

## Homoeopathic Approaches To Cancer Treatment

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### Abstract:

One of the frequently employed alternative methods in cancer treatment is homoeopathy. It is commonly used to treat cancer patients both palliatively and curatively. Clinical research on the effects of homoeopathy in cancer are uncommon, despite reports of studies on its application following chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and surgery. Homeopathy, the most widely used therapeutic modality in the medical sciences today, is acknowledged as a constituent of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) worldwide. Homeopathy has been used to treat a wide range of human conditions, from minor to severe. We will talk about in this essay. Homoeopathic Methods for Treating Cancer.

**Keywords:** Cancer Treatment, Homoeopathy, Surgery, Radio Therapy, Chemotherapy, Clinical Trials, Complementary and Alternative Medicine, Growth of Cells, Organs, Thuja, Hydrastis, Lycopodium, Conium, Phytolacca, Target Cell, Neoplastic Cell

### Introduction:

An unchecked cell proliferation that can spread to other organs is called cancer. The genes, which are a component of DNA, secrete proteins that regulate the body's cell division and growth. Erroneous protein synthesis can result from any alteration (mutation) in the DNA. Tumor development and defective cell synthesis are the ultimate results of this. [1] Conventional medicine treats cancer in a different way than homeopathy. It takes both approaches to work in concert with one another. For instance, homeopathic approaches should ideally be used to continue treatment after cancer surgery and radiation therapy, as cytostatic medications may cause an immune system malfunction that impairs a patient's ability to recover from cancer radiation or surgery. Cancer patients might find a peaceful and efficient cure with homeopathic therapies. [2]

### Homeopathy:

Homeopathy dates back over 200 years. It is among the most often utilized complementary therapy for cancer patients. The "law of the Minimum" that is smallest dose and the "Similia Similibus Curentur" that is "like cures like" theories underpin homeopathy. Small quantities of a substance having Medicinal properties are used by a homeopathic doctors or homeopath, to treat an ailment. The way homeopathic medications are believed to operate is that they initiate the body's natural healing process. This is brought about by a response to maintain a steady internal environment, which leads to healing.

A form of complementary medicine known as homeopathy is founded on the idea that a disease might be treated by consuming a Substance that is known to cause symptoms similar to the condition in question—a concept known as "like cures like." The ingredients of homeopathic medicines include plants, herbs, minerals, and animal byproducts. [3]

One of the most well-known alternative medical systems is homoeopathy. Homoeopathy is widely used in cancer care in Europe, accounting for around 24% of female breast cancer cases and 6% of cancer diagnoses. In Germany, homoeopathy is the complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) that is most frequently utilized in pediatric oncology, and patient satisfaction with homoeopathic treatment is quite high. According to a summary of systematic research on complementary and alternative medicine for cancer pain, homoeopathy may help reduce adult cancer discomfort.

Homoeopathy's foundation is this:

- Similia similibus curentur (like cure like)

- Holistic treatment
- Serially diluted medicines prepared by succussion and dilution
- More a substance is diluted, more potent it becomes.

### Homoeopathy and cancer

Neoplasia is a term for "new growth." It is an aberrant growing mass that continues even when the stimulus is removed. Cancer cells undergo transformation. Cancer comes in two varieties: malignant cancer and benign cancer. Benign tumors are well-differentiated and localised they can be hazardous if they extend into the surrounding tissues, as in the case of hamartomas, papillomas, adenomas, and leiomyomas. However, malignant cancers have the capacity to invade and spread to nearby structures, such as leiomyosarcoma (smooth muscles) and basal cell carcinoma of the skin. Malignant cancers are unlocalized, while benign tumors are localized. Malignant cancers are undifferentiated (anaplasia), whereas benign tumors are clearly differentiated. Malignant cancers exhibit pleomorphism, which is a change in size and shape, but benign tumors do not. Malignant carcinoma exhibit hyperchromasia, but benign tumors show normal nuclei staining. In benign tumor, the nuclear-cytoplasm ratio is normal; in malignant cancer, it is aberrant. [4]

Complementary medicine known as homoeopathy is becoming more and more popular in the treatment of cancer. Herbs including Thuja, Hydrastis, Lycopodium, Conium, Phytolacca, and Sabal are used to treat cancers of the liver, prostate, skin, and pancreas. These medications cause genetic alterations, stop cell division, and trigger reactive oxygen species in the apoptotic pathway. Although the precise mechanism is yet unknown, open mitochondrial pores cause calcium to accumulate in cells. Studies are being conducted to determine the anti-carcinogenesis of medications and to comprehend their mechanism. aside from cancer treatment. Adjuvant therapy uses medications such as belladonna and traumeel S to reduce or alleviate the side effects of chemotherapy, such as rashes, stomatitis, skin irritation, seroma (pocket of fluid and Pain after surgery. [5]

