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Homoeopathic management can cure non-communicable chronic Atopic Eczema (Dermatitis) with Sleeplessness, indigestion & depression: A case report upon neuro dermatitis

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Abstract

Atopic dermatitis (AD) also known as atopic eczema is a chronic inflammatory dermatosis characterised by pruritus & chronicity due to antigen-antibody reaction manifesting on skin conditions associated with intra & intercellular Creaked & oedema. The prevalence of AD is 20% (5%–30% in the paediatric and 1%–10% in the adult population) worldwide; 3%–6% in Asian-Pacific countries, Eastern Mediterranean region, and India. A Hindu 45 years female chief complains were hot, dry skin in all over the body, dry eruption with a small brown-black scab in both palms, lower abdomen & soles. Ulcer formation corrodes & becomes deeper like punched-out edges with a tendency to penetrate and tenacious exudation without spreading in circumference & she suffered for 3-4 years. We evaluated this case on SCORAD Index & Assessment by Modified Naranjo Criteria Score. This case report highlighted the mental symptoms followed by physical & particular symptoms. The study was clearly shown the good scope of homoeopathic remedies work for treatment of Atopic Eczema (Dermatitis) along with mental complaints like, depression, anxiety, ill humour, low spirit, sleeplessness etc. There have some limitations to Atopic Eczema (Dermatitis) like, Sever bronchial asthma, hay fever, Alzheimer's disease, Multiple Sclerosis etc.

Keywords: Atopic dermatitis (AD), SCORAD Index, modified naranjo criteria score, sever bronchial asthma, hay fever, Alzheimer's disease, Multiple Sclerosis, CIHM

Introduction

Atopic dermatitis (AD) also known as atopic eczema or neuro dermatitis [(ICD-10, L28.0) & added quality of life, behavioural, emotional, and sleep disturbances, and family functioning] is a chronic inflammatory dermatosis characterised by pruritus & chronicity due to antigen-antibody reaction manifesting on skin conditions associated with intra & intercellular Creaked & oedema [1]. *Atopy* means exaggerated immunoglobulin E (IgE) & *Dermatitis* derives from the Greek “derma” which means skin and “itis” which means inflammation [2]. If anyone's family history has pruritic skin disease or asthma, allergic rhinitis, food allergies etc. are triggering factors [3]. Atopic dermatitis (AD) pathophysiology is either primary irritants like acids, alkalis, etc. or maybe secondary allergens like, Penicillin, Streptomycin, Lipsticks, Nail varnish, Hair dyes, and Plants Flowers [4]. Other factors like self or consciousness, anxiety, depression, loss of school days, work and daily activities, increase sick days in bed, sleeplessness due to pruritus, creaks impact on a personal relationship, participation limitation, and financial burden, genetic, dietetic (egg & milk) & heat, humidity, dryness also plays some role [4,5]. The symptomatology includes dry skin, papules, pruritus, Cracks, serous exudates, excoriation, and lichenification (a secondary skin lesion wherein the characteristic features of skin thickening, hyperpigmentation, and exaggerated skin lines) [4,5,6]. AD affects the face, extensor surfaces of the body, fold of arms, legs, Sole, Palm and neck. The prevalence of AD is 20% (5%–30% in the paediatric and 1%–10% in the adult population) worldwide; 12%–14% in Africa; 6%–10% in Latin America; 3%–6% in Asian-Pacific countries, Eastern Mediterranean region, and India [5,6,7]. Over the last 40 years, the incidence of AD has risen, it appears to be commoner in urban & semi-urban areas than in rural areas and in the industrialised as opposed to less industrialised countries [6,7,8]. Conventional treatment is dependent on severity and extent of disease, Basic use of moisturizers to improve the skin's hydration and barrier function.

Antihistamines, Anti-bacterial and antimycotic therapy, Topical anti-inflammatory medications, such as topical corticosteroids and topical calcineurin inhibitors, phototherapy, systemic immunosuppressants, and systemic corticosteroids are recommended for recalcitrant or severe cases [9, 10, 11]. These treatments are often cost effective with lots of side effect are present. The following cases are demonstrated of AD that has been successfully treated by constitutional Individualised homoeopathic Medicine (CIHM) after proper case taking and also demonstrate the utility of single and minimum doses in homoeopathy [12, 13, 14, 15, 21, 22].

