

Homoeopathy and Cancer: An Alternative Approach towards the path of Healing

Dr.Yogeshwari Gupta

Prof, Ph.D. (Hom), Former Dean Homoeopathy Rajasthan Ayurved University, Jodhpur;

Principal & HOD MateriaMedica, SwasthyaKalyan Homoeopathic Medical College &

Research Centre, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

Email ID – principalskhmc@gmail.com

Contact no-9414229555

Dr.Stuti Rastogi

M.D. (PGR), MateriaMedica, SwasthyaKalyan Homoeopathic Medical College & Research

Centre, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India

Email ID – stutirastogi5@gmail.com

Contact no- 8178073498

Abstract:

Homoeopathy is a holistic system of medicine rooted on the principle of “Similia Similibus Curentur”. It has gained attention for its potential therapeutic benefits. It offers a holistic approach that addresses both the physical symptoms and emotional well-being of individuals. While this alternative approach of healing has been explored in various health contexts, a notable gap remains in understanding its application in the realm of cancer care. This review seeks to fill this void by exploring the broader landscape of homoeopathy’s principles and applications. Through a critical examination of existing research and evidence, it aims to offer valuable insights into the potential role of homoeopathy as a complementary approach in cancer care and symptomatic relief. This review underscores the need for further research and a more nuanced understanding of homoeopathy’s place in healthcare, particularly in the context of cancer patients and their well-being.

Keywords- Cancer, Homoeopathy, Therapeutic, Vital force

Introduction

The homoeopathic system of medicine was founded by German physician Samuel Hahnemann in the year 1796. It is primarily based on the principle of 'Similia Similibus Curentur' which means like cures like. ^[1] Although the Greek physician Hippocrates (460-377 BC) is credited with coining the phrase 'like cures like,' it was Hahnemann who developed it into a system of treatment. ^[2] According to the principle of Similia Similibus Curentur the substances that cause symptoms in healthy individuals can be used to treat similar symptoms in sick individuals. Thus in turn it triggers the organism's response (vital for homeostasis) to its own disturbances. Hahnemann established the basis for such events on what is now understood to be the physiology of the paradoxical reaction of the organism, which causes a physiological reaction that is in opposition

to the main impact of pharmaceuticals and is presently supported by scientific data for the rebound effect of contemporary drugs. ^[3-7]

According to a systematic review on global prevalence of homoeopathy use among the general population summaries that a significant percentage of the population of eleven countries (USA, UK, Australia, Israel, Canada, Switzerland, Norway, Germany, South Korea, Japan and Singapore) visits to homoeopaths as well as purchase of over-the-counter homoeopathic medicines. ^[8]

In the realm of complementary and alternative medicine, homoeopathy has garnered both intrigue and scepticism. While studies have explored homoeopathy's potential in addressing various health concerns, a significant gap exists in the literature concerning its application, particularly in cancer patients. Recognizing this deficiency, this study seeks to provide a comprehensive evaluation of homoeopathic interventions in cancer patients and symptomatic disorders more broadly. In order to assess the evidentiary value of the ongoing discourse surrounding homoeopathy's role in cancer care.

Views of Pioneers on Cancer:

According to Samuel Hahnemann, "When a person is ill, it is originally merely the spirit-like, autonomic life force (life principle), which is always there in the organism, that is mistuned by the dynamic effect of a morbid agent inimical to life. Only the life principle, tuned incorrectly to such an anomaly is capable of causing irregular functions the body. ^[9] Cancer may initially be treated as a one-sided disease because the expanded pathology weakens the Vital Force. According to Hahnemann, "Diseases that seem to have just a few symptoms are called one-sided because only one or two prominent symptoms are indicated. This makes these diseases, which primarily fall under the category of chronic diseases, harder to cure. ^[10] According to Arthur Hill Grimmer, the biggest challenge in treating advanced cancer cases is getting therapeutic individualization of symptoms. Even with all the typical symptoms, it is quite difficult to create a potent homoeopathic prescription. ^[11] Burnett considered both the characteristic aspects of the patient as well as the 'action' or 'organ affinity' of the remedy he prescribed. ^[12]

Miasmatic aspect:

Any disease, including cancer, goes through a miasmatic phase that evolves from Psora to Syphilis. Cancer is categorised as Psora in Hahnemann's chronic disease. ^[13] Robert refers to cancer as being multi-miasmatic in his book Principles & Art of Cure. ^[14] Farokh J Master in his book Homoeopathy in cancer categorised all the exophytic growths e.g. warts, dermoid cyst, bony tumors etc. as sycosyphilitic in nature, ulcerative and fungal growths as syphilitic in nature and when cancer is accompanied by haemorrhage and secondary infection it is due to presence of strong tubercular miasm. ^[15]

Collection of symptoms:

Adhering to the traditional methods given by Hahnemann and his devoted followers while using homoeopathic treatments in cancer. Emphasise on getting the most thorough and comprehensive personal and family history feasible in the situation as well as in any other case of chronic illness. Every mental, moral and physical change should be documented in chronological order from the moment of birth through childhood, adolescence and adulthood together with any illnesses that were developed along the way and the treatments used for them.^[16]

Efficacy:

The effects of homoeopathy on cancer and many other non-cancerous diseases have been extensively studied in the literature. In a prospective observational study published in 2010 it was found that cancer patients who received complementary homoeopathic treatment had improved quality of life and the propensity of weakness also reduced.^[17] In another prospective observational study published in 2003 it was revealed that oestrogen withdrawal symptoms in breast cancer patients decreased by homoeopathic treatment.^[18] In a study with 25 breast cancer patients, 21 of them had relief after receiving homoeopathic treatment for the radiation-induced itching.^[19]

Conclusion

In the scientific literature, homoeopathy's use in the treatment of cancer is still largely unexplored. Pioneers have offered intriguing perspectives on disease origins and treatment challenges. The miasmatic perspective offers a distinctive approach that emphasises individualised strategies based on symptoms and characteristics. Some studies suggest an improvement in quality of life of the individuals suffering from cancer. In the dynamic landscape of cancer treatment, more studies are warranted to enhance the scope of holistic, patient-centered care through homoeopathy.

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