, $\alpha 5 \beta 1$ integrins and actin filaments distribution in peritoneal mouse macrophages treated with homeopathic medicament demonstrated that a homeopathic complex medication (HCM) activates macrophages (MΦ) both *in vivo* and *in vitro*. It was observed that the *in vitro* production of tumor necrosis factor- α (TNF- α) by MΦ was significantly reduced when HCM was administered. Montfort H⁶ has used ultra-low doses (1×10^{-10} to 10^{-12} molar) of chemical carcinogens for 3–24 months, which have been given to cancer patients, usually in conjunction with conventional treatment. Using this procedure, complete remission or life extension has been achieved for some cancer cases. The modulatory effects of HCM were also observed both *in vivo* and *in vitro* in experimental infections with *Leishmania amazonensis* and *Paracoccidioides braziliensis*; HCM controlled infection progression and limited pathogen dissemination. Moreover, HCM is neither toxic nor mutagenic.¹²

In most cases single medicine followed by sac-lac was prescribed in the potency as per need of case and the study reveals that single medicine as per requirement of patients provides superior results, other than providing similar complex medicines to all patients, however comparative studies with larger sample sizes are recommended. To encourage open communication of complementary/alternative medicine (CAM) use by patients, oncologists should be knowledgeable about the most popular remedies and know where to find reliable information for themselves and for their patients.¹³

CONCLUSION

The present study was carried out to find the efficacy of Homoeopathy in cancer, and the improvement was observed in 65 % cases out of 100%, varied from mild to good. The outcome is encouraging regarding the efficacy of homoeopathy in cancer.

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