Case Summary: A Hindu 45 years female visited Dr Abhinandan das O.P.D for a skin complaint. Her chief complaints were hot, dry skin in all over the body, dry eruption with a small black scab in both palms, lower abdomen & soles. The eruption begins in hot weather, itching with vesicular eruption & brown spots like scabs on fingers. Swellings were forming an irregular ulcer, covered with dry scabs & painful to touch, hard & dry. Ulcer formation corrodes & becomes deeper like punched-out edges with tendency to penetrate and tenacious exudation without spreading in circumference & she suffered for 3-4 years. Patient was restless, anxious, can't share anything to other, ill-humour, low-spirited. Forgetful & confused. She has weeping disposition. She

Before coming to the O.P.D, she was treated with modern medication (anti-fungal, anti-histamines with steroidal ointment) for 3-4 years by a dermatologist for Atopic Eczema (Dermatitis), at that time her complained was little ameliorate for 3-4 months and after that, eczema became more violent than earlier and She changed dermatologist in every time when she complained aggravated but each time complain not cure. Under these circumstances, she going to decide to take homoeopathic treatment.

There was a past history of skin irruption, dust allergy & treated with modern medication. Typhoid was affected in childhood. She had an addiction of tobacco chewing and took HTN allopathic tablet daily in the early morning. In the family history, the father and paternal grandfather had

hypertension and Mother had osteoarthritis with diabetes. The patient had short stature, dark complexion, and rough skin. She was very talkative & panic to complaints.

Homoeopathic Generalities

Mental Generals: Ill-humoured+++ , low-spirited++ , Aversion to mental exertion+++ , weak memory++ , Weeping disposition+.

Physical Generals: Appetites less++ , thirst full ++ , aversion to meat+++ , desire sweet+++ , sour+++ , bitter+ , Tongue thick brown yellowish coted +++ , Stool constipated with hard, knotty followed by burning in anus+++ , sensitive to cold & open air+++ , unrefreshing sleep, Headache & cough at 2 to 4 a.m.

Gynaecology history: She had 2 children & suffering from uterine prolapse worse in hot weather+++ with post menopause.

Miasmatic Analysis: In eczema all the chronic miasmas are reflected said by Allen [16, 33]. This case was also multi-miasmatic but the predominance of Psora and Syphilis could be found [17, 34].

Analysis & Totality of symptoms: Ill-humoured+++ , low-spirited++ , Aversion to mental exertion+++ , weak memory++ , Weeping disposition+ . Appetites less++ , thirst full ++ , aversion to meat+++ , desire sweet+++ , sour+++ , Tongue thick brown yellowish coted +++ , Stool constipated with hard, knotty followed by burning in anus+++ , sensitive to cold & open air+++ , unrefreshing sleep++ , Headache & cough at 2 to 4 a.m.++ & uterine prolapse++ , itching with vesicular eruption & brown spots like scabs on fingers of palm & sole++ , punched-out edges with tendency to penetrate and tenacious exudation without spreading in circumference+++ , hot, dry, body, dry eruption with a small black scab in both palms, lower abdomen & soles+++.

Clinical diagnosis: Atopic Dermatitis (Hanifin and Rajka-developed criteria for diagnosis in 1980) [18, 19, 20].



