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Literature review on terebinthinae oleum: A homoeopathic remedy for kidney affections and various other clinical conditions

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Abstract

Terebinthinae, a clear colorless liquid obtained by distillation of the exudation from certain varieties of the pine trees. This review is collected based on the various case reports on the pharmacological effects of terebinthina. The source books of homoeopathic materia medica state that this remedy is very useful in certain affections of kidney and the bladder, especially in *Bright's disease*. Terebinthina oleum is one of the medicine for Fatty degeneration of kidneys, in uremia and uremic coma and for *Chronic Bronchitis* it is of great use in desperate cases of typhoid fevers. However, further research studies should be conducted to explore its efficacy in treating the disease conditions.

Keywords: *Turpentine*, homoeopathy, bright's disease, uremia, uremic, chronic bronchitis

Introduction

Terebinthinae oleum is one of the remedy used in Homoeopathy for complaints related to the kidney related disorders including alcohol. Modern medicine relies mostly on surgeries and other drug therapies which can further result in various after effects, but homoeopathic medications provide simple and easy treatment over the years without the need of any surgical intervention in cases of Renal calculi. Various case reports published by various authors have demonstrated the efficacy of Terebinthinae for renal calculi^[2].

Terebinthina *oleum* is one of the accessible and economical homoeopathic remedy that not only targets on a wide range of chronic diseases as in bladder affections, respiratory affections, skin affections, scarlatina, haematuria, but also has an impact on the cerebrospinal system^[3].

We hope that the findings of this study will encourage its clinical utility for different kinds of diseases as an economical adjunct and identify areas of future research for this medicine as an alternative agent for various causative factors of the diseases.

Folk and traditional uses of the medicine

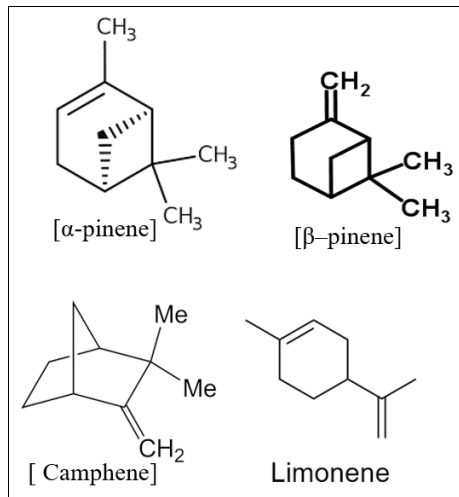
All the turpentine are produced from *Pine* trees [Fig 1]. Turpentine oil is derived from the *Oleoresin [balsam]* collected from the tree, in homoeopathy distillation of the material which is produced as solid resin is used as the potentised medicine (prepared by exposure of the common oil to sun and air in a half filled bottle and shaking from time to time) for therapeutic benefits. Turpentine consists of various alkaloids.



Fig 1: Pine trees

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Turpentine produced in the United states is made primarily of the following components, alpha-pinene (75-85%), beta-pinene (3%), camphene (4 -15%), limonene/dipentene (5-15%), 3-carene and terpineol [4].



According to the European agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal products, the oxidation products of Terebinthinae regulates the trachea- bronchial secretion and is useful in the clearance for any obstruction of the lung disease. The citrus peel has a major source of limonene was associated with a reduction in the risk of Squamous Cell carcinomas in older populations [5].

Terebinthina acts as a Stimulant and tonic to the mucous membrane, especially of the bladder and the urethra; it proves useful in gleet, leucorrhoea and cystorrhoea. When terebinthina is applied on the skin- it acts as an irritant and rubefacient, producing a sensation of burning and produces vesicular type of eruptions if applied for any length of time. Bruton mentions terebinthina holds great value in cases of biliary colic. Terebinthina is a great haemorrhagic remedy and its haematuria is particularly characteristic: smoky, turbid urine depositing sediment like coffee ground like [6].

