

Efficacy of Homeopathic Medicines to treat Covid-19 diseases

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ABSTRACT

Among the seven human coronaviruses (HCoV), SARS, MERS, and SARS-CoV2 caused the most severe illnesses. Although WHO recommended three vaccines against Covid-19, this does not guarantee complete protection against the human body. Since the virus constantly changes and infects people causing great suffering and death, we must protect ourselves by following specific hygiene rules. This study showed the effectiveness of Homeopathic Remedies as the alternative treatment for Covid-19. Samples (suspected and confirmed patients of Covid-19) were given homeopathic medicines, and the results were recorded. This study aims to demonstrate a global effort to control the coronavirus (COVID-19) through alternative therapies. National health systems should promptly endorse the efficacy of validated homeopathic treatments to treat the Covid-19 disease as alternative medicine.

Keywords: *Coronavirus, Covid-19, Infectious disease, Homeopathy, Pneumonia, Pandemic.*

SARS-COV-2 virus, a single-stranded RNA, is now a global epidemic affecting 418,650,474 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 5,856,224 deaths (WHO reported 1500 hours on February 19, 2022). Some common symptoms are fever, respiratory illness, shortness of breath, cough, sneezing, lack of smell, and severe physical weakness (Zhu et al., 2020). Some other symptoms may be experienced by the patient, like muscle aches, loss of breath, fatigue, and abdominal pain. SARS-CoV-2 virus attacks lung lymphocytes that destroys protective proteins and build up unwanted fluid in the lungs, causing respiratory problems (Wang et al., 2020).

Following the discovery of the first infected patient in Wuhan, China, in December 2019 with Covid-19, the virus spread worldwide due to its infectious nature and became an ongoing epidemic. The virus is usually transmitted from an infected person to close contact, with droplets falling off while talking, coughing, and sneezing (Wang et al., 2020). After infection, symptoms may appear within two to fourteen days, depending on a person's age and weakened immune system due to other diseases like diabetes, asthma, heart disease, kidney disease, etc. (Velavan & Meyer,

2020). There is also no clear clinical strategy or strong evidence of how these drugs work. The word Homeopathy, from Greek, translated into English, literally means "as a disease." It means that a given medicine resembles a disease that a person develops, according to their context, and not as a specific stage of the disease or medical diagnosis.

Homeopathy is a natural, complete healing process that German physician Samuel Hahnemann discovered in the late 1700s. Hahnemann believed that elemental forces such as air or energy maintain an internal body balance or homeostasis. Symptoms are not suppressed but are indications of the body's attempt to treat itself with a change in vital forces. Diseases are symptomatic patterns, a language of robust power in self-regulatory efforts. Homeopathic remedies restore essential bodily strength and thus promote healing. The Fundamental Principle of homeopathy is that the causative agent of a particular disease may be used to treat that condition. This is called the "Law of Similars." (Gevitz, 2013). Along with this Principle of "healing as a cure," homeopaths also believe that moving and cleansing an object increases its strength -

a process called potentization or succession. Over the years, using evidence, toxicological data, and clinical information, images of homeopathic drugs of more than 2000 objects have been found. The second Principle is a small dose to reduce side effects to a significant degree. The third Principle is one remedy at a time, which means that only one medicine should be given to the patient to treat his ailments. Homeopathy found that although a toxic substance is diluted until the molecule is gone, its effect remains, which may mean 'water memory.' Although it has been successfully used in clinical practice for over 200 years, homeopathy has not been ignored. Modern science could not explain the effect of the object without its actual ingredients (homeopathyusa.Org.2020). However, about three hundred confirmation tests have been performed on homeopathic products over the past decade. In addition, approximately 80% of those showed that homeopathy has a different effect than the placebo effect (Linde et al., 1997). This study has demonstrated the effectiveness of homeopathic medicines in treating Covid-19 and the efficacy of homeopathic treatments for suspected and confirmed Covid-19 patients in Bangladesh along with other countries worldwide, such as India, Italy, Cuba, Iran, Hong Kong etc.

