



International Journal of Homoeopathic Sciences

E-ISSN: 2616-4493

P-ISSN: 2616-4485

www.homoeopathicjournal.com

IJHS 2021; 5(1): 01-06

Received: 22-10-2020

Accepted: 02-12-2020

Dr. Jayasree V

PG Scholar, Department of
Organon of Medicine, Sarada
Krishna Homoeopathic
Medical College,
Kulasekharam, Kanya
Kumari, Tamil Nadu, India

Dr. M Murugan

Head of the Department,
Department of Organon of
Medicine, Sarada Krishna
Homoeopathic Medical
College, Kulasekharam, Kanya
Kumari, Tamil Nadu, India

Corresponding Author:

Dr. Jayasree V

PG Scholar, Department of
Organon of Medicine, Sarada
Krishna Homoeopathic
Medical College,
Kulasekharam, Kanya
Kumari, Tamil Nadu, India

A retrospective study on effectiveness of homoeopathic medicine on patients under palliative care

Dr. Jayasree V and Dr. M Murugan

Abstract

Background: Cancer is one of the leading causes of death, around the world. Though there are abundant resources available for research, Science has so far failed to effectively tackle, treat and cure the disease permanently. The integrated approach of homoeopathic medicines helps in reducing the side effects after chemotherapy or radiotherapy. The aim of this study is to know about the effectiveness of homoeopathic medicine on patients under palliative care.

Methodology: 50 cancer cases are selected from the Outpatient Department of Sarada Krishna Homoeopathic Medical College, Kulasekharam, Tamilnadu. Their treatment records were reviewed. All cases are monitored with symptomatic improvement and radiological reports.

Results: The study report shows that there is only symptomatic relief of the patient. But there are no marked pathological changes in radiological reports. The most commonly affected cancer is oral cancer and the commonly prescribed medicines are Nitric acid, Arsenicum album, Acid Sulphuricum, Thuja.

Conclusion: In palliative care, homoeopathic medicines plays an important role in maintaining the Quality of Life of the patient in the disease strategies like pain, insomnia, loss of appetite, psychological problems etc.

Keywords: Cancer, quality of life, nitric acid, acid sulphuricum, arsenicum album, thuja

1. Introduction

Cancer is one of the leading causes of death, around the world. Due to the life style changes and exposure to certain carcinogenic agents will increase the incidence of cancer among various populations of the country ^[1]. The extent of the disease and the prognosis, along with patients wish, will determine whether the treatment approach is curative or palliative. The incidence of depression in cancer patients is more along with appetite change, sleep disorders, fatigue and so on ^[2]. In cancer patients homeopathy has rarely been studied systematically. A Cochrane Review of homeopathic medicines for adverse effects of cancer treatments found eight randomised controlled studies with mixed results ^[3]. A second systematic review concluded that the "evidence is encouraging but not convincing" ^[4]. The effects of homeopathy on quality of life in cancer patients has been studied very rarely. Only two randomised trials used it as a secondary outcome, one with and one without positive results ^[5], ^[6]. A retrospective hypotheses generating study in a clinic specialising in the homeopathic care of cancer patients found that the majority of patients indicated that they had improved in Quality of Life due to their homeopathic treatment, as well as in fatigue symptoms and psychological well-being. To cope up all these factors, there is a need of an alternative therapy. Also the integrated approach of homoeopathic medicines helps in reducing the side effects after chemotherapy or radiation therapy.

2. Objectives of the study

- To know about the effectiveness of homoeopathic medicine in patients under palliative care.
- To know about the commonly indicated remedy for cancer patients.
- To assess the effectiveness of homoeopathic treatment in maintaining the quality of life of cancer patients

3. Materials and Methods

3.1 Study setting

A sample of 50 cases during the period of 2018 and 2019, taken from the OPD of Sarada Krishna Homoeopathic Medical College Hospital for homoeopathic treatment were randomly assigned in the study.

3.2 Selection of samples

Sample size: 50 cases

Sampling technique: Purposive sampling

3.2 Methodology

50 cancer cases are selected from the Outpatient Department of Sarada Krishna Homoeopathic Medical College, Kulasekharam, Tamil Nadu. Their treatment records were reviewed. All cases are monitored with symptomatic improvement and radiological reports.

