

HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICINES SUCCESSFUL IN TUMOUR REDUCTION

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Abstract

Homoeopathic medicines, *Kali muriaticum*, *Phytolacca decandra*, *Hydrastis canadensis*, *Zincum metallicum*, *Conium maculatum* and *Carcinosinum* were tried on Swiss albino mice bearing induced tumour. It was observed that except *Conium* all the drugs could reduce tumour to completion.

Introduction

Homoeopathy came into being and laid its foundation as a distinct branch of medical science only through experimentation on human beings. But in the present world it appears necessary that homoeopathy should also have animal experiments, to meet the challenges from the various corners of the modern scientific world. It has to be admitted that farm animals and pets are found responding to the curative action of homoeopathic medicines. Animal experiments are of advantage in two ways; firstly they can be repeated any number of times at will and secondly any kind of analytic and investigative study can be done on them. Progressive increase in the number of papers on animal and plant experiments using homoeopathic medicines is quite encouraging.

Homoeopathy is hardly rich in literature on experimental cancer studies. The few published works in the field are that of Himadri Choudhury (1980), Imanishi, K. et al (1981) and Thobias (1988, 1990, 1991, 1995).

Materials

Kali muriaticum 200x, *Phytolacca decandra* 200x, *Hydrastis canadensis* 200x, *Zincum metallicum* 200x,

Conium maculatum 200x and *Carcinosinum* 200x were the medicines used to treat the experimental animals. These drugs were bought from the local market at Cochin. Eight weeks old Swiss albino mice supplied by the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad were the animal models used in the experiment. They were kept in cages under the same environmental conditions and were given mouse chow and water quite liberally. Tumour was induced by transplanting Dalton's lymphoma ascites tumour cells, a line of which is maintained in the laboratory.

Procedure

Freshly aspirated and cleaned Dalton's lymphoma ascites tumour cells were injected intramuscularly on the right thigh of all the mice, one million per animal. They were then kept in seven well ventilated cages, seven in each. Those in the first cage were the controls which were provided only with food and water. Mice in the remaining six cages were exposed to the action of the drugs mentioned. The drugs were administered orally through drinking water right from the day of tumour induction and continued upto six months. Measurement of the diameter of the right thigh was taken before the inoculation of the tumour cells regularly at an interval of three days thereafter.

Result

All the mice without exemption developed hard tumour almost uniformly. All those in the first cage, the controls, died with ulcerated tumour. A good percentage of the treated mice survived without any trace of tumour while the others had the same fate as of the controls. The survivors were kept in the laboratory for six months and no recurrence of tumour was found taking place. They were, therefore, discarded.

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Table - 1

Animals	Medicines	Average diameter of thigh	Average diameter of thigh with tumour	Average diameter of thigh after treatment	Average life span of uncured mice	Life span of mice cured (at the end of expt.)	Mice Survived with complete cure
		cms	cms	cms	days	days	%
Cage 1 Control	Nil	00.50	01.80	00.00	94.00	000	00.00
Cage 2	Kali-m 200x	00.50	01.70	00.50	97.00	180	66.66
Cage 3	Phyt. 200x	00.50	02.02	00.50	74.00	180	60.00
Cage 4	Hydr. 200x	00.50	02.20	00.50	51.50	180	60.00
Cage 5	Zinc. 200x	00.50	01.90	00.50	64.50	180	33.33
Cage 6	Con. 200x	00.50	02.10	00.00	64.50	000	00.00
Cage 7	Carc. 200x	00.50	02.00	00.50	70.50	180	33.33

Discussion

It is evident from the experiment that homoeopathic drugs can bring about complete reduction of induced tumour. Thus Kali-m., Phyt., Hydr., Zinc. and Carc. are found successful in curing 66.66%, 60.00%, 60.00%, 33.33% and 33.33% of experimental mice respectively (Table-1).

Choudhury's work (1980) on induced tumour in mice evidenced the efficacy of the three biochemic medicines, Calc. phos. 30x, Ferr. phos. 30x and Kali phos. 30x, in Cancer therapy. It is interesting to note that

he was successful in curing 52% of the tumour bearing experimental mice. Imanishi et al brought into light the anti-neoplastic property of Aloetin present in Aloe arborescens. In his first experiment Thobias (1988) could find that Aloe socotrina 30x with Carcinosisin 200x, Kali-sulphuricum 3x and Natrum sulphuricum 3x could only increase their life span (ILS) to 43%. His attempt (1990) with a single remedy, Aloe vera 3x, prepared in his laboratory from the locally available plant Aloe vera could produce only a poor ILS of 21%. His trial (1991) with Arsenicum album 30x resulted only in 33% ILS. The above experiments of Thobias, therefore, definitely show that the medicines used are not powerful enough to bring about a cure in experimental animals.

Recent work of the author (1995) on induced ascites in mice showed that of the four drugs he tried namely Kali-m., Phyt., Hydr., and Zinc. only Kali-m. and Zinc. have anti-neoplastic properties in all potencies while Phyt. and Hydr. were proved to be beneficial only in potency 3x. It was also noted that neither Kali-m. nor Zinc. are curative of ascites but can only increase the life span of treated animals.

Present experiment of the author seems to be interesting as it throws some light on the possibilities of complete reduction of malignant tumour with the administration of homoeopathic medicines. It is evident from the Table-1 that except Con. all other drugs could effect complete cure at least in a certain number of the experimental animals. It can be noted that Kali-m. as a cancer remedy stands at the top in its therapeutic efficacy. Now the question may arise why some of these drugs failed to cure mice bearing induced ascites. This may be because ascites progresses with unusual rapidity and has immediate access to vital organs while solid tumour grows rather slowly and are remote from the vital organs. So the drugs get sufficient time to prevent metastasis and bring about complete cure.

A fundamental principle brought to light by the present experiment is that homoeopathic remedy can

singly work out a cure. It can be hoped that increase in the percentage of cure may be made possible by the use of complementary and intercurrent medicines along with the above ones

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Mill, in his Treatise on Logic, says : " A general truth is but an aggregate of particular truths; a comprehensive expression by which an indefinite number of individual facts are affirmed or denied at once." A generalization is the process of obtaining a general conception, rule or law, from a consideration of particular facts or phenomena. A generalization is not possible until the mind has grasped and assimilated all the particulars which enter into its formation. Then they take on form and individuality and are seen as a whole. The Mind recognizes and perhaps names the identity, or describes its characteristics in comprehensive phrase. Details enter into minor generalizations, and minor generalizations into major, until one all-inclusive concept or principle is seen and stated. Such is Similia Similibus Curantur, one of the most far-reaching generalization ever made by the mind of man "

The Genius of Homoeopathy (p.259)
Stuart Close