METHOD

We conducted this study from April 2020 to February 2022. A total of 18(Eighteen) registered homoeopaths of various places in Bangladesh are interviewed through a Google survey (Google form fill up) and over the phone. We asked (Semi-structured questions) a questionnaire consisting of eight (8) questions to Homeopathic physicians. Their answers relevant to Covid-19 diseases were recorded and analyzed by MS Excel program for graphical presentation. We compared these results with the reports of treatments of epidemics worldwide, especially in Brazil, Cuba, Italy, India, and Hong Kong.

RESULTS

This study collected the symptoms and information of patients with suspected and confirmed Covid- 19 from about Forty Thousand (40,000) people through Eighteen (18) Homeopathic Physicians whole over Bangladesh. Suspected cases were cured by as Arsenic album, and other suspected cases were cured by Bryoniaalba,Rhus tox, Gelsimium, AnitmoniumTataricum(Antim tart) and others medicines. Meanwhile, other medicines similar to symptoms were also used to cure Covid-19 diseases. Study found that the most widely used homeopathic medicine was Arsenicum alba (33.67%), the second one was Bryonia

alba(27.8%), and the third one was Rhustox (17.6%). (Fig. 1)

Study found that the maximum days for getting negative report (Covid-19 test) from positive was 23 days and minimum was 6 days. All confirmed patients were treated insides their residents and no patients were to be admitted in the hospitals. (Fig. 2)

This study found that 3618 were suspected cases, and 795 were confirmed cases out of forty thousand. Twenty-nine confirmed cases were fixed by applying Arsenic alb, and Two hundred and fifty-three (253) patients were given symptomatic homeopathic medicines for respiration complicacy. Statements from homeopaths showed that no patients have died having homeopathic treatment. The results from the Homeopathic Physicians are as given in Fig. 3.

DISCUSSION

Italian research finding of Homeopathy treatment for Covid-19

A team of 24 Italian physicians with additional homeopathic medical care treated 50 patients with diagnostic cases or Covid-19. According to the homeopathic procedure, patients were given a single homeopathic remedy based on individual patient symptoms—review of hospitalization rates in 26 countries in 32% of Covid-19 patients. In Italy, the hospitalization rate is 20.4%, and the inpatient rate is 18.7%. A list of each homeopathic medicine prescribed is listed in this report. The study of 50 patients treated with homeopathic remedies found no level of hospitalization.The summary of that trial was as follow;

Fifty cases were consistent with the inclusion procedure and examined at the end of treatment without waiting for further follow-up.The 50 cases examined included 29 women and 20 men (sometimes gender was not specified).In four cases of children (6-9 years), the average age was 6.75 years; their course took ten days (from 3 to 17).For the age group (the observed cases were between 22 and 79 years), the median age was 49.47 years; their course (varying from 4 to 34 days) was 14.09 days.A single homeopathic component has been identified and discontinued for only one full-time, selected individually according to the presentation guidelines.During the same homeopathic treatment, only one drug (50% of cases) was used, that is, 2 to 6 drug combinations and better: 2 herbs (32%), three herbs (10%), and six herbs. (4%), four herbs