3.4 inclusion criteria

- Patients in all stages of cancers
- Patients of both sexes
- All types of socio-economic group

3.5 Exclusion criteria

- Patients having benign tumors
- Other pathological conditions

3.6 Type of study

Retrospective Study

4. Observations and results

This section contains observations and results of tables and charts of 50 cases of different cancer patients which was randomly selected for the study.

Table 1: Distribution of cases based on cancer prevalence

S. No.	Type of cancer	Total no. of patients
1.	CA Oral cavity	11
2.	CA Breast	4
3.	CA Colon	5
4.	CA Stomach	2
5.	CA Lung	5
6.	CA Cervix	4
7.	CA Prostate	4
8.	CA Rectum	3
9.	CA Thyroid	4
10.	CA Pharynx	2
11.	CA Liver	2
12.	CA Bladder	1
13.	CA Renal	1
14.	CA Gall Bladder	1
15.	CA Pancreas	1

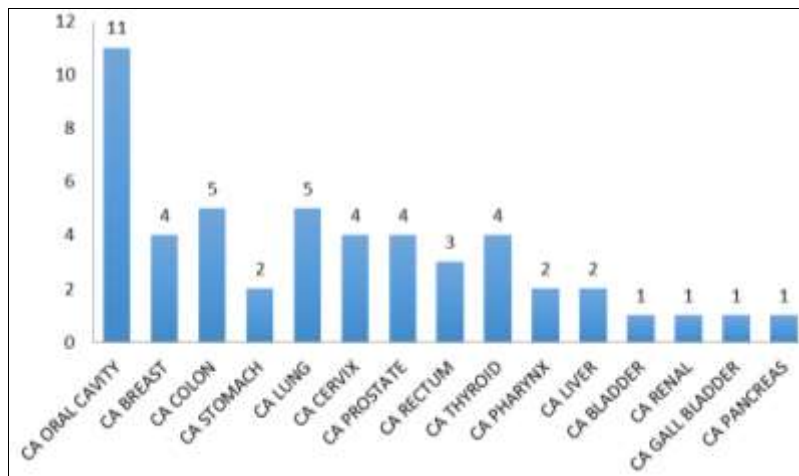


Chart 1: According to this study cases based on cancer prevalence

Chart 1: According to this study, 11 patients suffered from CA Oral cavity, 4 cases of CA Breast, 5 cases of CA Colon, 2 cases of CA Stomach, 5 cases of CA Lung, 4 cases of CA Cervix, 4 cases of CA Prostate, 3 cases of CA Rectum, 4 cases of CA Thyroid, 2 cases of CA Pharynx, 2 cases of CA Liver, 1 case each of CA Bladder, CA Renal, CA Gall Bladder, and CA Pancreas.

Table 2: Distribution of cases based on age

S. No.	Age of patients	Total no. of patients
1.	20-40	1
2.	41-16	16
3.	61-80	26
4.	Above 80	7

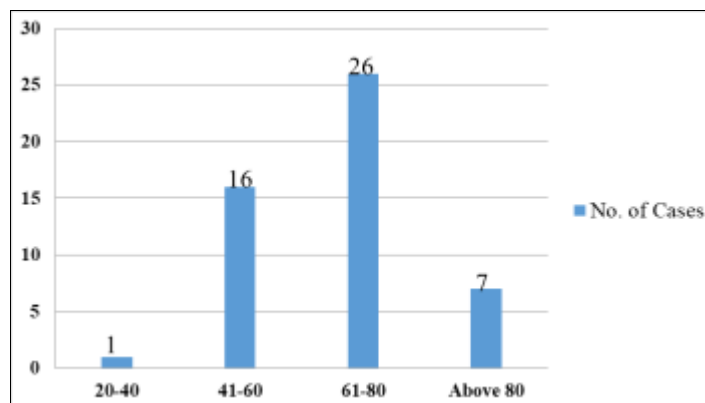


Chart 2: No. of cases according to age

Chart 2: According to this study, the cancer affection based on the age group in this 50 cases are only 1 patient between 20-40 ages, 16 patients are between 41-60 ages, 26 patients are between 61-80 ages, and 7 patients are seen above 80 years of age.

