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The quality of life in cancer patients is largely related to the activity of the immune system. Clinical reports show improvement in the quality of life of terminally ill patients treated with the homeopathic medicine *carbo animalis*, however, the literature on this subject is rare. The objective of this study was to propose an experimental model to study the possible effects of *carbo animalis* in the immune response to a highly malignant carcinoma, as well as their impact on the general condition of the sick animals. Male Balb/c mice were inoculated with Ehrlich ascites tumor and treated with *carbo animalis* 6cH or 6cH + 30cH (potency association). The control group was treated with the same succussed vehicle. Clinical signs, survival and the local immune response (peritoneal) were evaluated. T lymphocytes, B1 and B2, NK cells and phagocytes were identified and quantified by immuno-cytochemistry and flow cytometry. Animals treated with *carbo animalis* 6cH + 30cH showed increase of incidence in clinical signs comparing to the other groups. The local immune response, showed increase in the proportion of CD25+ cells in relation to total T cells and increase of B1 cells compared to B2 cells in the group treated with *carbo animalis* 6cH. In contrast, animals treated with *carbo animalis* 6cH + 30cH showed increase in the number of CD3+ cells and NK cells, both adhered to tumor cells. Although the clinical significance of these findings are still under discussion, this preliminary work provides a useful experimental protocol for the study of the mechanisms of this remedy and shows the possible relevance of homeopathic potencies association in the anti-neoplasm treatments.

Keywords: Ascites Ehrlich tumor, High dilutions, Homeopathy, *Carbo animalis*, Tumor immunology, Experimental oncology

Solvatochromic dyes detect the presence of homeopathic potencies

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Evidence will be presented which demonstrates that environment sensitive solvatochromic dyes can be used to detect the presence of the full range of homeopathic potencies through changes in their visible spectra. These dyes

are characterised by possessing an oscillating dipole and it will be shown that this feature is essential for their interaction with potencies by comparison with structurally comparable non-solvatochromic dyes, which show no evidence of any sensitivity to homeopathic medicines.

It will be shown that changes in the spectra of solvatochromic dyes are due to the way these dyes aggregate, or order, in solution as a consequence of their interaction with potencies. Certain solvatochromic dyes appear to have their level of ordering enhanced by potencies, whereas others have their ordering diminished by potencies.

A hypothesis which explains the results presented will be offered and suggests that homeopathic potencies themselves may be oscillating dipoles.

Implications for clinical practice and possible connections between the relevant dye chemistry and some clinically observed effects of homeopathic medicines will be explored in the light of the discoveries being made using these fascinating and informative dyes.

The chemistry involved will be kept as simple as possible for those with a limited chemistry background, whilst maintaining the level of scientific detail necessary for an understanding of the results presented.

Keywords: Solvatochromic dyes, Homeopathic potencies, Oscillating dipoles

A retrospective cohort study on the efficacy of homeopathy compared to homeopathy plus conventional medicine in the treatment of hypertension

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Hypertension currently affects nearly one billion people worldwide. It is a major cause of global morbidity and mortality, as well as a major risk factor of various chronic and fatal diseases. Individuals suffering from hypertension have increased over the years yet the rate of controlled blood pressure (<140/90 mmHg) remains poor. While the demand for traditional, complementary and alternative medicine (T/CAM) is on the rise, more evidence is needed to evaluate whether the clinical use of homeopathy will bring any beneficial effects to the community at large. The aim of this retrospective cohort study is to evaluate the effects of homeopathic treatment compared to integrated treatment using homeopathy plus conventional pharmacotherapy in terms of blood pressure control, in order to determine its efficacy in