Fig 1: Before Homoeopathic Treatment

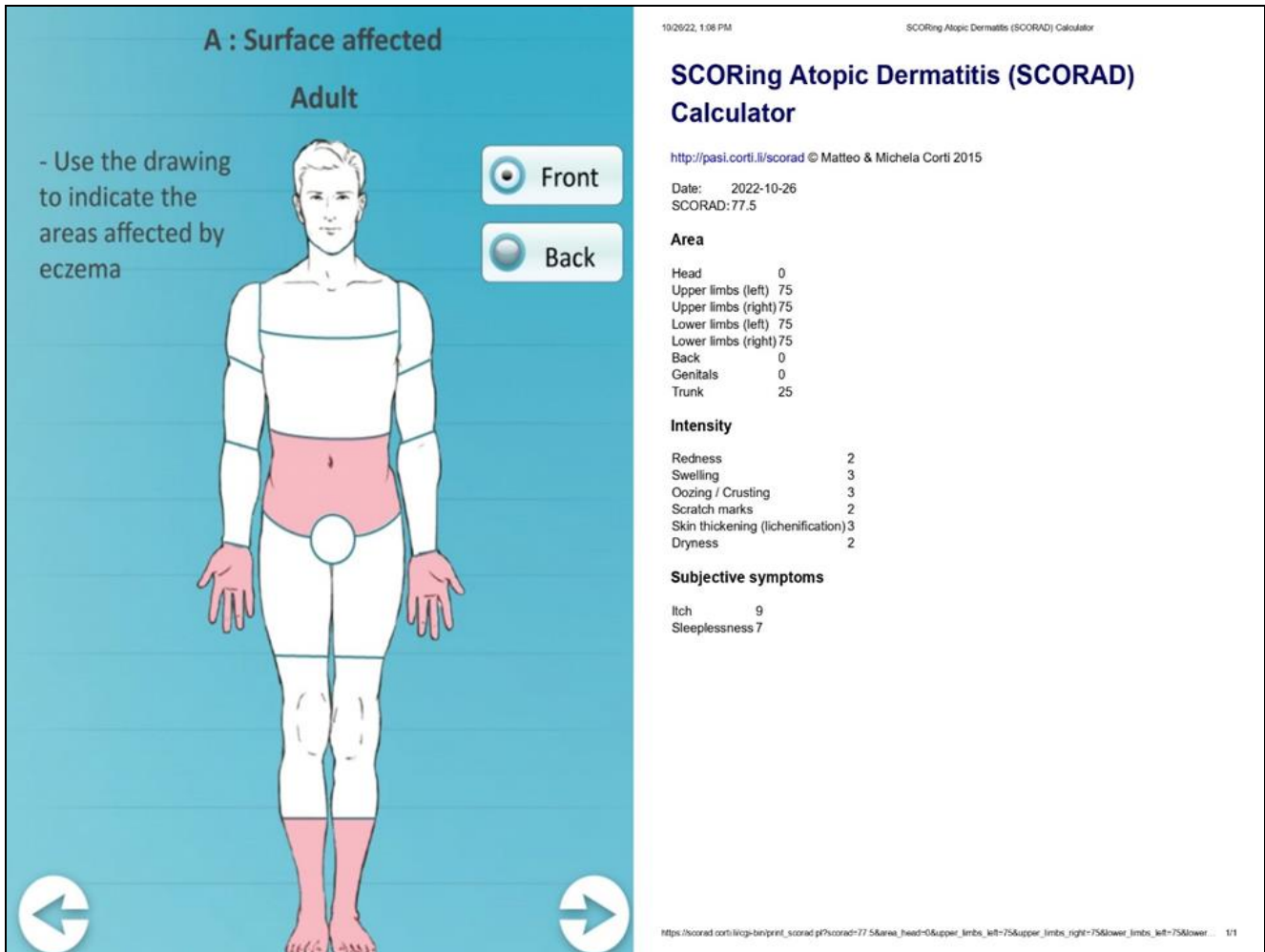


Fig 2: SCORAD index value before Homoeopathic treatment

Table 1: Reportorial analysis of the characteristic Symptoms

| Remedy Name | Sulph | Sep | Phos | Calc | Nux-v | Nat-m | Lyc | Sil | Ars | Puls | Chin | Lach |
|---|-------|-----|------|------|-------|-------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|------|
| Totality | 58 | 53 | 50 | 48 | 48 | 47 | 47 | 47 | 44 | 43 | 42 | 42 |
| Symptoms Covered | 23 | 22 | 21 | 20 | 20 | 21 | 20 | 19 | 21 | 19 | 20 | 20 |
| Kingdom | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| [Kent] [Mind]Irritability (see anger): | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| [Kent] [Mind]Sadness,mental depression: | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| [Kent] [Mind]Exertion:Agg from mental: | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| [Kent] [Mind]Memory :Weakness of (see mistakes): | 2 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| [Kent] [Mind]Weeping,tearful mood,etc.: | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| [Kent] [Stomach]Appetite:Wanting: | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| [Kent] [Stomach]Thirst: | 3 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| [Kent] [Stomach]Aversion:Meat: | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | |
| [Kent] [Stomach]Desires:Sweets: | 3 | 2 | | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | | 1 | | 3 | |
| [Kent] [Stomach]Desires:Sour,acids,etc.: | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | | 2 | | | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| [Kent] [Mouth]Discoloration:Tongue:Brown: | 2 | 2 | 3 | | 2 | | 2 | 2 | 3 | | 2 | 3 |
| [Kent] [Mouth]Discoloration:Tongue:Yellow: | 2 | 2 | 2 | | 2 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| [Kent] [Rectum]Constipation (see inactivity): | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| [Kent] [Stool]Hard: | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| [Kent] [Stool]Knotty,nodular,lumpy: | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | | 1 | 2 |
| [Kent] [Rectum]Pain:Burning:Stool:After: | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | | 2 |
| [Kent] [Generalities]Cold :In general agg: | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| [Kent] [Sleep]Unrefreshing: | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| [Kent] [Head]Pain,headache in general:Morning: | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| [Kent] [Cough]Morning: | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 |