Lethal dose

Occupational exposure to turpentine is due to the procedure

of making paper with turpentine, general public may be exposed to turpentine through foods and in households where the turpentine is used for the purpose of paintings, as adhesives, as flavoring agents as well as the turpentine oil is applied on the skin for getting rid of various joint related disorders. Inhalation of vapors of turpentine is believed to reduce the congestion occurring due to the lung disorders.

Volatile components of turpentine are emitted into the atmosphere by trees.

The mean oral lethal dose of turpentine for human range from 15 to 150 ml.

Systemic toxicity to turpentine usually results in Gastric disturbances and Central nervous system depression within 2-3 hours of exposure.

Acute Exposure

initial exposure to turpentine for more than 6 hours may result in the following conditions;

- Ocular irritation
- Headache
- Dizziness
- Nausea and vomiting
- Tachycardia
- Albuminuria
- Urinary casts
- Renal damage

Chronic exposure

- Results in
- Cerebral Atrophy
- Behavioral changes
- Anaemia
- Bone marrow damage
- Glomerulonephritis
- Dermatitis.

Action of turpentine

Turpentine causes active congestion of capillaries of the Malpighian tufts of glomeruli with exudation of Albumin destroying the glandular surface of the TUBULI URINIFEROUS.

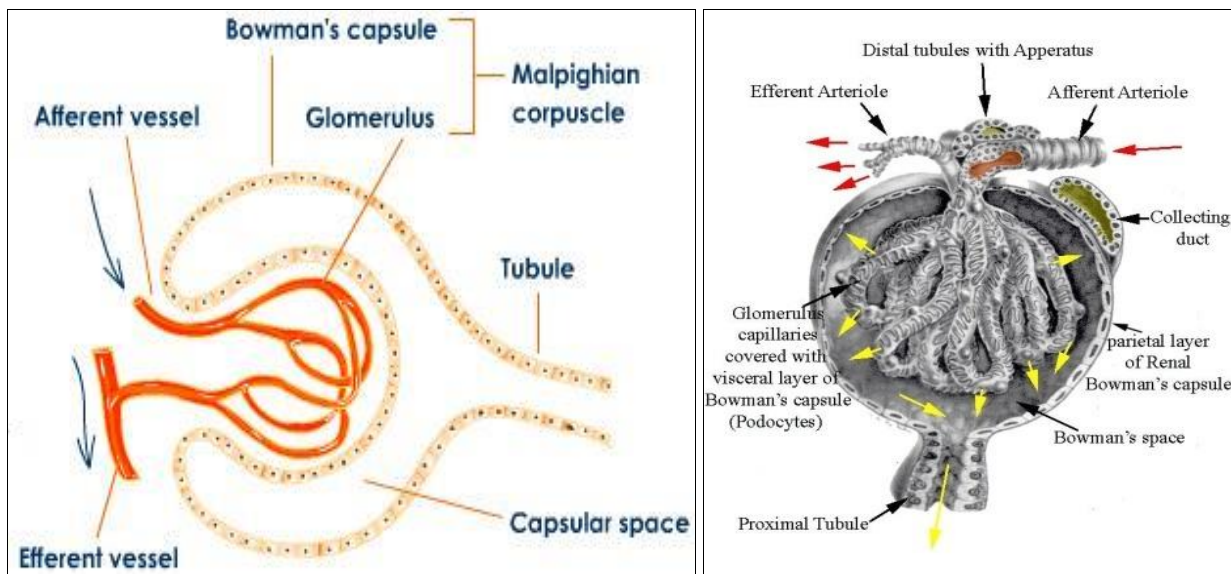


Fig 2: Action of turpentine

Large doses of turpentine produces;

- Intense burning
- Pain
- Nausea
- Intestinal Irritation
- Severe burning in the abdomen with stools of mucus and blood accompanied with violent tenesmus.

The abdomen becomes tympanic along with prostration.