Table 3: Distribution of cancer among gender

S. No.	Gender	Total no. of patients in percentage
1.	Male	56%
2.	Female	44%

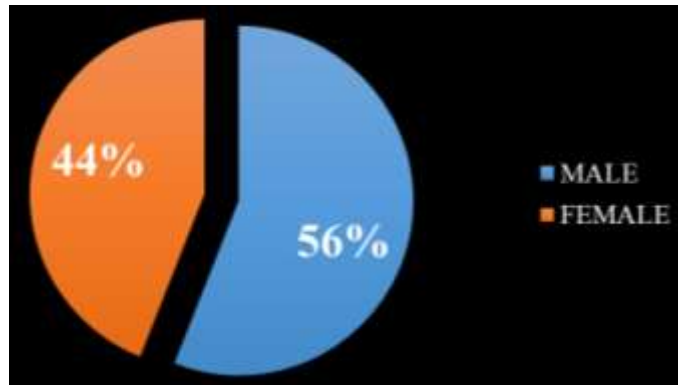


Chart 3: Distribution of cancer among gender

Chart 3: According to this study, the distribution of cancer among gender are 56% in male patients and 44% in female patients.

Table 4: Prevalence of cancer based on site

S. No.	Site of affection	Total no. of patients
1.	CA Oral Cavity	22%
2.	CA Colon	10%
3.	CA Lung	10%
4.	CA Breast	8%
5.	CA Cervix	8%
6.	CA Prostate	8%
7.	CA Thyroid	8%
8.	Ca Rectum	6%
9.	CA Stomach	4%
10.	CA Pharynx	4%
11.	Other	12%
	CA Liver	4%
	Bladder	2%
	Gall Bladder	2%
	Renal	2%
	Pancreas	2%

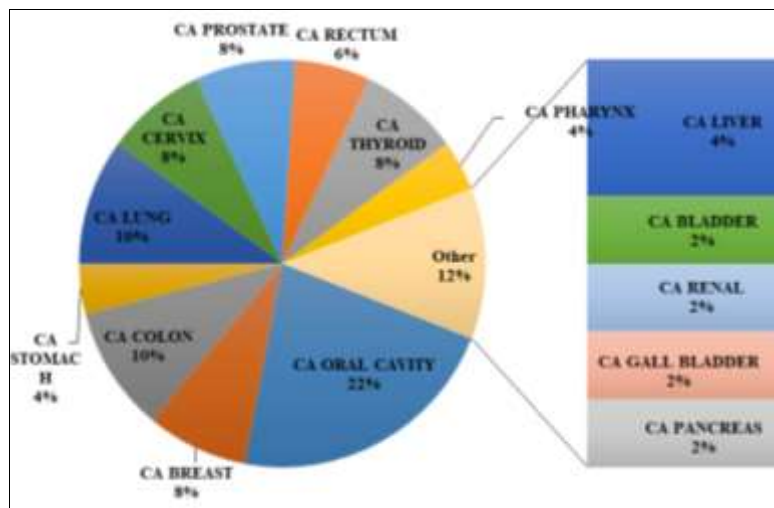


Chart 4: Prevalence of cancer based on site

Chart 4: According to this study, the common site of affection seen in these 50 cases are 22% CA Oral cavity, 8% CA Breast, 10% CA Colon, 4% CA Stomach, 10% CA

Lung, 8% CA Cervix, 8% CA Prostate, 6% CA Rectum, 8% CA Thyroid, 4% CA Pharynx, 4% CA Liver, 2% each of CA Bladder, CA Renal, CA Gall Bladder, and CA Pancreas.