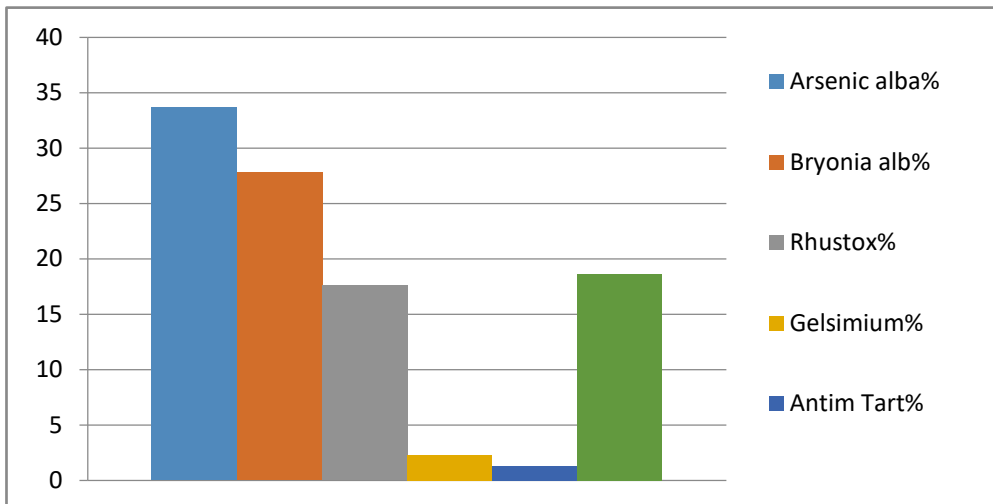


Fig:1- Symptomatic homeopathic medicines' efficacy against Covid-19 diseases

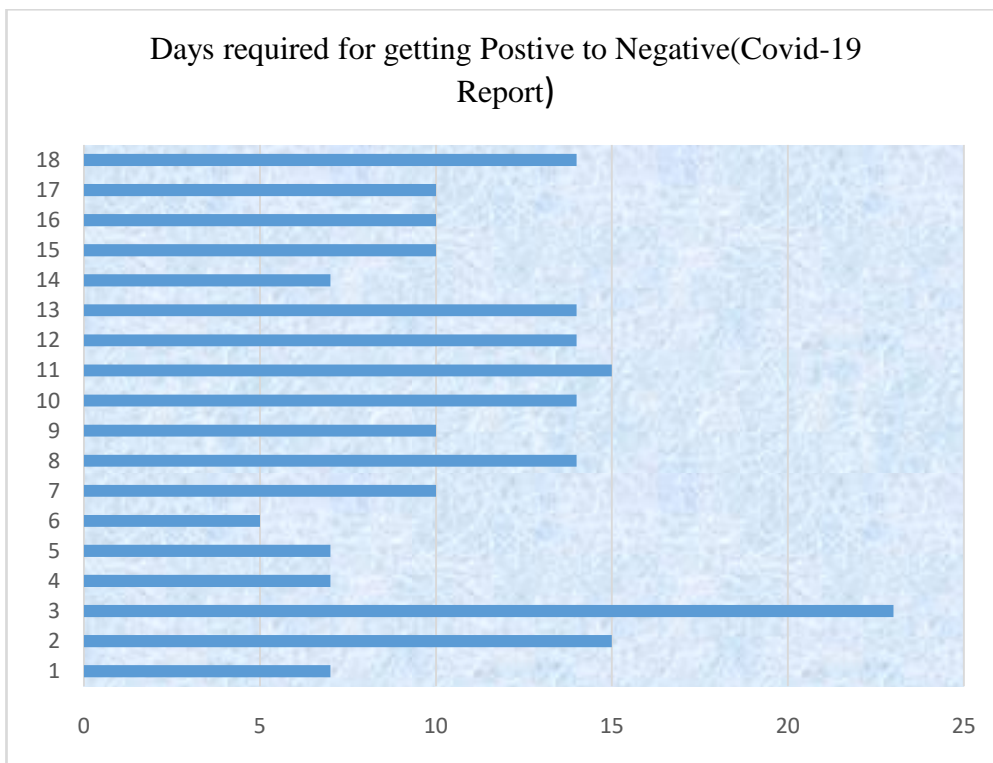


Fig: 2- Recovery period from Covid-19 Positive to Negative

(2%), five herbs (2%). The prescribed medications were, in order of frequency, shown as follows. (Fig. 4)

No adverse events were observed during homeopathic treatment. Complete recovery of patients in the resolution of specific symptoms has been generally followed. All patients had symptoms and were classified as Covid positive, or most likely, they were all treated homeopathically in a home-based separation program outside the hospital. Under no circumstances, because of good clinical practice, hospitalization was required. The

hospitalization rate in this group of 50 patients treated homeopathically for COVID-19 was Zero (0) (Valeri, 2020).

