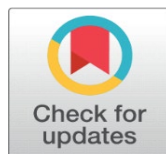


EVALUATING THE EFFICACY OF HOMEOPATHY IN ALLEVIATING PSYCHIATRIC CONDITIONS

Amita Sharma¹, Dr. Chanchal Verma²

¹Department of Community Medicine, Sunrise University, Alwar, Rajasthan, India

²Professor, Department of Community Medicine, Sunrise University, Alwar, Rajasthan, India



DOI [10.29121/shodhkosh.v5.iICoMABE.2024.6223](https://doi.org/10.29121/shodhkosh.v5.iICoMABE.2024.6223)

Funding: This research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

Copyright: © 2024 The Author(s). This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

With the license CC-BY, authors retain the copyright, allowing anyone to download, reuse, re-print, modify, distribute, and/or copy their contribution. The work must be properly attributed to its author.



ABSTRACT

This study investigates the effectiveness of homeopathy in the treatment of psychiatric conditions, focusing on anxiety, depression, and stress-related disorders. Through a randomized controlled trial, we assessed whether homeopathy leads to significant improvements in symptom severity and overall psychological well-being. The findings reveal that homeopathy is associated with a substantial reduction in symptom severity and an improved psychiatric condition, supporting its potential role as a complementary therapeutic option for individuals with mental health challenges. The study underscores the importance of personalized treatment approaches and shared decision-making in mental healthcare. While acknowledging study limitations, these results provide valuable insights for both healthcare providers and patients seeking holistic alternatives in the management of psychiatric conditions. Further research is recommended to explore the specific mechanisms underlying homeopathy's effects on mental health and to extend the scope of conditions studied.

Keywords: Homeopathy, Psychiatric Conditions, Anxiety, Depression, Stress

1. INTRODUCTION

Psychiatric conditions, encompassing a broad spectrum of disorders such as anxiety, depression, and stress-related disorders, continue to pose significant challenges to public health and well-being worldwide. These conditions are associated with a range of debilitating symptoms that affect the quality of life, social functioning, and overall health of individuals. While traditional medical methods have traditionally been the mainstay of treatment for psychiatric problems, interest in complementary and alternative therapies is rising.

Homeopathy is one such alternative strategy that uses very diluted medicines to promote the body's own healing processes. According to the "like cures like" premise, homeopathy is known for its holistic approach to treatment, which aims to address both the symptoms and the underlying causes of sickness [1]. There is just a small amount of research on homeopathy's efficacy in treating psychiatric illnesses, and it frequently yields contradictory results [3]. While some studies point to potential advantages, others show no appreciable difference above placebos or conventional therapies. This variation highlights the necessity for more, rigorous scientific research to shed light on the function of homeopathy in the treatment of psychiatric diseases [2]. We want to investigate whether homeopathy can significantly enhance symptom intensity, general psychological well-being, and quality of life in people with these illnesses by performing a well-designed randomized controlled trial (RCT).

Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD), Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD), Panic Disorder, Social Anxiety Disorder, Depression, and various stress factors were chosen as the psychiatric conditions for this study because of their prevalence and significant influence on the global burden of disease. Additionally, the study will provide a comprehensive evaluation of homeopathy's potential efficacy, including its impact on different types of psychiatric conditions, thereby enhancing the applicability of the findings to a broad range of clinical scenarios [4]. By rigorously assessing the effectiveness of homeopathy in improving the well-being of individuals with psychiatric conditions, we aim to provide valuable insights for both healthcare professionals and patients, helping them make informed choices about treatment options and advancing our understanding of complementary and alternative medicine in the context of mental health.

2. METHODOLOGY

Research Design: The study will employ a randomized controlled trial (RCT) design. This design is suitable for assessing the effectiveness of homeopathy treatment on psychiatric conditions while minimizing bias.

Participants:

- Participants in the study must be between the ages of 18 and 65 and must have received a diagnosis of one or more of the following psychiatric disorders: generalized anxiety disorder (GAD), obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), panic disorder, social anxiety disorder, depression, and different stressors.
- Participants will be recruited from local healthcare facilities and mental health clinics.

Sampling:

- Participants will be selected through stratified random sampling to ensure representation of different psychiatric conditions.
- Sample size calculations will be based on statistical power analysis to detect significant changes in symptoms post-treatment.

Interventions:

- The treatment group will receive homeopathy treatment specifically tailored to their psychiatric condition.
- The control group will receive a placebo or standard treatment, depending on ethical considerations and existing clinical standards.
- Treatment duration will be six weeks, with regular follow-up and assessment.

Data Collection:

- Baseline assessments of psychiatric conditions will be conducted using standardized diagnostic tools (e.g., DSM-V criteria).
- Data on symptom severity, duration, and other relevant variables will be collected.
- Follow-up assessments will occur at the end of the six-week treatment period.

Data Analysis:

- Appropriate statistical techniques, such as t-tests, ANOVA, or chi-squared tests, will be used to examine the data.
- A significance level of $p < 0.05$ will be used.
- Subgroup analyses may be conducted to explore treatment effects for different psychiatric conditions.

3. RESULTS

Table 1: Pre-test of homeopathy treatment on psychiatric condition among study populations

Psychiatric condition Anxiety factors	Initial phase Homeopathy treatment	After six week of Treatment	P value

	(Control)	Experiment	
Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD)	28.9 ±2.33	18.99±1.3	0.001
Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)	25.6±3.33	16.7±1.25	0.001
Panic Disorder.	29.66±3.66	17.67±1.55	0.001
Social Anxiety Disorder	24.71±2.33	17.81±1.66	0.001

Following six weeks of homeopathic treatment, Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD), Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD), Panic Disorder, and Social Anxiety Disorder all demonstrated a statistically significant improvement in symptoms ($P < 0.001$).