Table 5: Prevalence of cancer site based on gender

S. No.	Type of cancer	Total no. of patients	
		Male	Female
1.	CA Oral cavity	7	4
2.	CA Breast	-	4
3.	CA Colon	2	3
4.	CA Stomach	-	2
5.	CA Lung	5	
6.	CA Cervix	-	4
7.	CA Prostate	4	-
8.	CA Rectum	1	2
9.	CA Thyroid	3	1
10.	CA Pharynx	2	-
11.	CA Liver	1	1
12.	CA Bladder	1	-
13.	CA Renal	1	-
14.	CA Gall Bladder	1	-
15.	CA Pancreas	1	-

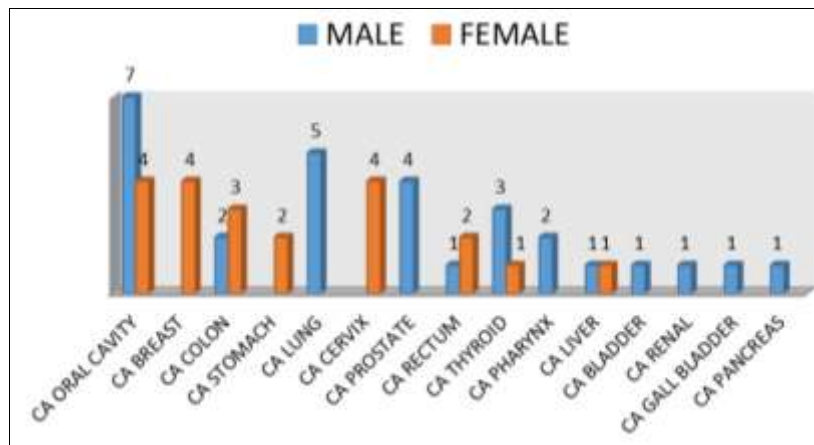


Chart 5: Prevalence of cancer site based on gender

Chart 5: According to this study, the prevalence of cancer based on gender shows 7 male and 4 female cases of CA Oral cavity, 4 female cases of CA Breast, 2 male and 3 female cases of CA Colon, 2 female cases of CA Stomach, 5 male cases of CA Lung, 4 female cases of CA Cervix, 4

male cases of CA Prostate, 1 male and 2 female cases of CA Rectum, 3 male and 1 female cases of CA Thyroid, 2 male cases of CA Pharynx, 1 male and 1 female case of CA Liver, 1 each male cases of CA Bladder, CA Renal, CA Gall Bladder, and CA Pancreas.

Table 6: Distribution of commonly prescribed medicines

S. No.	Commonly prescribed medicines	Total no. of prescribed medicines
1.	Arsenicum album	10
2.	Nitricum acidum	8
3.	Thuja	3
4.	Sulphuricum acidum	4
5.	Phosphoricum acidum	3
6.	Iodum	3
7.	Malandrinum	2
8.	Nux vomica	2
9.	Sulphur	2
10.	Phytolacca	2
11.	Silicea	1
12.	Natrum muriaticum	3
13.	Antimonium tartaricum	1
14.	Pulsatilla	3
15.	Apis mellifica	1

