

Homeopathy- Nano Technology At work in Oral And Maxillofacial Surgery: A Review

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Abstract: Now a days to due to variety of medicinal modalities such as Allopathy, Homeopathy, Ayurveda and many more are trending to treat orofacial disorders there are lots of research been put forth by various medicine experts worldwide. A Dentist or an Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon should take a wise verdict regarding which modality is best and is more effective with less or no side effects in treating orofacial disorders. Homeopathy acts an adjunctive modality in treating orofacial disorders. This review will definitely help a treating physician or an Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon to benefit the patient by prescribing more effective and safe medicinal remedies i.e. Homeopathy in treating orofacial disorders.

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I. Introduction

Dentistry is a branch of medicine which has envelope of vast knowledge of diagnosis, prevention, treatment of the diseases concerned with the head, neck and face of humans. The Orofacial diseases and its sign and symptoms are treated by many different modes of treatment such as Allopathy, Homeopathy and Ayurveda etc. The term homeopathy is composed of “homeo” meaning similar and “pathos” meaning suffering. Homeopathy is the alternative treatment that has been used over 200 years.¹ It was presented for the first time by Samuel Hanemen (1755-1843), but its basic tents go back to Paracelsus and Hippocrates. The first Hanemen book “Organon” was published on 1810. He introduced three laws as the basic principles of homeopathy including law of similarity, minimum dose and individuality.² The main perception of homeopathy is that factors causing disease symptoms in healthy individuals can also be used to cure similar symptoms in diseased individuals.³ The mechanism of action of homeopathic medications is similar to the use of vaccines, where attenuated microorganisms are used to trigger an immune response in the human body. Since homeopathic treatments are based on stimulating the immune system, irreversible damage to this system decreases the chance of recovery. Homeopathy is used for pain relief after oral surgeries and to decrease inflammation and bleeding too.⁴ Homeopathy as a part of holistic dentistry is said to provide effective treatment to the patients while minimizing side effects.

II. Research Review

In this review of literature along with various textbooks on *homeopathic* material medica and repertories, we only considered those studies that are consistent with the philosophy of *Homeopathy*. The databases searched for the current review were MEDLINE, EMBASE, BIOSIS, PSYCHINFO, CINAHL, British Library Stock Alert Service, SIGLE, AMED. Similarly, references lists of selected papers, hand searching *homeopathic* journals and conference abstracts, by consulting existing *homeopathic* bibliographies; by using both forward and backward reference chaining techniques; and by tracking recent activities in the field of *Homeopathy and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery* which is primarily concerned with dental disorders was also performed. In addition, we also collected literature on traditional medicine and searched some Indian journals not included in MEDLINE.

What is Homeopathy?

Homeopathy is the alternative treatment that has been used over 200 years. It was presented for the first time by Samuel Hanemen (1755-1843), but its basic tents go back to Paracelsus and Hippocrates. In modern medicine the symptom are the direct result of the disease and tries to suppress them but due to homeopathic concept the symptoms are the signs of bodies effort to conquest disease and tries to reinforce and not to inhibit them. Homeopathy has a holistic view to health and believes that every disease has basic causes that the homeopathic remedies focus on them.¹ The first Hanemen book “organon” was published on 1810. He

introduced three laws as the basic principles of homeopathy including law of similarity, minimum dose and individuality.⁵ It is mainly based on the observation of "like cures like" or the "principle of similars", the idea that substances known to cause particular syndromes of symptoms can also, in low and specially prepared doses, help to cure diseases that cause a similar syndrome of symptoms.⁶

At present, over 3000 organic medications have been registered in the homeopathy pharmacopeia; out of which, 70% have herbal, 20% have mineral and the remaining have animal origin. Homeopathic remedies are prepared by diluting the drugs in alcohol or distilled water; this process is followed by forceful striking on an elastic body, which is referred to as succession. The efficacy of remedies increases as such.⁷ Selection of remedies for each condition is done by homeopaths using a reference book called "repertory". In this process, signs and symptoms of the disease, medical history and physical and mental status of the patients must also be considered.⁸

Use of Homeopathy in orofacial disorders:

In dentistry, homeopathy is used to alleviate pain, inflammation and bleeding following dental surgeries. In general, homeopathy can be used in dentistry to prevent certain conditions, as an adjunct for treatment of certain conditions, to relax the patient and eliminate fear and anxiety and to enhance recovery. (1.2) In dentistry, homeopathic remedies have been proposed for oral ulcers, sialorrhea, neuralgia, temporomandibular joint disorders, xerostomia, lichen plan, and bruxism.²

These are few orofacial disorders which are encountered by Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and conditions which can be treated by Homeopathic remedies:

Oral surgery:

Silica (Potency 6C) works well by causing any root fragments or splinters of bone to exfoliate following any oral surgery and was routinely given to patients after extraction. *Staphysagria* (Potency 30C) was given when incisions of soft tissues was required such as periodontal flap procedures, third molar surgery where access flaps is required and during periodontal graft procedure.⁹