### Review of Literature:

Cancer ranks as the second leading cause of mortality in developed nations, according to a 2003 World Health Organization assessment. Cancer patients are typically treated with conventional medications. Although non-surgical conventional treatments can prevent and treat cancer, their usage is limited by its side effects. Cancer patients in such circumstances often resort to complementary therapies such as homoeopathy. Nearly 30% of patients in homoeopathic hospitals in the UK had direct referrals from oncologists. (Milazzo S) [6]

Drugs in the homeopathic treatment system exhibit both mental and physical symptoms. Homeopathy is consistently beneficial in treating cervical cancer patients due to its ability to address not only mental and psychological aspects but also internal inflammation. In addition to constitutional/deep acting/polychrest homoeopathic medicines, specialized medications that address all features and consequences of cervical cancer are necessary to manage these situations. [7]

The words "similar" (omoios) and "suffering" (pathos) are the Greek roots of the word "homoeopathy." The foundation of homeopathy is the idea that "like cures like," which is reflected in this phrase. This principle states that disorders exhibiting symptoms similar to those brought on by homeopathic remedies be treated with them after the remedies have been tested on healthy volunteers to determine their effectiveness. [8]

There are at least four basic types of homeopathic prescribing strategies that can be distinguished. A single homeopathic medication is administered in "classical" or "individualized" homeopathy based on the patient's presentation and medical history. In 'clinical' homeopathy, a group of patients with the same clinical illness are treated with the same homeopathic remedy, such as rhus tox for arthritis. 'Complex' homeopathy involves the use of multiple homeopathic medicines for a specific ailment, either in combination or concurrently. Homeopathic medication in "isopathy" is based on the causative agent, such as grass pollens for hay fever (Linde 1997). [9]

There are various homeopathic methods for treating cancer. There are two main approaches to using homeopathy to treat cancer. The first is the traditional method of prescribing for the patient's entire symptom set. Second, it can be utilized to mitigate the side effects of chemotherapy and radiation therapy as well as complement conventional medical therapies. Using the Banerji Protocols, a contemporary adaptation of Burnett's technique that use alternating remedies—sometimes with high potency and repeatedly repeated—is a third possibility. In addition, homeopathic treatments can be incorporated into a larger program of natural cancer detoxification that also includes colonic irrigation, massage, reflexology, food modifications, liquid consumption, and meditation (Dan Labriola, 1999). [10]

The usage of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) methods is growing, and as a result, they are becoming more and more important in traditional western medicine, according to researchers SA Dufter et al. In order to increase patient compliance with conventional treatment and their sense of trust in their physician, the researchers undertook a study to determine the personal traits that can help clinicians determine when and why complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) is utilized. Given that knowledge and instruction ought to be valued on par with one another, one would question why these doctors find that patients' "trust towards their physician" is such a major problem. Within an ambulatory clinical and rehabilitation context, cancer patients were given a questionnaire by the researchers. In order to investigate potential CAM use factors, including gender, age, education level, spirituality, attentiveness, self-efficacy, and resilience, multiple regression analyses were conducted. Two dependent variables, "holistic and mind-body methods"

(e.g., yoga, meditation, homeopathy) and "material based methods" (e.g., food supplements, vitamins) were developed in order to distinguish between CAM users. [11]

According to the National Council of the Order of Physicians, 40% of French individuals reported using complementary and alternative medicine in 2015, based on research by C. Bosacki et al. Those with severe or long-term illnesses saw an even higher rate of this. Among medical professionals, 6115 physicians identified themselves as practicing alternative and complementary medicine. In 91% of cases, homeopathy, osteopathic medicine, or acupuncture were used. Approximately one-fifth of these doctors worked in hospital settings, specifically in oncology supportive care units. Nonetheless, there is still debate regarding the great popularity of homeopathy in France. The National Academy of Medicine, the National Medicines Agency, and the High Authority for Health have all been invited by the Order of Physicians to address this matter. Agnès Buzyn, the minister of health, said that "homeopathy might be studied and put in common law. It will be paid back if it is helpful. It will stop being worthless if it is." [12]

