We will present our experience of applying the guidelines, the end result of which was a group of high-quality scientifically-accountable provings with useful homoeopathic symptom pictures.

Keywords: Provings, Pathogenetic trials, HPCUS provings guidelines, Placebo-controlled

Single-blind study assessing the individualized homeopathic treatment of cancer patients versus placebo

Francesca Talarico[1,2,*], Costanza Maria Pullano[1], Sebastiano Di Salvo[2,3] and Vincenzo Falabella[2,4,5]

[1]*Complex Unit of Emergency Medicine and First Aid, Hospital "Pugliese-Ciaccio", Catanzaro, Italy*
[2]*EMC-AFMO, School of Homeopathy, Calabria, Italy*
[3]*Complex Unit of Hepatology, Hospital "Mater Domini", Catanzaro, Italy*
[4]*Complex Unit of Mental Health, ASL Naples 3 South, Italy*
[5]*FIAMO, Italy*

[*]Correspondence: Francesca Talarico, Medical Director of 1° Level, Complex Unit of Emergency Medicine and First Aid, Hospital "Pugliese-Ciaccio", Catanzaro, Italy.
E-mail: talarico.francesca@tiscali.it (F. Talarico)

Introduction: Aim of our study was to compare the effects, on clinical and quality of life (QoL), of the individualized homeopathic treatment (IHT) versus placebo in patients with advanced cancer, receiving conventional palliative care, since there is no literature in this comparison.

Materials and methods: Prior authorization, we enrolled 16 patients with advanced cancer admitted to our Emergency Medicine Unit for acute illnesses since April 2014. After resolution of acute conditions through conventional therapies, patients were divided into two groups, matched for age, sex and clinical conditions. Following informed consent, a group was started to IHT, the other to placebo. To assess patients' physical and mental conditions and their QoL, in addition to clinical-instrumental examination, we used the EORTC-QLQ-C30 questionnaire in basal conditions, after a month and after four months of treatment. Statistical analysis was performed using the Student's t-test.

Results: The IHT group had significant clinical improvements compared to the control. We achieved significant improvements in laboratory tests only in IHT group. All the patients had, in basal conditions, important clinical problems such as: anxiety, depression, anorexia, phobias, panic attacks, erectile dysfunction, frigidity, important physical disabilities, intolerable pains that did not respond to analgesics; all these conditions were markedly improved only in the IHT group. From the EORTC-QLQ-C30 questionnaires analysis, all patients had a bad perception of their QoL at baseline and encountered many difficulties in daily activities. In the control questionnaires after a month, QoL's perception improved significantly only after IHT. Even more pronounced the gap between the two groups at four months. Reduced intake of psychotropic drugs in IHT group. No significant side effects were detectable.

Conclusions: The IHT improves the clinical condition and QoL of patients with advanced cancer. The improvement obtained is statistically significant compared to placebo.

Keywords: Advanced Cancer, Homeopathic Medicine, EORTC-QLQ-C30, QoL

Physicochemical investigations of homeopathic potencies: a systematic review of the literature

Alexander L Tournier[1,*], Sabine D Klein[2], Sandra Würtenberger[3], Ursula Wolf[2] and Stephan Baumgartner[2,4]

[1]*Homeopathy Research Institute, London, UK*
[2]*Institute of Complementary Medicine, University of Bern, Switzerland*
[3]*Hevert-Arzneimittel GmbH & Co. KG, Nussbaum, Germany*
[4]*Society for Cancer Research, Arlesheim, Switzerland*

[*]Correspondence: Dr Alexander Tournier, Homeopathy Research Institute, London, UK.
E-mail: alextournier@hri-research.org (A.L. Tournier)

Background: Physicochemical investigations of homeopathic potencies have a long tradition dating back to the end of the 19th century. In order to direct future research, it is necessary to have a solid overview over previously used methods and experimental results. For this systematic review, we focus on laboratory experiments that investigate physicochemical properties of homeopathic potencies.

Methods: Relevant publications were searched for in databases (SCOPUS, Embase, Web of Science, HomBRex, PubMed), article references, and personal collections of literature. Eligible documents were peer-reviewed articles, theses, books, book sections, and conference proceedings without language restrictions. Biological systems (cells, plants, animals), biochemical systems (enzyme activity), and mathematical models were excluded.

All articles found were rated by two reviewers according to a previously developed and adapted Manuscript Information Score (MIS). Articles can score between 0 and 10 points, as 0 to 2 points are given each for description of: experimental procedure, materials, measuring instruments, potentisation method, controls.

Articles with an average MIS ≥ 5 are considered of sufficient quality to be retained for further review.

Results: The literature search provided 240 references. We were able to obtain 230 of these publications. After initial scanning of the papers only 155 were found to be investigating homeopathy. Of these, 109 publications had a MIS score ≥ 5. Among the physical and chemical methods used are: nuclear magnetic resonance (^{1}H, ^{13}C);

spectroscopy (UV, VIS, IR, FT-IR, Raman); luminescence, delayed luminescence, thermoluminescence; fluorescence; conductivity; calorimetry; pH; atomic force microscopy, and transmission electron microscopy.

Discussion: More results will be presented at the conference.

Keywords: Physical chemistry, Homeopathy, Fundamental research, Physicochemical methods

Homeopathy in self-reported depression: a pragmatic randomised controlled trial

Petter Viksveen*

University of Sheffield, UK

*Correspondence: Mr Petter Viksveen BA, MSc, PhD student, University of Sheffield, UK.
E-mail: p.viksveen@sheffield.ac.uk (P. Viksveen)

Introduction: Depression is a major healthcare problem all around the world. The WHO predicts depression will become the main burden of disease worldwide by 2030. Antidepressants and other conventional treatment may help some patients, although others respond insufficiently or not at all, experience too many side-effects or do not want to use such treatment. Depression is one of the main reasons why patients consult with homeopaths. Existing evidence of the effectiveness of homeopathy in depression is limited.

Aim: To evaluate the acceptability and effectiveness of adjunctive treatment provided by homeopaths for patients with self-reported depression in addition to usual care, compared to usual care alone.

Methodology: A pragmatic randomised controlled trial (RCT) was used to assess the effectiveness of an offer for treatment by homeopaths as an adjunct to usual care. The cohort multiple RCT (cmRCT) design was used and patients were recruited through the Yorkshire Health Study, a UK National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) funded cohort with 27,000 patients. In order to increase external validity, wide selection criteria were used and individualised homeopathic treatment was offered for a 9 month period. Outcome measures included the Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9) and the Generalised Anxiety Disorder (GAD-7) self-reported outcome measures. Results were measured at 6 and 12 months. An intention to treat analysis was carried out to assess the offer for treatment. A complier average causal effect (CACE) analysis was used to assess the effect of treatment received.

Results: A total of 566 patients were eligible to be included in the trial, with 381 patients in the "No offer" group and 185 in the "Offer" group. Out of 185 patients, 74 accepted the offer for treatment and received treatment. Results will be presented.

Keywords: Homeopathy, Randomised controlled trial, Cohort multiple RCT design, Depression, PHQ-9, Anxiety, GAD-7, Intention to treat (ITT) analysis, Complier average causal effect (CACE) analysis