

inhibitors (SSRI) in combination with benzodiazepine (BZD) and Sedatif-PC (SPC), the most common homeopathic treatment. Homeopathy was used by 74.5% of patients and 50% used other adjuvant treatments. Compliance was highest in the SPC group with only 1 discontinuation due to adverse effects. The administration of treatment caused an improvement in CGI-C in all groups studied that increased after 2 months follow-up.

Conclusions: AD affects women more frequently than men and prevalence rates are high in midlife and in subjects with a first degree family history of AD. Psychological comorbidities among these disorders are frequent and increase with time, being generalized anxiety disorder and panic disorder the main reasons for consultation in the Primary care setting. The most frequently used pharmacological treatment is the combination of SSRI + Benzodiazepines + SPC. A quarter of the patients used other adjuvant treatments and half of them used other therapies. Overall clinical evolution was favourable for the patients under any of the treatments. SPC showed an excellent adherence to treatment due to a good safety profile and they have presented a favourable clinical evolution as a monotherapy or in combination, so Sedatif-PC could be an interesting treatment option for the patients with anxiety disorders.

Keywords: anxiety, homeopathy, epidemiology, primary care.

PH-DA: a protocol for observational real-life study of homeopathic treatment of atopic dermatitis in the outpatient private and institutional setting

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Background and aims: Atopic dermatitis (AD) is a chronic non-infectious skin inflammatory disease, mostly affecting children, whose incidence and prevalence are increasing in developed and developing countries, affecting the quality of life (QOL) of both patients and caregivers. Conventional medical treatment is mostly restricted to long-term use of emollients and corticoids, with the consequent adverse effects. In homeopathy, AD represents about one-third of outpatient visits due to skin-related complaints, however, the efficacy and effectiveness of homeopathic treatment are controversial, whereas most studies do not take into account the real-life conditions of homeopathic clinical practice. The aim of the present study was to develop an observational real-life research protocol applicable to the actual conditions of outpatient homeopathic practice in the private and institutional setting.

Methods: Based on our previous experimental results, we elaborated and tested in a multicenter pilot project

one earlier version of the protocol (PH-DA) including objective scores of AD severity, generic and DA-specific quality of life questionnaires, and several outcomes measures, which proved to be too complex and time-consuming to be widely and feasibly applied by homeopathic practitioners. On these grounds, further research, and discussions with international experts including CR Charman, we made modifications in the original PH-DA allowing for faster and more accurate measures. Therefore, the outcomes of PH-DA include: 1) one measure of AD severity, TISS (Three Item Severity Score), whose completion demands less than one minute; 2) self-reported global measurement of AD severity; 3) self-reported global measurement of AD-related QOL; 4) self-reported POEM (Patient Oriented Eczema Measure), a validated score with satisfactory correlation with QOL questionnaires; and 5) self-reported assessment of DA progression and wellbeing by means of ORIDL (Outcome Related to Impact on Daily Living). The latter four might be self-administered at the waiting room. The remainder of data (sociodemographic, clinical history, and homeopathic diagnosis and treatment) are the homeopathic medical standard ones and do not demand extra effort from practitioners.

Expected results: PH-DA might represent a practical, reliable, and accurate tool to establish the effectiveness of homeopathic treatment in real-life institutional or private outpatient clinical practice, and eventually might also be applied to RCTs to test efficacy. This latest version of PH-DA is currently subjected to multicenter pilot testing at the Department of Homeopathy of the Faculty of Medicine of Maimonides University, Buenos Aires, Argentina, and the Outpatient Clinic of the São Paulo Medical Homeopathic Association, Brazil, affiliated with the Brazilian national health system. The results will be communicated at HRI International Homeopathy Research Conference.