Table 1: Continued.....

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| [Kent] [Genitalia female]Prolapsus :Uterus: | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| [Kent] [Extremities]Eruption:Fingers:Itching: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| [Kent] [Extremities]Eruption:Fingers:Scabs: | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | |
| [Kent] [Extremities]Eruption:Fingers:Vesicles: | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | 2 | | 2 | | 2 | | 1 |
| [Kent] [Extremities]Eruption:Hand:Palm:Dry tetter: | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | |

Bases of Selection Constitutional Individualized Homoeopathic Medicine (CIHM): - Repertorial analysis done by kent & Symptoms Cross cheek done by Clark

materia medica [23, 24, 25]. We selected 2nd remedy *Sepia* as a constitutional remedy.

Table 2: Timeline including follow-up of the case

| Date | Symptoms | Remedy |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| 15/06/21 Prescription | Baseline presentation [Figure 1] severe itching (Pruritus), Scabs, papules, dryness, cracking of skin). Punched-out edges without spreading in circumference. Appetites less, ill-humour, low-spirited, unrefreshing sleep, depreion, stool constipated. | 1) Sep 30(OD× 4 days) & 2) Placebo 30/ 30 ml (BD× PC) |
| 13/07/21 1 st follow up | No new symptoms, no aggravation, skin and mental symptoms were same. | 1) Placebo 30 (OD× 10 days) & 2) Placebo 200/ 30 ml (BD× PC) |
| 10/08/21 2 nd follow up | No new symptoms & no aggravation happened but Skin complaints were mildly ameliorated. | 1) Sepia 30 (OD× 06 days) & Placebo 200/30 ml (BD×PC) |
| 21/09/21 3 rd follow up | Eczema - discharges less, itching persists but complaint ameliorated. No change on depression. Ill humour & low spirit symptoms, i.e., sadness, irritability, difficult concentration, sleeplessness, and restlessness, appetited less, constipation mildly ameliorated. | 1) Sepia 200 (OD× 04 days) & Sac. Lac 200/ 18 dose (BD×PC) |
| 03/11/21 4 th follow up | Eczema- itching, scabs, Punched-out edges & discharge less than earlier, mildly improvement in depression, forgetfulness, sleeplessness & restlessness complaints. Appetite good & stool regular, soft. | 1) Placebo 200 (OD × 10 days) & 2) Sac. Lac 200/ 18 dose (BD× PC) |
| 21/12/2021 5 th follow up | Eczema- complain as usual but the mental complaint was improved (50%) & Patient was affected by severe indigestion due to heavy meals. | 1) Nuv.vom 200/globs (TDS × 7 days) & 2) Sac. Lac 200/ 10 dose (BD× PC) |
| 11/01/22 6 th follow up | Skin complaints as usual but indigestion complain was ameliorated. | 1) Placebo 200/ 100 ml (OD × 16 days) |
| 01/02/22 7 th follow up | Skin complaints as usual but the Physical & mental symptoms were standstill. | 1) Sepia 200 (OD× 04 days) & 2) Sac.lac 200/ 18 dose (BD× PC) |
| 08/03/22 8 th follow up | Eczema - more drying, crusting, edges-reduced, looking better than earlier. Depression symptoms - sleep better and restlessness reduced, low spirit mood- better, other symptoms were same | 1) Placebo 200 (OD× 4days) & 2) Sac.lac 200/13 dose (BD× PC) |
| 19/04/22 9 th follow up | Eczema- complain little improved & The mental complaint was improved (70%) | 1)Sepia 1M (OD×2 days) & 2) placebo 200/ 30 ml (BD× PC) |
| 29/05/22 10 th follow up | Eczema - no more oozing, edges and crusting, Itching - less, mental symptoms showing improvements such as depression, low spirit mood was better, inattention and concentration difficulty reduced, irritability, and confusion- reduced Sleep - better, Stool soft. | 1) Sulp 200/ 100 ml (BD× PC) |
| 28/06/22 11 th follow up | All complaints were improving | 1) Placebo 200/ 100 ml (BD× PC) |
| 19/07/22 12 th follow up | Both AD, mental & physical complaints not returned. (Figure 03) | 1) Placebo 200/ 100 ml (BD×PC) |
| 23/08/22 13 th follow up | Both AD, mental & physical complaints not returned. | 1) Placebo 200/ 100 ml (OD× 2O days) |