Cuban discovery of Covid-19 Homeopathy treatment

More than 300 doctors, 90 pharmacists, 70 dentists, and 100 veterinarians are doing homeopathy in Cuba. In Cuba, homeopathic medicine is an integral part of health care and was incorporated into the National Health System in 1992. At the beginning of the Covid-19 epidemic, in early April 2020,

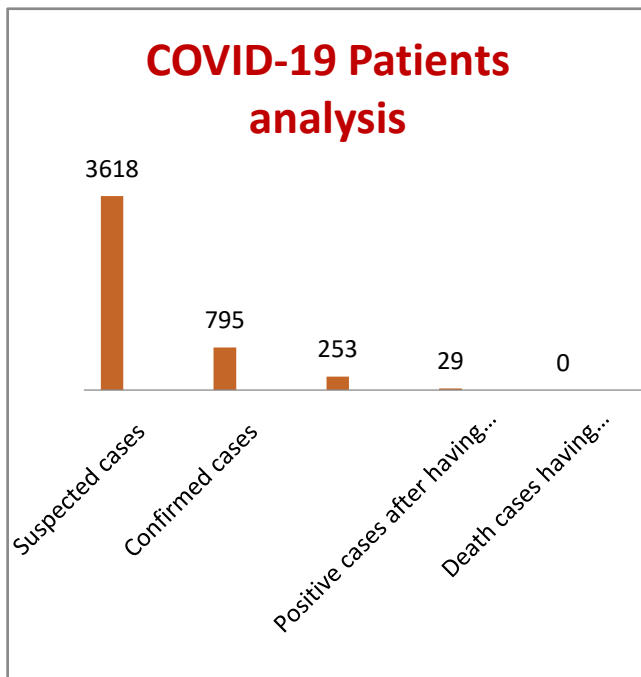


Fig: 3- Covid-19 patients' analysis

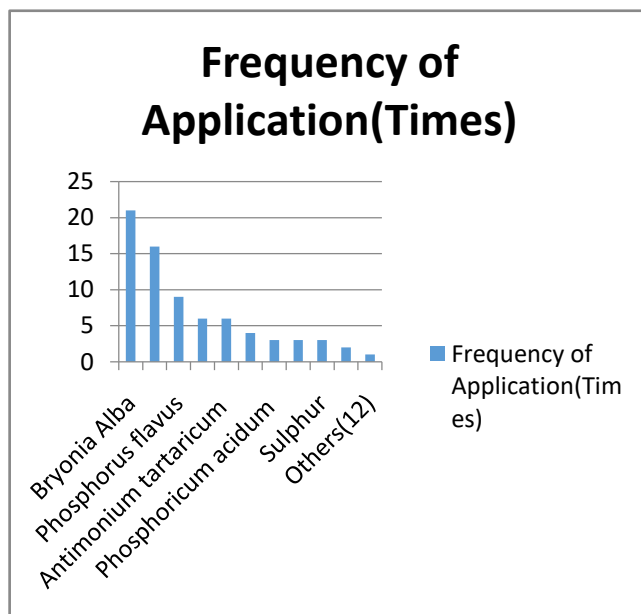


Fig: 4- Frequency of administration of medicines

the homeopathic medicine Prevengho-VIR came into use (Marinelli et al.). To deal with Covid-19 in central Cuba, approved by the Center for the Control of Medicines, Equipment, and Medical Devices (CECMED), the product is distributed to Consolacion del Sur and Plaza de la Revolucion's municipalities in the western provinces of Pinar del Rio and Havana, respectively. Diadelis Ramirez, a senior investigator for CECMED, emphasized that the above drug is licensed. Its composition is comprised of medical and legal pharmacies recognized by Cuba. The homeopathic remedies used in PREVENGOVIR treatment

had to be given in four doses (five drops in a quarter of a glass of water for three days in a row, and then, preferably on the tenth day from the start of use) (Gill Graham, 2020). They are a compound of Anas berberine 200, Baptisia tincture 200, Bascilinum 30, Pyrogenum 200, Eupatorium perf. 200, Influezinum 200, Arsenicum album 200. PrevengHo@Vir was also released due to Influenza (H1picoenza). At the same time, some homeopathic remedies are frequently used in cholera, dengue, and leptospirosis cases in Cuba. It is most similar to the Covid-19 with leptospirosis epidemic in 2008. So it is appropriate to cover the specifications here and briefly describe the disease and the treatment's undeniable and legal success (Valeri, 2020).

Findings from the Hong Kong Homeopathy study of Covid-19

Ka Lun Aaron To and Yuen Ying Yvonne Fok of the Hong Kong Association of Homeopathy conducted a study of 18 confirmed/suspected cases related to the epidemic in the outbreak of the COVID-19 group in Hong Kong in early 2020. In the analysis, the frequency of all homeopathic remedies, common rubrics in all cases, the general rubrics for each standard remedy, and the distinguishing features of each standard remedy were determined. They showed two main sets of photographs of homeopathic remedies, depicting Bryonia alba and Gelsemium sempervirens.

