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# Research Highlights

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## Research Highlights

### Abstract
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RESEARCH UPDATES

# Research Highlights

## Neuroprotective potential of *Belladonna*

**Title:** Potential effect of *Belladonna* in the management of convulsions in Zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) and in silico mechanistic approach[1]

**Authors:** Mahima Sharma, Pankaj Gupta, Sangita Behera, Shaheen Jabbar, Raj Kumar Regar, Godlaveti Vijay Kumar Narasimha, Anurag Agrawal, Suneel Prajapati, Arun Kumar, Digvijay Verma, Subhash Kaushik

**Journal:** Annals of Neurosciences, DOI: 10.1177/09727531251384502

**Summary:** This integrated in vivo and in-silico study investigated the anticonvulsant potential of homoeopathic medicine *Belladonna* in zebrafish (Danio rerio) larvae and adult models by assessing its effects on seizure episodes induced by *pentylenetetrazole* (PTZ) in zebrafish, to provide preclinical evidence for its potential therapeutic application in epilepsy. Zebrafish larvae and adults were randomly allocated into six groups: disease control (PTZ), vehicle control (alcohol), *Belladonna* mother tincture (MT), *Belladonna* 6C, *Belladonna* 30C, and standard control (valproic acid). Behavioural outcomes were assessed using seizure scoring (Stages I–V), seizure latency, seizure duration, locomotor activity (total distance travelled and number of rotations) recorded via ANY-maze video tracking system. Additional assessments included total phenolic content and DPPH antioxidant assays, while molecular docking evaluated interactions with calcium channel v3.2, sodium channel v1.2, carbonic anhydrase-II, and GABA-AT targets. Data were analysed using one-way and two-way ANOVA with post-hoc tests. Results demonstrated that *Belladonna* 6C and 30C significantly increased seizure latency, reduced seizure duration, and improved locomotor behaviour compared with PTZ controls, showing protective effects similar to the standard drug. Docking studies suggested plausible neuropharmacological interactions of Belladonna alkaloids. The study concluded that *Belladonna* may possess anticonvulsant activity, providing preliminary preclinical evidence for epilepsy management, though further mechanistic and clinical validation is required.

**Comments:** The findings suggest a possible neuroprotective and prophylactic effect of *Belladonna* in a preclinical seizure model. Its therapeutic potential is highlighted by the noted improvements in behavioural outcomes and delays in seizure progression. Furthermore, the future work should include the post-treatment models and chronic exposure studies in higher-order animal models in epilepsy management.

## Cytotoxic and metabolic effects of *Arsenic*-based homoeopathic preparations in glioblastoma multiforme

**Title:** *Arsenic*-based homoeopathic preparations induce metabolic disruption and reactive oxygen species-mediated cell death in glioblastoma multiforme[2]

**Authors**: Ankit Pateriya, Chirag Kulkarni, Manendra Singh Tomar, Konica Porwal, Arun Kumar Gupta, Naibedya Chattopadhyay, Ashutosh Shrivastava

**Journal:** Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention, DOI: 10.31557/APJCP.2026.27.2.589

**Summary:** This preclinical in-vitro experimental study investigated the anti-cancer effects of the homoeopathic preparations *Arsenicum album* and *Arsenicum iodatum* on human glioblastoma multiforme (GBM) cell lines (U-87 MG and LN-229). Cells were divided into treated and control groups and exposed to different potencies (6C, 12C, 30C) and at different time intervals (24 h, 48 h, and 72 h) to evaluate cytotoxicity and underlying mechanisms. Outcome measures included cell viability, morphological changes, ROS generation, mitochondrial dysfunction, and altered metabolic pathways. Assessment methods comprised MTT and trypan blue assays for cell viability, GC-MS–based metabolomics for metabolic profiling, DCF-DA flow cytometry for reactive oxygen species (ROS) measurement, and JC-1 staining to assess mitochondrial membrane potential. Statistical analysis involved Student's t-test, fold Change analysis, heatmaps, volcano plots, and OPLS-DA modelling. Results showed dose- and time-dependent inhibition of GBM cell growth by both homoeopathic preparations, accompanied by increased ROS production, mitochondrial depolarisation, and significant metabolic disruption, with *Arsenicum iodatum,* particularly at 30C potency, showing slightly higher cytotoxic effects. The study concluded that

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these preparations induce GBM cell death through metabolic imbalance and ROS-mediated apoptosis, suggesting a potential anti-cancer effect via altered metabolite abundance profiles.

**Comments:** This study demonstrates that *Arsenicum album* and *Arsenicum iodatum* show cytotoxic and metabolic effects on glioblastoma cells under in-vitro conditions, suggesting a possible anticancer potential through ROS-mediated cell death. However, as the findings are limited to laboratory cell models without in vivo or clinical validation, the results should be interpreted cautiously, and further experimental and clinical studies are required to confirm therapeutic relevance.