A study was carried out by C. Yde et al. [7] to find out why Danish cancer patients chose to receive treatment from homeopaths and about their experiences with it. A brief qualitative semi-structured interview research was conducted to gather baseline data regarding the rationale for and experiences using homeopathic medicine as a supplement to conventional care in cancer patients. The themes were developed through the application of thematic analysis. Interviews were conducted with five cancer sufferers. Five themes emerged from the qualitative interviews: hopes and worries, support and challenges, internal health locus of control, whole person approach, and enhanced wellbeing. The purpose of the homeopathic treatment that the cancer patients in this study wanted was to address their goals and anxieties, to help them overcome hurdles and find support. They were actively managing their own health and appreciated the holistic approach their homeopaths employed. Both physical and mental well-being were reported to have improved by the participants. [13]

M. Frenkel et al. reviewed the main issues and difficulties associated with using CIM both during and after lung cancer therapy. The topics covered in the questions include evaluating the importance of exercise, addressing the mind-body connection, maximizing the benefits of immunotherapy, assessing the role of nutrition and nutritional supplements, and evaluating the advantages of combining complementary therapies like acupuncture and homeopathy with traditional cancer treatment. The review's authors hope that it will spark a conversation between patients and doctors about the use of CIM both during and after lung cancer treatment. [14]

A study on the usage and prevalence of homeopathy in the US was carried out by M. L. Dosset et al. Recent clinical trials have identified a number of areas, such as infectious diseases, pain management, mental health, and cancer treatment, where homeopathy may contribute to better public health. The review looked at recent research in these areas, including studies evaluating the costs of homeopathic treatment, safety, and regulations in the US. According to the survey, little over 2% of Americans utilize homeopathy, mostly for symptoms related to the musculoskeletal, otorhinolaryngology, and respiratory systems. Individual users who receive care from a homeopathic provider are more likely than non-users to believe that the therapy is beneficial; in the US, however, just 19% of users visit a provider. For self-care, the others most likely use over-the-counter products. [15]

The most prevalent cancer in Cameroonian males to receive a diagnosis is prostate cancer (CaP). Its full burden on the population is not well understood because of insufficient resources, record keeping, and infrastructure. There are differences between rural and urban areas in terms of awareness, screening, treatment, and survivorship, according to E. Kaninjing et al. Moreover, homeopathy and traditional medicine are widely used in Cameroon, and some men may wait until their CaP is in a more advanced state before seeking mainstream medical care, according to writers. [16]

A.N. Nekratova's research produced a list of modern "homeopathic plants" in Siberia, along with descriptions of each plant's principal symptoms or therapeutic indications. Examining the 709 species that are permitted for usage in Russia, the textbook *Global Resources of Homeopathic Medicinal Raw Materials* classified each one as either indigenous or non-indigenous to the Siberian region. The medical indications of Siberian medicinal plants used in homeopathy were identified using a homeopathic repertory that included descriptions of over 1,800 single-component remedies. 52 families and 137 species of flowering plants, gymnosperms, and sporophytes make up the therapeutic plants of Siberia used in homeopathy. The Compositae, Rosaceae, and Lamiaceae families are the most prevalent. In summary, the Siberian plant inventory has made it possible to identify the local plants that are used in homeopathy and will assist in guiding future study on new species that may be added to the homeopathic repertoire. [17]

Anthocyanins are present in a number of homeopathic cancer medications, such as *Bellis perennis* MT (mother tincture). A review of studies summarizing the research on these pharmacological substances was carried out by J Liu et al. The natural substances called anthocyanins are what give plants their color. In addition to being naturally occurring plant pigments, anthocyanins offer numerous additional health advantages. The beneficial effects of anthocyanins on disorders affecting the immunological, digestive, endocrine, neurological, circulatory, and urinary systems have been demonstrated by numerous researchers. Furthermore, through a variety of antioxidant and anti-inflammatory actions, anthocyanins have been shown in numerous studies to have an anticancer effect. Research on anthocyanins is highly valuable due to their diverse anti-disease impact and mechanism. In order to provide references for future research, this review detailed the research development on anthocyanins as pharmacological agents for various disorders. [18]

### Objectives:

- Evaluate effectiveness and safety of homeopathic medicines used to prevent or treat adverse effects of cancer treatments.
- To Study of Homoeopathic Approaches to Cancer Treatment

### Research Methodology:

This review uses computerized searches of multiple databases, including Elsevier, Google Scholar, Pub Med, Scopus, Springer, and the Wiley Online Library, to describe the literature available on the application of homeopathy in cancer. It was discovered that immunological modulation and apoptosis are two ways in which homeopathic medications are said to have a positive impact on certain cancer cell lines. Adjunctive homeopathic treatment also enhances survival duration, quality of life, and presenting symptoms. To prove anti-tumor or antimetastatic capabilities in controlled clinical studies, more data must be produced.