Table 3: Assessment by Modified Naranjo Criteria Score [17, 18, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29]

| Sl. No | Item/ Question | Yes | No | Not sure or N/A |
|--|--|-----|----|-----------------|
| 01 | Was there an improvement in the main symptom or condition for which the homoeopathic medicine was prescribed? | +2 | 0 | 0 |
| 02 | Did the clinical improvement occur within a plausible time frame relative to the drug intake? | +1 | -2 | 0 |
| 03 | Was there an initial aggravation of symptom? (Need to define in glossary) | +1 | 0 | 0 |
| 04 | Did the effect encompass more than the main symptom or condition, i.e., were other symptoms ultimately improved or changed? | +1 | 0 | 0 |
| 05 | Did overall wellbeing improve? (Suggest using a validated scale) | +1 | 0 | 0 |
| 06 (A) | Direction of cure: did some symptoms improve in the opposite order of the development of symptoms of the disease? | +1 | 0 | 0 |
| 06 (B) | Direction of cure: did at least two of the following aspects apply to the order of improvement of symptoms -from organs of more importance to those of less importance - from deeper to more superficial aspects of the individual - from the top downwards. | +1 | 0 | 0 |
| 07 | Did old symptoms” (Defined as non-seasonal and non-cyclical that were previously thought to have resolved) reappear temporarily during the course of improvement? | +1 | 0 | 0 |
| 08 | Are there alternate causes (Other than the medicine) that-with a high probability- could have caused the improvement? (consider known course of disease, other forms of treatment and other clinically relevant intervention | -2 | +1 | 0 |
| 09 | Was the health improvement confirmed by any objective evidence? (e.g. lab test, clinical observation, etc.) | +1 | 0 | 0 |
| 10 | Did repeat dosing, if conducted, create similar clinical improvement? | +2 | 0 | 0 |
| Total score =Maximum score=13 Minimum score=02 | | | | Score=09 |

The interpretation of the total Naranjo Score predicting drug action is as follows: Total scores range from -4 to +13; the

reaction is considered definite if the score is 9 or higher, probable if 5 to 8, and possible if 1 to 4, and doubtful if 0 or less.