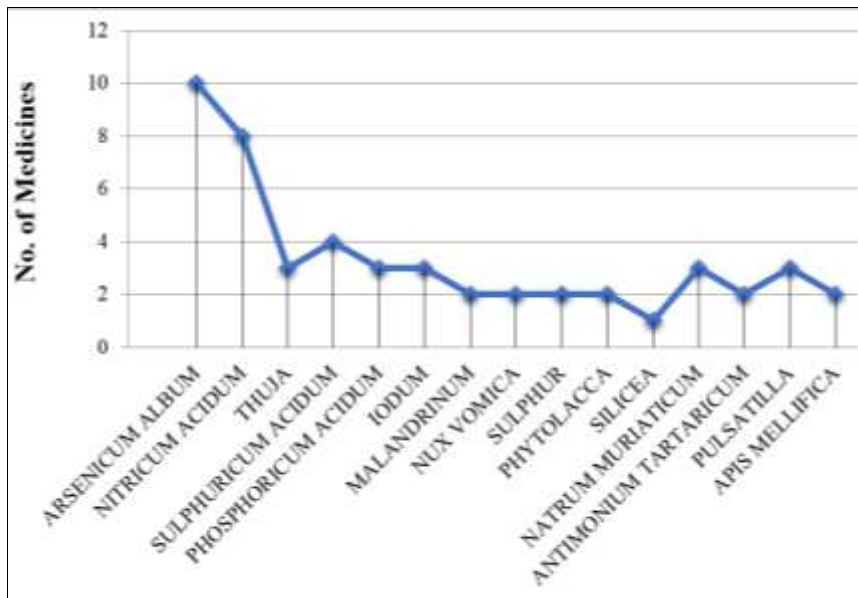


Chart 6: Commonly prescribed medicines

Chart 6: According to this study, the commonly prescribed medicines are 10 patients prescribed with Arsenicum album, 8 patients prescribed with Nitricum acidum, 3 patients prescribed with Thuja, 4 patients prescribed with Sulphuricum acidum, 3 patients prescribed with Phosphoricum acidum, 3 patients prescribed with Iodum, 2 patients each prescribed with Malandrinum, Nux vomica, Sulphur, and Phytolacca, 1 patients prescribed with Silicea, 3 patients prescribed with Natrum muriaticum, 2 patients prescribed with Antimonium tartaricum, 3 patients prescribed with Pulsatilla and 2 patients prescribed with Apis mellifica.

Table 7: Assessment of quality of life

S. No	Symptoms	Improvement in percentage
1.	Bowel habits	78%
2.	Appetite	85%
3.	Fatigue	80%
4.	Sleep	94%
5.	Pain	60%



Chart 7: Assessment of quality of life

Chart 7: According to this study, the quality of life of patient is improved accordingly with the homoeopathic medicines. The patient bowel habit was improved 78%, appetite 85%, fatigue 80%, sleep 94%, and pain was improved 60%.

Table 8: Outcome percentage

S. No.	Symptom improvement	Outcome in %
1.	Palliative relief	86%
2.	No relief	14%

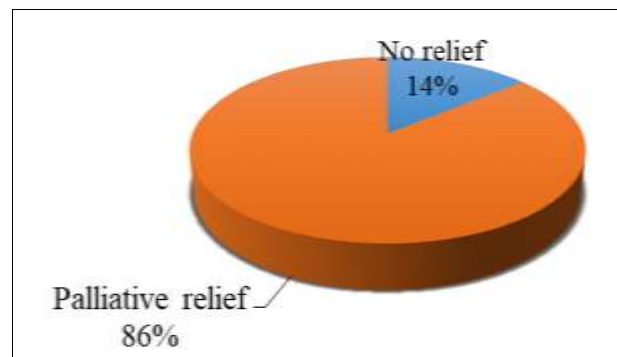


Chart 8: Outcome in percentage

According to this study, 86% of patients got palliative relief from homoeopathic medicines and 14% of patients who are under very vulnerable state got no relief.

4.1 Summary of findings

- According to this study, 11 patients suffered from CA Oral cavity, 4 cases of CA Breast, 5 cases of CA Colon, 2 cases of CA Stomach, 5 cases of CA Lung, 4 cases of CA Cervix, 4 cases of CA Prostate, 3 cases of CA Rectum, 4 cases of CA Thyroid, 2 cases of CA Pharynx, 2 cases of CA Liver, 1 case each of CA Bladder, CA Renal, CA Gall Bladder, and CA Pancreas.
- According to this study, the cancer affection based on the age group in this 50 cases are only 1 patient between 20-40 ages, 16 patients are between 41-60 ages, 26 patients are between 61-80 ages, and 7 patients are seen above 80 years of age.
- According to this study, the distribution of cancer among gender are 56% in male patients and 44% in female patients.
- According to this study, the common site of affection