## Homoeopathy in functional dyspepsia

**Title:** Individualized homoeopathic medicinal products in the treatment of functional dyspepsia in adults: A participant-, prescriber-, and assessor-blinded, randomized, placebo-controlled trial[3]

**Authors**: Gurudev Choubey, Charanjeet Singh, Subhranil Saha, Munmun Koley, Arunava Nath, Ayan Midya

**Journal:** European Journal of Integrative Medicine, DOI: 10.1016/j.eujim.2026.102637

**Summary:** This randomised, participant, prescriber, and assessor-blinded, placebo-controlled clinical trial investigated the efficacy of individualised homoeopathic medicinal products (IHMPs) in adult patients with functional dyspepsia (FD) diagnosed according to Rome IV criteria. Conducted over three months, 140 eligible participants were randomly allocated into two groups: IHMPs plus concomitant care (n = 70) and placebo plus concomitant care (n = 70). Individualised remedies were prescribed based on the totality of symptoms, with *Nux vomica*, *Sulphur*, and *Lycopodium clavatum* most frequently used. The primary outcome was assessed using the Leeds Dyspepsia Questionnaire–Short Form (LDQ-SF) total and subscale scores, while secondary outcomes included frequency and quantity of antacid consumption. Statistical analyses were performed using intention-to-treat principles with unpaired t-tests, repeated-measures ANOVA, and linear mixed-effect models. Results showed significantly greater improvement in dyspepsia symptoms and reduced antacid use in the IHMP group compared with placebo ($p < 0.001$), with no treatment-related adverse events. The study concluded that individualised homoeopathic medicine may provide safe and beneficial symptomatic relief in functional dyspepsia as well as reduce the use of antacids.

**Comments:** The study suggests beneficial effects of individualised Homoeopathy in functional dyspepsia, but conclusions remain limited due to subjective outcomes, placebo responsiveness and small sample size, highlighting the need for larger multicentric trials with objective endpoints.

## Homoeopathic treatment for calcaneal spur-associated heel pain

**Title:** Efficacy of individualized homeopathic medicines in managing pain of calcaneal spur: A double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled clinical trial[4]

**Authors**: Pratima Pramanik, Veena Prakash Bharti, Himangsu Hait, Navin Kumar Singh, Abhijit Dutta

**Journal:** Journal of Integrative and Complementary Medicine, DOI**:** 10.1177/27683605261417653

**Summary:** This double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled clinical trial evaluated the efficacy and safety of individualised homoeopathic (IH) medicines in adults aged 18–65 years with radiologically confirmed calcaneal spur associated with chronic heel pain and plantar fasciitis. A total of 128 participants were randomly allocated to two groups: the IH treatment (n = 64) and placebo (n = 64), both receiving standard advice including exercises, contrast baths, and footwear modification for 6 months period. The individualised remedies were prescribed based on the totality of symptoms. The primary outcome was 'pain intensity' measured using the Visual Analog Scale (VAS), and the secondary outcome was 'functional improvement' assessed by the Lower Extremity Functional Scale (LEFS) at baseline, 3 months, and 6 months. Data were analysed using intention-to-treat principles and mixed-effects models for repeated measures. Results showed statistically and clinically significant reduction in pain and improvement in function in the IH group compared with placebo ($p < 0.001$), with clinically meaningful changes and no serious adverse events. The study concluded that individualised Homoeopathy may improve pain and functional disability in calcaneal spur patients.

**Comment:** The study suggests that individualised homoeopathic treatment may effectively reduce pain and improve function in calcaneal spur patients with good safety. Therefore, Homoeopathy can be a potential therapeutic option for this condition, though

further robust studies are warranted to confirm its effectiveness.

## Evidence-based review of Homoeopathy in pediatric sleep disorders

**Title:** Effectiveness of homoeopathic treatments for sleep disorders in children and adolescents: A systematic review according to the principles of evidence-based medicine[5]

**Authors**: Kanchan Upreti, Michael Frass

**Journal:** Children, DOI: 10.3390/children13010045

**Summary**: This systematic review investigated the effectiveness of homoeopathic treatment for sleep disorders in children and adolescents (<18 years), including insomnia, sleep bruxism, and nocturnal enuresis, following evidence-based principles. Five clinical studies (4 randomised controlled trials and 1 observational study) involving 451 participants published between 2015–2025 were analysed. Participants were allocated into intervention and comparator arms, such as individualised Homoeopathy, complex homoeopathic formulations, placebo, or active control (e.g., glycine). Inclusion criteria comprised paediatric patients with diagnosed sleep-related disorders receiving homoeopathic intervention, while outcome measures included sleep improvement parameters, sleep onset latency, total sleep time, number of awakenings, sleep quality scores, bruxism severity, frequency of bedwetting episodes, quality of life, and patient satisfaction. The results of two RCTs suggest that complex homoeopathic remedies showed some moderate improvement over glycine or placebo for insomnia symptoms. While a crossover RCT reported a near-significant reduction in bruxism severity with *Melissa officinalis* 12C versus placebo and significant VAS improvement in comparison to *Phytolacca.* The rest of the studies reported a significant reduction in weekly enuresis episodes, with no serious adverse effects reported. The conclusion suggests that Homoeopathy, when properly applied, may provide clinically significant improvements in sleep for some children.