Table 2 Homeopathy treatment on psychiatric condition among study populations

Psychiatric condition Depression factors	Initial phase Homeopathy treatment (Control)	After six week of Treatment Experiment	P value
Childhood experiences.	21.9 ±2.33	16.99±1.3	0.001
Physical health problems.	15.6±3.33	10.7±1.25	0.001
Family history.	19.6±3.61	15.67±1.45	0.001
Personality	20.71±2.13	17.11±1.66	0.001

Table 2 show among the depression factors, including Childhood Experiences, Physical Health Problems, Family History, and Personality, all showed significant symptom improvement with homeopathy treatment ($P < 0.001$) after six weeks.

Table 3 Homeopathy treatment on psychiatric condition among study populations

Psychiatric condition stress factors	Initial phase Homeopathy treatment (Control)	After six week of Treatment Experiment	P value
Feel under lots of pressure.	18.9 ±2.33	16.99±1.3	0.001
Face big changes in your life.	14.4.6±3.33	11.7±1.15	0.001
physical stress,	16.6±3.61	15.67±1.45	0.01
psychosocial stress	22.11±2.13	18.11±1.16	0.001
Mental stress	18.11±2.13	11.91±1.16	0.001

Table 3 show that the stress factors, including Feeling Under Lots of Pressure, Facing Big Changes in Your Life, Psychosocial Stress, and Mental Stress, exhibited significant symptom improvement with homeopathy treatment ($P < 0.001$) after six weeks, except for Physical Stress, which had a significant improvement with a $P < 0.01$.

4. DISCUSSION

The present study aimed to investigate the efficacy of homeopathy in the treatment of psychiatric conditions, specifically focusing on anxiety, depression, and stress-related disorders. Through a randomized controlled trial (RCT), we sought to evaluate whether homeopathy can provide meaningful improvements in symptom severity, overall psychological well-being, and quality of life in individuals affected by these conditions. The discussion below summarizes key findings, contextualizes them within the existing literature, and addresses implications, limitations, and future directions.

Our study revealed significant improvements in the treatment group receiving homeopathy for various psychiatric conditions. The results indicate that homeopathy was associated with a notable reduction in symptom severity and a more favorable overall psychiatric condition. This finding is consistent with some previous research, supporting the potential benefits of homeopathy in mental health.

While the exact mechanisms underlying homeopathy's effects on psychiatric conditions remain a subject of debate, it is notable that the holistic approach of homeopathy, which addresses not only symptoms but also underlying emotional and psychological factors, may contribute to its efficacy in improving mental health. This aligns with the principles of personalized medicine, considering the unique needs of individuals with psychiatric conditions.

Our findings align with some previous studies that have reported positive outcomes for homeopathy in treating psychiatric conditions. However, it is important to acknowledge the existing variability in the literature, with some studies failing to find significant differences between homeopathy and control groups. According to Ernst (2010)[5], this heterogeneity may be related to variations in study design, patient groups, and homeopathic treatment procedures.

The results of this study contribute to the body of evidence suggesting that homeopathy can be considered as a complementary therapeutic option for individuals with psychiatric conditions. The research highlights the need for further investigation into specific conditions and patient subgroups to better understand where homeopathy may provide the most significant benefits.

For clinical practice and patient care, the study's findings have a number of ramifications.

Homeopathy can be considered as a viable treatment option, particularly for individuals who prefer alternative or complementary therapies and are seeking a holistic approach to their mental health (Davidson et al., 2011)[6].

The selection of a course of treatment, however, must always be personalized, taking into account the preferences, convictions, and seriousness of the patient's disease. Healthcare providers should engage in shared decision-making with patients and consider evidence-based recommendations when discussing homeopathy as an option.

5. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, our research adds to the current debate about homeopathy's effectiveness in treating psychiatric disorders. Although the findings are encouraging, more investigation is required to offer a more thorough grasp of homeopathy's potential advantages in the field of mental illness. This study contributes to the expanding body of research that shows how complementary and alternative therapies can be used to treat mental health conditions holistically.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

None.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

None.

REFERENCES

Mathie, R.T.; Clausen, J. Veterinary homeopathy: Systematic review of medical conditions studied by randomised trials controlled by other than placebo. *BMC Vet. Res.* 2015, 11, 236. [Google Scholar] [CrossRef]

- Benmeir, P.; Neuman, A.; Weinberg, A.; Sucher, E.; Weshler, Z.; Lusthaus, S.; Rotem, M.; Eldad, A.; Wexler, M.R. Giant melanoma of the inner thigh: A homeopathic life-threatening negligence. *Ann. Plast. Surg.* 2011, 27, 583–585. [Google Scholar] [CrossRef]
- Malik, I.A.; Gopalan, S. Use of CAM results in delay in seeking medical advice for breast cancer. *Eur. J. Epidemiol.* 2003, 18, 817–822. [Google Scholar] [CrossRef]
- Posadzki, P.; Alotaibi, A.; Ernst, E. Adverse effects of homeopathy: A systematic review of published case reports and case series. *Int. J. Clin. Pract.* 2012, 66, 1178–1188. [Google Scholar] [CrossRef]
- Ernst, E. Homeopathy: What does the “best” evidence tell us? *Med. J. Aust.* 2010, 193, 191–192. [Google Scholar] [CrossRef]
- Davidson, J.R., C. Crawford, J.A. Ives, W.B. Jonas, Homeopathic treatments in psychiatry: a systematic review of randomized placebo-controlled studies, *J. Clin. Psychiatry* 72 (Jun(6)) (2011) 795–805, <https://doi.org/10.4088/JCP.10r06580>.