Potassium dichromate (homeopathic Kali bichromicum) in the community hospital. Intensive Care Unit setting: a review of sixteen cases

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Purpose: An RCT at the Univ. of Vienna, reported mean 3.5 day reductions in time to extubation and discharge from an ICU in a group treated with homeopathically potentized potassium dichromate (Kali bichromicum 30C, KB). Subjects were mostly men in their late 60s with a >10-yr smoking history on mechanical ventilation (MV) due to exacerbations of their Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease. Exclusion criteria included lung disease in addition to COPD; positive blood culture; airway obstruction; heart

disease; and need for catecholamines. (Frass, Dielacher et al. 2005) Subsequently, KB was approved for use at two rural community hospital affiliates of a major U.S. medical center. A review of the cases treated was undertaken to gain a better understanding of the use of KB in the community hospital setting.

Methods: The local institutional review board approved onsite review of charts in the electronic medical record (EMR). Sixteen patients for whom KB had been ordered from September 2009 to March 2011 were identified by the inpatient pharmacy director in a search of the dispensing database. EMRs were reviewed to note diagnoses, days on MV prior and after introduction of KB, ventilator settings, and sputum description. The pulmonary physician who had obtained approval for use of the drug also supplied brief comments for some patients, which had been prepared for the Pharmacy & Therapeutics Committee.

Results: The inpatient pharmacy obtained KB in blue plastic tubes containing 38 mm medicated lactose pellets (Boiron USA, Newtown Square, PA) from a local community pharmacy. ICU nurses administered five pellets sublingually bid. The requisition for KB most often came from the pulmonary consultant; although he was not the primary physician in any case. Timing of KB was inconsistent; in several cases it seemed a last-ditch effort after many days of intubation, and the patient succumbed. No patient would have met inclusion criteria for the Vienna study and all had multiple co-morbidities; yet consistent sputum descriptions suggest that the concept of "genus epidemicus" may be applied to some medical conditions beyond the epidemic situation. Physician observations were generally favorable.

Conclusions: Methodology for assessing generalizable "real-world" use of homeopathic medicines is critically needed. Utilizing propensity scores and linear regression modeling may provide one such method for future pragmatic clinical trials.

Can quality in Professional Education and Training be characterised by three opposing pairs of core categories? Findings from a qualitative, single case study of the education quality at a small private complementary medicine college in Switzerland

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Background: Public desire for complementary medicine in Switzerland is highly evident with over two thirds of the population voting in a national referendum in May 2009 in favour of complementary medicine being included in the Swiss constitution. Education for complementary medicine practitioners in Switzerland is undertaken in the private sector with wide variation in pedagogical approaches and quality assurance procedures. However, the public interest in complementary medicine necessitates an assurance of public safety and professionalism of service.

Objectives: This study sought to investigate how the college defines its aims and objectives for homeopathy training and to what extent those objectives are realised in practice.

Methods: The study was conducted between September 2009 and August 2010. It utilised a qualitative, single case study approach to examine a college offering part time professional education and training for practitioners in complementary medicine in Switzerland. Grounded Theory was used as a methodological framework for collecting and analysing the data.

Results: The results of this study appear to empirically confirm previous findings which, for quality Professional Education and Training, have emphasized the importance of aligning a teaching programme with the aims and objectives of an education: *Coherence*, effective and transparent communication: *Transparency*, and taking into account the *Student-interest*.

Conclusions: Consideration of the emergent themes of this study has resulted in formulation of a tentative hypothesis, that three opposing pairs of core categories (or dimensions of quality):

- *Separateness* – *Coherence*,
- *Opacity* – *Transparency*, and
- *Self-Interest* (of the course provider or institution) – *Student-interest*,

are able to characterise quality in Professional Education and Training.

A review of use of enantiomers in homeopathy

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Many molecules in nature have geometry, which enables them to exist as non-superimposable mirror images, or enantiomers. Modulation of toxicity of such molecules provides possibility for therapeutics, since they target multiple points in biochemical pathways. It was hypothesized that toxicity of a chemical agent, could be counteracted by a homeopathic preparation of the enantiomer of the chemical agent (Patents applied for: PCT/AU2003/000219-PCT/**AU2008/001611).

A diverse body of data, including controlled laboratory studies using several species and compounds, supports