- seen in these 50 cases are 22% CA Oral cavity, 8% CA Breast, 10% CA Colon, 4% CA Stomach, 10% CA Lung, 8% CA Cervix, 8% CA Prostate, 6% CA Rectum, 8% CA Thyroid, 4% CA Pharynx, 4% CA Liver, 2% each of CA Bladder, CA Renal, CA Gall Bladder, and CA Pancreas.
- According to this study, the prevalence of cancer based on gender shows 7 male and 4 female cases of CA Oral cavity, 4 female cases of CA Breast, 2 male and 3 female cases of CA Colon, 2 female cases of CA Stomach, 5 male cases of CA Lung, 4 female cases of CA Cervix, 4 male cases of CA Prostate, 1 male and 2 female cases of CA Rectum, 3 male and 1 female cases of CA Thyroid, 2 male cases of CA Pharynx, 1 male and 1 female case of CA Liver, 1 each male cases of CA Bladder, CA Renal, CA Gall Bladder, and CA Pancreas.
 - According to this study, the commonly prescribed medicines are 10 patients prescribed with Arsenicum album, 8 patients prescribed with Nitricum acidum, 3 patients prescribed with Thuja, 4 patients prescribed with Sulphuricum acidum, 3 patients prescribed with Phosphoricum acidum, 3 patients prescribed with Iodum, 2 patients each prescribed with Malandrinum, Nux vomica, Sulphur, and Phytolacca, 1 patients prescribed with Silicea, 3 patients prescribed with Natrum muriaticum, 2 patients prescribed with Antimonium tartaricum, 3 patients prescribed with Pulsatilla and 2 patients prescribed with Apis mellifica.
 - According to this study, the quality of life of patient is improved accordingly with the homoeopathic medicines. The patient bowel habit is improved 78%, appetite 85%, fatigue 80%, sleep 94%, and pain is to improved 60%.
 - According to this study, 86% of patients got palliative relief from homoeopathic medicines and 14% of patients who are under very vulnerable state got no relief.
2. Fann JR, Thomas-Rich AM. Major depression after breast cancer: a review of epidemiology and treatment. *Gen Hosp Psychiatry* 2008;30:112-126. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]
 3. Kassab S, Cummings M, Berkovitz S. Homeopathic medicines for adverse effects of cancer treatments. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev* 2009. CD004845. [PubMed]
 4. Milazzo S, Russell N, Ernst E. Efficacy of homeopathic therapy in cancer treatment. *Eur J Cancer* 2006;42:282-289. doi: 10.1016/j.ejca.2005.09.025. [PubMed] [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]
 5. Jacobs J, Herman P, Heron K *et al*. Homeopathy for menopausal symptoms in breast cancer survivors: a preliminary randomized controlled trial. *J Altern Complement Med* 2005;11:21-27. doi: 10.1089/acm.2005.11.21. [PubMed] [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]
 6. Thompson EA, Montgomery A, Douglas D, Reilly D. A pilot randomized, double-blinded, placebo-controlled trial of individualized homeopathy for symptoms of estrogen withdrawal in breast-cancer survivors. *J Altern Complement Med* 2005;11:13-20. doi: 10.1089/acm.2005.11.13. [PubMed] [CrossRef] [Google Scholar]
 7. Hopko DR, Bell JL. The phenomenology and screening of clinical depression in cancer patients. *J Psychosoc Oncol* 2008;26:31-51. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]
 8. Spiegel D, Giese-Davis J. Depression and cancer: mechanisms and disease progression. *Biol Psychiatry* 2003;54:269-282. [PubMed] [Google Scholar]
 9. Doll R, Hill AB. A study of the aetiology of carcinoma of the lung. *Br Med J* 1952;13(4797):1271-1286. [PMC free article] [PubMed] [Google Scholar]
 10. Parkin DM, Bray F, Ferlay J, Pisani P. Global cancer statistics. *CA Cancer J Clin* 2005;55(2):74-108.

5. Results

- Among 50 cases, who had different types of cancer, Oral cancer is found to be predominant followed by cancer colon and stomach.
- The prevalence of cancer is more in male patients than female patients.
- The most commonly prescribed medicines are Nitric acid, Arsenicum album, Acid Sulphuricum, Thuja.
- The study report shows that there is only symptomatic relief of the patient by improving the quality of life of the patient. But there are no marked pathological changes in radiological reports.

6. Conclusion

In palliative care, homoeopathic medicines plays an important role in maintaining the Quality of Life of the patient in the disease strategies like pain, insomnia, loss of appetite, psychological problems etc. Also homoeopathic medicines shows very effective results in early stages of cancer.

7. References

1. Harrison TR. Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine, 17th edition. Volume I: The Mc Graw-Hill Companies, Inc. USA, 2005.