AYUSH India Department Guidelines

Medicines such as Aconite napellus, Arsenicum album, Bryonia alba, Sempervirens Gelsemium, Rhus tox. Eupatorium perfoliatum, Ipecacacunha, Belladonna, and Camphora can be used depending on the similarity of the symptoms. Recommended medications comply with Standard Management guidelines in a hospital setting only with the consent of the authorities and the willingness of the patient/care giver. A trained professional should only give medication at the facility. Medicines such as Phosphorus, Chelidonium, Veratrum Viride, Iodum, Camphora, Cinchona officinalis, Lycopodium, Ars. iod., Antim tarts., Stannum met, Carbo veg., can be determined in the index of symptoms. The medication chosen for each patient is designed to fit the individual, taking into account their psychological characteristics, physical symptoms, feature details, etc. Thus, the mandate is "Homoeopathy cures the patient but not the disease." After choosing the proper medication, it is crucial to determine the required strength, dosage, and repetition, which are essential for a complete and immediate response to each condition. Different forces such as decimals or centesimal troops can

treat serious illnesses. However, the choice of solution strength depends on a variety of similar factors patient incidence (high or low), type of disease (severe/chronic), severity/environment and severity of illness, stage, duration of infection, and previous treatment of the disease (Ullman and Dana 1988).

India's Covid-19, clinical trial

On May 1, 2020, Professor Dr. Pradeep Kumar Gupta, a clinician, researcher, teacher, guide, and commander who led his troops in initiating Homeopathic Medicine clinical trials at Covid-19 at FH Medical College & Hospital, Agra. The team examined 30 cases and provided the remedies indicated according to each protocol. Empower them to treat all symptoms of COVID-19 by treating it as a Homeopathic protocol by providing Bryonia Alba, Arsenic Album, Gelsemium, Antimonium tartaricum, and Crotalaria horridus. Dr. Pradeep Kumar Gupta and his team studied 200 patients and submitted a detailed report (www.similia.Iv, 2020)

Obtaining a Bangladeshi study for Covid-19 Homeopathy treatment

On May 17, 2020, the Bangladesh Homeopathic Board recommended the adoption of a homeopathic drug Arsenicum album-30 to strengthen the immune system to protect against coronavirus infection. To prevent Covid-19, on May 16, 2020, Dr. Rashedul Hoque, one homeopathic physician, gave homeopathic treatment to fifty (50) confirmed patients for the Arsenicum album, Bryonia alba, Gelsemium, Antimonium tartaricum, Phosphorus, Justicia, etc. as an adjuvant treatment. Among the 50 cases, all the top patients were treated quickly. Mr. Rashedul Hoque also reported that more than 1000 members and members of the Bangladesh police family had been given Arsenicum album 30 as remedy for infected with the SARS –COV-2 virus (www.dailynayadiganta.com, 02 June 2020, First page).

The study and reports from the above discussion showed that suspected and confirmed cases of Covid-19 are cured successfully by appropriate medicines as per their symptoms. As mentioned earlier, this study and treatments from the countries found that homeopathy methods can cure Covid-19 and flu-like symptoms if medications are administered as per individualism (Homeopathic Principles). But, yet to see the detailed mechanism of action of homeopathic medicines. More scientists/researchers are needed to come forward generously and free of any bias to find the mechanism of action of homeopathic drugs.

CONCLUSION

Considering the limited therapies offered by the standard drug COVID-19, especially in the most severe form of the disease, the results of homeopathic treatment described in result section were impressive. Randomized controlled trials may support these encouraging early findings and facilitate evidence-based decision-making in the role of homeopathy in treating COVID-19, adding a powerful, effective and safe treatment option. But there is no conclusive evidence that homeopathy can emerge as the best way to protect yourself from the epidemic of such magnitude. Research is still going on to see how far it works, what the shortcomings are and to look at similar efficiency. International and national health facilities may take the first step in research to ensure its effectiveness in treating these types of diseases.

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