Bleeding:

Initially *Arnica* (Potency 200C) every 15 minutes for Post-surgical bleeding that was not controlled by pressure with moist gauze was given, but when it was bright red colour then *ferrum phos* (Potency 6C) every 15 minutes, and when it was dark colour then *lachesis* (Potency 30C) every hourly was given. Both worked wonderfully by their haemostatic actions as well as patient's compliance to this homeopathic application.⁹

Dental abscess:

Belladonna: early dental abscess accompanied by redness and throbbing which is aggravated by slightest touch. (30x every 30-60 minutes) *Heparsulphuriscalcareum*: where abscess is accompanied by pus formation, increased salivation, and where gums are sour to touch and bleed easily. Repeated doses of 6X will encourage pus discharge, while higher potency (30x - 200x two or three times daily) will help abort pus formation. *Silicea*: once pus is draining, *silicea* 6X will hasten the discharge. *MyrrisrticaSebifera*: where abscess is swollen and accompanied by numbness of the area especially suited for wisdom teeth in potency of 6X. *Calendula*: dilute the tincture 1 part to 20 parts of water use as a gentle but effective mouth rinse.¹⁰

Conditions related to salivation:

Barytcarbonica: Use when there is excessive saliva during sleep. *Bryonia Alba*: Use for an extremely dry mouth, with dryness of mucous membranes and great thirst. *Phosphorous*: Use for hyper salivation and when gums are swollen and bleed easily. *Pulsatilla*: Use for diminished saliva with no thirst.¹¹

Severe trismus:

HypericumPerforatum: Excellent for the prevention of muscle spasms. (Potency 9C- three pellets every hour until symptoms abate)

Cuprum Metallicum: This remedy is ideal once the muscle spasms start. (Potency 9C -three pellets every 20 minutes until abated).¹²

Toothache:

Antimoniumcrudum: Use for a toothache that is worse at night and is aggravated by heat.

Araneadiadema: Use for sudden, severe pain in the teeth after lying down.

Belladonna: Use for throbbing tooth that's worse when pressure is applied. (potency 15C- 3 pellets every ½ to one hour until symptoms subside)

Calcareacarbonica: Use for a toothache that worsens when exposed to hot or cold air.

Chamomilla: Use for a toothache with intolerable pain that's worse from warmth and not better with cold.

Aconitum Napellus: Indicated for unbearable pain accompanied by anxiety, restlessness that comes on suddenly and where movement worsens the condition. The pain is sharp and tearing in nature. Represents a severe pulpitis or inflammation of the nerve of the tooth. (Potency 7C - five pellets every 15 or 20 minutes until pain subsides)

Coffeacruda: Use for toothache that worsens with heat and is relieved by ice. (Potency 9C- 3 pellets every 30 min. until symptoms abate)

Ferrummetallicum: Use for a toothache that is relieved by ice water.

Magnesia carbonica: Use for a toothache that is worse at night. Patient must get up and walk about for relief.

Magnesia Phosphorica: works well with toothaches that are worse with cold and relieved by heat. (potency 9C- 5 pellets every 30 min. until symptoms abate)

Plantago major: Use for a toothache that is better with pressure and worse without cold air.

Pulsatilla: Use for a toothache that is relieved by holding cold water in the mouth.

Staphysagria: Use for pain from major decay of a number of teeth.¹³

Apprehension (anticipation of dental visit):

Gelsium: For dental fears that are accompanied by nausea, diarrhea, sleepy feeling or "weak knees." (Potency 12C - Three pellets the night before, the morning of and 45 minutes before dental appointment)

Aconite: When an individual experiences fear with a sudden onset of panic (about an upcoming dental visit) accompanied by physical and emotional restlessness. (Potency 12C - Five pellets the night before, the morning of and 45 minutes before dental appointment)

Coffeacruda: when anxiety is accompanied by intolerance to noise or music, 30x to be taken the night before, the morning of and ½ to 1 hour before the dental visit.

Chamomilla: this is not for apprehension, per se, but may greatly help those individuals with depressed pain threshold, three doses of 30 x over several hours prior to dental visit.¹⁴

III. Conclusion

The modern science and life is now becoming fast with a very smaller gadget, giving us a multiple information with the help of advanced NANO technology. Dr Hahnemann thought the same, wherein by reducing the size of the drug, the medicinal property is increased to infinity. It helps in giving strength to the vital force, the change in it is responsible for the sign and symptoms of the disease. He stated that, 'Like Cures Like'. This review explores the role of Homeopathy in treating or as an adjunct with other treatment modalities as surgery or allopathy in various oral conditions such as Abscess, dental pain, TMJ disorders, bruxism, apprehension, gingivitis, periodontitis, alveolitis, hemorrhage, neuralgia, salivation, post-operative discomfort, tooth eruption and ulcerations. This brief review reveals that Homeopathy is good option to the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons for treating orofacial disorders with minimal or no side effects and which is inexpensive as compared to the other medical line of treatments.

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