### Result and Discussion:

Any abnormal or new cell proliferation is referred to as cancer. The phrase comes from the Latin word for crab because it clings, like a crab, to whatever component it captures. [19] Carcinogenesis, which translates literally to "the birth of cancer," is the term used to describe the process of creating cancer. As we all know, cells are the fundamental units of our bodies, with twenty-three pairs of chromosomes found in each one. The double helix spiral of the deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) molecule, which makes up these chromosomes, regulates and transmits the genetic traits inherited from the parents and subsequently passed on to the kids. Millions of distinct genes that regulate the body's development, operation, and behavior are found on the chromosomes. [20]

Carcinogens

↓

Target cell

↓

Reactive electrophiles

↓

Permanent DNA damage

↓

Clone formation by altered cells

↓

Neoplastic cell

### Conventional approach

For cancer patients, standard treatments include radiotherapy, chemotherapy, surgery, and oral medicines. These medications have a number of adverse effects. In such circumstances, the immune system is already compromised. [21] Sometimes the patient is unable to handle consistent medication administration. These are the standard methods, however in order to lessen your suffering, we also recommend that you consider a homeopathic cancer treatment. [22]



Figure 1: Conventional Treatments (Source: Google)



There are a lot of homeopathic cancer medications available. Nonetheless, these are the top 7 homeopathic cancer treatments. [23]

- Carcinosin
- Arsenic Album
- Bromium
- Conium
- Carbo Animalis
- Lapis Alba
- Hydrastis

These are only a handful of recommended homeopathic medications for the treatment of cancer. To get the greatest homeopathic cancer therapy, it's usually advisable to get guidance from the top homeopathic physician in your area. [24, 25]

Adjunctive homeopathic treatment's impact on cancer patients In 2012, 8.2 million deaths worldwide were attributed to cancer, making it a leading cause of mortality. According to estimates, the number of cancer cases will rise from 6.1 million in 2008 to 10.6 million in 2030 as a result of changing socioeconomic conditions, aging populations, and changing lifestyles. Since there are very few therapy choices for cancer, researchers from different medical specialties have looked for workable therapeutic solutions to help control and treat the disease. The paradigm for treating cancer has changed during the last 20 years, moving from cytotoxic drugs that were generally nonspecific to mechanism-based, selective therapies like cancer immunotherapy and targeted medicines.

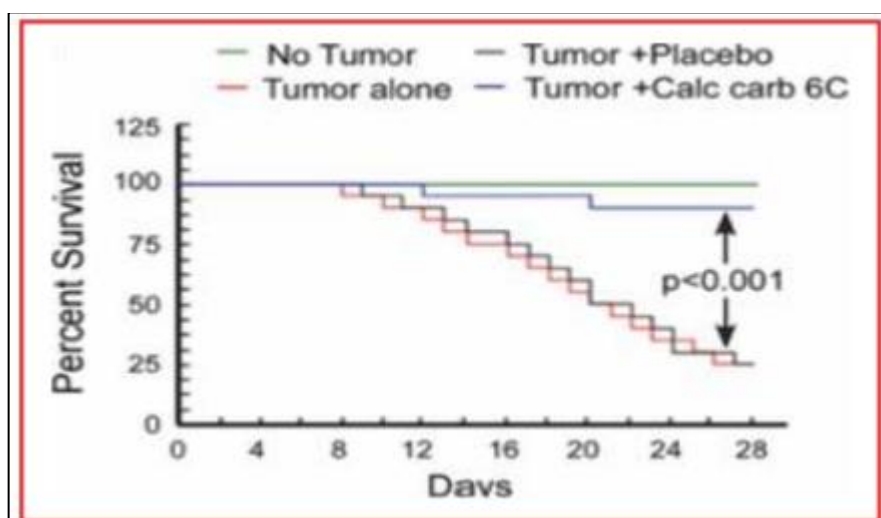
Nevertheless, research on the molecular mechanisms behind these medications' potential anti-cancer effects is still in its early stages. In order to assess the effectiveness of calcarea carbonica, a homoeopathic medicine, as an anti-cancer agent and to precisely identify the molecular mechanism(s) underlying calcarea carbonica-induced tumor regression, the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH), an apex organization under the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, partnered with Bose Institute, Kolkata. It's interesting to note that while giving calcarea carbonica (6C) to Swiss albino mice exhibiting Ehrlich's ascites carcinoma (EAC) and Sarcoma-180 (S-180) resulted in 30–35% tumor cell apoptosis, it was unable to cause any appreciable cell death in ex vivo settings. [26]

Calcaria carbonica induces tumor regression in vivo



**Figure 2: Calcaria carbonica induces tumor regression in vivo**

1×10<sup>6</sup> EAC (Ehrlich's ascites carcinoma) was administered intraperitoneally into Swiss albino mice. Following a week, oral administration of placebo/Calcarea carbonica (1C, 6C, 12C, 30C, and 200C) was carried out for 27 days.