Fig 3: After Homoeopathic Treatment

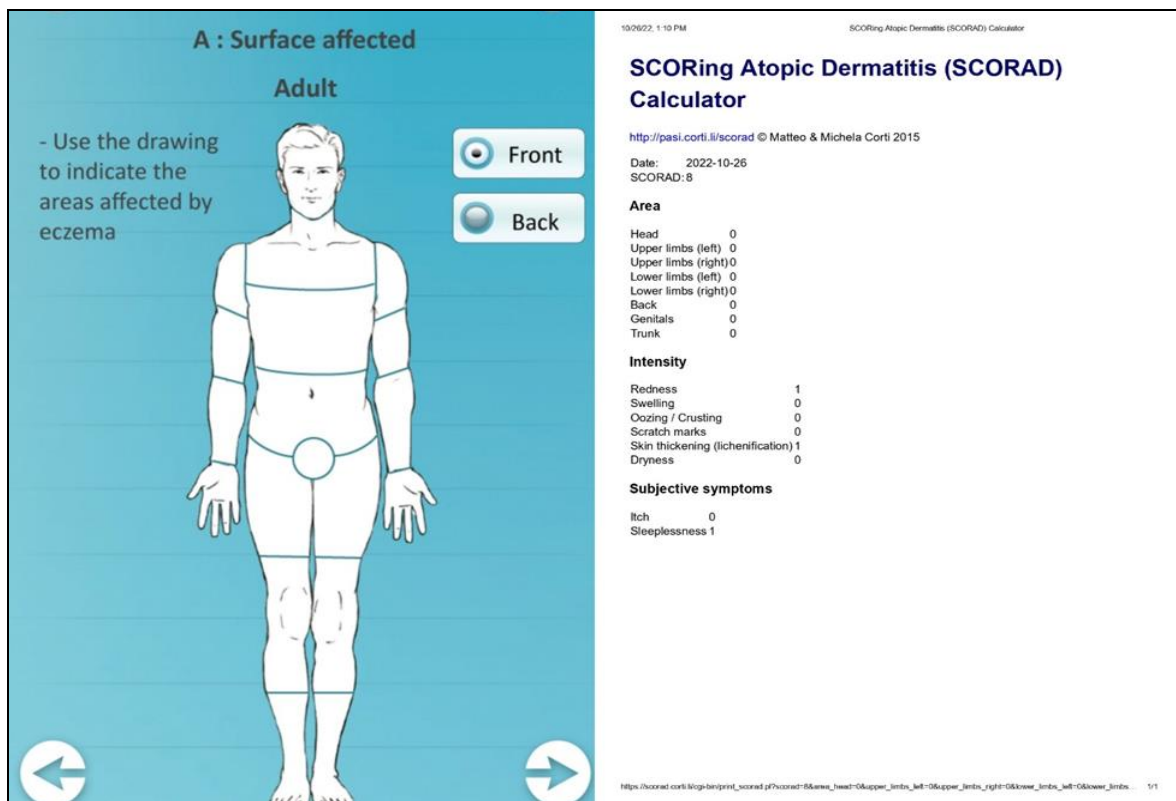


Fig 4: SCORAD Index value after Homoeopathic index

Discussion

Homoeopathy is the world’s 2nd largest system of treatment & it treats the patient not the disease. If we selected a proper Constitutional individualised Homoeopathic Medicine (CIHM) for the treatment then it works not only symptomatically but also works holistically [30, 31, 32]. In this case report, *SEPIA* was chosen as constitutionally. After the prescription, new symptoms like, Indigestion came on 5th follow-up & we prescribed *Nux.Vom* as a complementary remedy of *Sepia*. The 7th follows up symptom was standing and we prescribed it once again *Sepia* because complementary of *Nux.Vom*. In the 10th follow up clearly mentioned the complaints were gone both mentally & physically that’s why we gave *Sulphur* [33, 34, 35]. In the 11th to 13th follow up we prescribed a placebo because we observed the patient holistically. The Case report’s Figures 01 & 03 was a clear picture that *Sepia* worked beautifully &

In the SCORAD index (Figure no 2 & 4) was before 77.5 & after treatment 8. Assessment by Modified Naranjo Criteria Score (Table 3) 09 out of 13, which means CIHM work tremendously well.

Conclusion

Homoeopathic medicines are effective in the treatment of AD, which has been proven once again under this case report. If we selected remedies on the bases of totality symptoms and through individualization which covers the patient’s Miasmatic background. These types of remedy selection procedures have the capability to cure the patient at inner level & patient relief constitutionally. Always remember a good case taking is definitely helping for selection of accurate remedies. This case report highlighted the mental symptoms followed by physical & particular symptoms. It’s very unique case report as comparison to

others because it's followed proper homoeopathic guidelines & proper Kent case taking. Constitutional Individualized Homoeopathic Medicine (CIHM) is also capable to cure the mental symptoms of the comorbidity AD patient. *Sepia* followed by *Nuv vomica* proved once again without doubt that it can cure the characteristic symptoms of AD, along with mental symptoms. This study was clearly shown the good scope of homoeopathic remedies work for the treatment of Atopic Eczema (Dermatitis) along with mental complaints like, depression, anxiety, ill humour, low spirit, sleeplessness etc. There have some limitations for Atopic Eczema (Dermatitis) like, Sever bronchial asthma, hay fever, Alzheimer's disease, Multiple Sclerosis etc. So, before going to start medication, always remember these limitations. Further research study like, RCT, Case report etc. needed on this topic for the betterment of Homoeopathy.

Declaration of patient consent: -The author certifies that she has obtained the appropriate patient consent forms. In the form, the patient has given her consent for her images and other clinical information to be reported in the journal. The patient understands that her name and initials will not be published.

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