The blood becomes dark for want of oxygen.

Prolonged inhalation of the oil in women leads to menorrhagia and dysmenorrhea [7].

Pharmacological indications of Terebinthinae oleum

Terebinthina can be indicated in conditions where there is albuminuria after diphtheria, scarlatina and typhoid, in early stages when blood and albumin are found to be more than casts or epithelium. Urine which is smoky in appearance, has coffee ground like sediment, thick yellow slimy muddy sediment, painless of odor of violets associated with burning in the region of kidneys, ureters and bladder. Indicated in Cystitis when the urine is Alkaline and offensive [8].

According to William boericke, terebinthina 1x is helpful in treating chronic bronchitis and winter cough and in sub acute stages of inflammation of the respiratory tract as it helps to loosen the secretion, it relieves tightened feeling, makes expectoration easy, and can be thought of in necrotic cough. It is one of the remedy which can be utilized in case of huskiness of voice in singers and public speakers [8].

It can be one of the remedy which can be effectively used as a prophylactic in malarial and African fevers, stranguary and haematuria in Nephritic conditions which occurs after burns. Useful in desperate cases of typhoid with tendency towards hemorrhage along with great drowsiness [8].

Therapeutic point of view on terebinthina

In Turpentine kidney troubles, there is stranguary and blood in the urine.

The urine becomes brown, black or smoky in appearance.

For burning and smarting on passing urine, Turpentine stands nearer to Cantharis, Cannabis sativa than Berberis. All four may be found useful in the First stage of albuminuria, Turpentine taking the lead, and it may sometimes require considerable study to choose between them [9].

Mercurius corrosives generally can be prescribed in later stages. Terebinthina is one of the best anti- hemorrhages which usually come from the bowels, especially in typhoid, and even in purpura haemorrhagica. One of the chief characteristics for the use of terebinthina is the appearance of a smooth, glossy, red tongue [other remedies being crotalus, pyrogen] along with excessive tympanities, if the two symptoms are found in typhoid then terebinth is the remedy [9].

Ancient review on Terebinthinous remedies [10].

Observations respecting the particular diseases in which it may be employed.

Chronic rheumatism

The terebinthinous remedies have been in use in several varieties of this disease, as In Lumbago and Sciatica. Drs Pitearin and Cheyne were the first to recommend the essential oil in this affection, afterwards Dr Home and Dr

Cullen employed it frequently. Home gave it in the form of a linctus, consisting of two drachms of the oil and one ounce of honey and of this a tea spoonful was taken twice or thrice in 24 hours. This was the same formula as that recommended by Cheyne and from the cases related by Home, it appeared to have generally cured the disease.

In epilepsy of children

Epilepsy which generally arises from the irritation of worms in the alimentary canal, or from a distorted state of its mucous membrane, this medicine will seldom fail in proving of immediate advantage. It acts more speedily than any other in removing the cause.

In marasmus

Marasmus accompanied with a diseased state of the mucous membranes and the vessels and follicular apparatus opening upon their surface, It was consider for the occasional employment in a medium dose.

In hydrops

The oleum Terebinthinae and the terebinthines was prescribed as a diuretic, especially during the last two centuries, by the German and Dutch physicians; it was given in the form of pills combined with large doses of the sulphate of zinc.

Apart from the various clinical indications mentioned terebinthina can be thought of in case of *Bedsore*s in paralytics and for purpura haemorrhagica which is associated with intense debility.

Terebinthina 30 th potency can be used in cases of fever especially typhoid fever where there is hemorrhage from the bowels associated with blood in the urine and intense grade of tympanities along with dry and glossy appearance of the tongue which is the main peculiarity of the remedy.

Conclusion

Terebinthinae is a elixir in kidney related disorders and has various anti-helminthic effects, it was used as a traditional medicine. Further studies are required to explore its utility in other clinical conditions.

Conflict of interest

There is no conflict of interest.

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Not available

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