**Figure 3: Increased Survival Rates of Tumor Bearing Mice**

Mice with tumor-bearing tumors had higher survival rates when calcarea carbonica was added.

Calcarea carbonica caused cancer cells to undergo apoptosis. If more research validates the efficacy of homeopathic medicine in treating cancer, it can prevent many deaths and the morbidities that follow cancer. [27]

### Homeopathy Treatment for Blood Cancer: A Complementary Approach

Examining the field of alternative medicine, Blood Cancer Homeopathy Treatment offers itself as an adjunctive strategy to conventional cancer treatments. Based on the tenets of "like with like," this therapeutic approach seeks to address more than just the outward signs of cancer; it presents a whole picture. It emphasizes the whole well-being of the person, taking into account both mental and emotional health.

"Like with like" is based on the idea of "like cures like," which states that drugs that cause symptoms in a healthy person can be used in very small doses to treat comparable symptoms in a sick person. Homeopathic treatments for leukemia are customized to meet the specific symptoms and medical needs of each patient. This personalization is essential because it recognizes the uniqueness and complexity of every patient's cancer journey.

Homeopathy's non-invasiveness and low side effect rate make it a good choice for patients looking for less harsh treatment options. These are two of the main advantages of homeopathy in the treatment of cancer. In order to lessen side effects and enhance quality of life, it is frequently used in conjunction with traditional treatments like radiation and chemotherapy. In addition to strengthening the patient's immune system, homeopathic treatments can aid in the management of symptoms including pain, exhaustion, and nausea. [28]

Following are remedies used in different types of carcinomas

- Calceria flour for breast cancer with hard and stony lumps.
- Silica can be used as adjuvant to reduce cancer pain and sarcoma with yellow and offensive discharge.
- Hecla lava is bone cancerous remedy.
- Barata carb for scattered lipomas.
- Kali sulph for facial epithelial cancer.
- Plumbum iodum in mastitis and induration of breast.[29]

The therapeutic plant *Conium maculatum*, often referred to as poison hemlock, has a long tradition in conventional medicine. It comprises many kinds of phytochemicals that include alkaloids, flavonoids, and polyacetylenes that could provide medicinal properties. *C. maculatum* extracts have been demonstrated in many studies to exhibit anticancer activity in multiple kinds of cancer and have the potential as a source of novel therapeutic agents. Its ethanolic extract has previously been reported for anticancer activity against cancer cell lines was observed that an extract derived from *C. maculatum*, specifically the mother tincture used in homeopathy, exhibited notable anticancer properties when tested against HeLa cell lines. The mechanism underlying this anticancer activity was attributed to the initiation of reactive oxygen species (ROS)-mediated DNA damage, ultimately leading to cell death through apoptosis. [30]

The effect of Arsenic album 6c was seen on cell cycle, wound healing reactive oxygen species (ROS) generation and modulation of expression of key genes which are aberrant in cancer it was seen that there is inhibition of cell cycle progression at sub G0 and G2/M phase which was a result of DNA damage brought on by generation of ROS also Ars 6c induced apoptosis in MCF7 cells by modulating both the intrinsic and extrinsic pathways.[31]

### Conclusion

Many cancer patients turn to homeopathy because it treats a person as a whole considering not only his disease Symptoms but physical makeup his state of mind and his Constitution and boost immune system within each individual and stimulate

bodies healing process .Many cancer patients prefer homeopathy as they give relief from symptoms like pain ,nausea, weakness,there are a few documented instances of individuals using homeopathy following chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery to manage adverse effects. Homeopathy is frequently utilized as a supportive and palliative therapy in cancer patients according to the study.It is choice of treatment for many as it is easy to take, palatable have no side effects and safe.The study discovered that several cancer types have been shown to respond positively to homeopathic medications' anticancer effects through immune system regulation and apoptosis. Due to their modest dose, homeopathic treatments practically never interact with conventional medications when administered in addition to them. This is mostly attributable to raising patient immunity, lengthening survival times, and relieving symptoms to improve patients' quality of life.

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