**Comment**: The review provides encouraging preliminary evidence suggesting that homoeopathic treatment, whether single remedies or complex formulations, offers safe and modest benefits in managing paediatric sleep disorders; however, the limited number of studies, small sample sizes, and methodological variations indicate that the findings should be interpreted cautiously, and larger, well-designed randomised trials are required to establish definitive clinical effectiveness.

## Gastroprotective effects of *Ornithogalum umbellatum*

**Title:** Anti-ulcer effect of *Ornithogalum umbellatum* at various potencies in indomethacin-induced gastric ulceration in Sprague-Dawley rats: A pre-clinical study[6]

**Authors**: Puja Bhakta, Manoharan Raja, Somasundaram Arumugam, Manoj Limbraj Yellurkar, Vani Sai Prasanna, Kaushik Bhar, Iadaribamon Mawthoh, Bakibillah Laskar, Soumya Bhattacharya, Abhijit Dutta

**Journal:** Homeopathy, doi: 10.1055/a-2708-3244

**Summary:** This pre-clinical experimental study evaluated the anti-ulcer potential of the homoeopathic remedy *Ornithogalum umbellatum* in different potencies, using an indomethacin-induced gastric ulcer model in Sprague-Dawley rats. A total of thirty-six rats were randomly allocated into six groups: a normal control group, a disease control group, a standard treatment group (esomeprazole-20 mg/kg), and three homoeopathic intervention groups receiving *Ornithogalum umbellatum* in Mother Tincture (MT), 6C, and 30C potencies. Gastric ulcers were induced in five groups by administering indomethacin at a dose of 30 mg/kg subcutaneously, followed by the oral dose of the standard treatment to group III, while the respective homoeopathic potencies were given to the remaining intervention groups for a period of seven days. The primary outcome measures included evaluation of gastric ulcer protection through histopathological examination, and the assessment of oxidative stress markers, namely Malondialdehyde (MDA) and superoxide dismutase (SOD). Secondary outcome measure comprised metabolic parameters (glucose and total protein) and biochemical markers of hepatic and renal function, including SGOT, SGPT, ALP, urea, and creatinine. Furthermore, the phytochemical analysis of the OrUm mother tincture was performed using Liquid Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (LC-MS), which revealed the presence of flavonoids and phenolic acids. The OrUm-6C demonstrated significant improvement in several biochemical parameters, including SGOT, SGPT, ALP, urea, glucose and MDA ($p < 0.05$), along with evidence of mucosal healing in histopathological examination. OrUm-MT showed a reduction in the SGPT and creatinine levels and exhibited mild histological ulceration. In contrast, the 30C potency did not show any significant improvement.

**Comments:** This pre-clinical study provides experimental evidence supporting the homoeopathic use of *Ornithogalum umbellatum* in gastrointestinal disorders by bridging the gap between experimental pharmacology and traditional homoeopathic indications. The study demonstrated *Or. um.* 6C as the most effective potency for the regulation of oxidative stress markers and mucosal healing in the rat model. The LC-MS provides a potential biological basis for the observed antioxidant benefits in phenolic acids and flavonoids detected in the mother tincture. However, these results need further meticulous clinical and pre-clinical trials to fully establish the safety and therapeutic potential of *Or. um.* in humans suffering from gastric ulcers.

## Feasibility and contextual factors in clinical trials on seasonal allergic rhinitis

**Title:** Feasibility in a homeopathy for seasonal allergic rhinitis RCT: Importance of therapeutic relationship and organizational capacity[7]

**Authors**: Julia Siewert, Lilly Joschko, R. Schleicher, B. Stöckigt, M. Teut, S. N. Willich, B. Brinkhaus, E. Jansen

**Journal:** Frontiers in Allergy, DOI: 10.3389/falgy.2025.1694531

**Summary**: This study explored the feasibility of conducting an RCT for adult patients suffering from seasonal allergic rhinitis, it is a sub-study of the HOMEOSAR trial, a triple-blind randomised, placebo controlled, a three-armed phase IV clinical trial designed to assess the feasibility of studying Homoeopathy for seasonal allergic rhinitis (SAR) which compared individualised Homoeopathy, standardised Homoeopathy (*Galphimia glauca* D6), and placebo alongside on-demand conventional medication. From the patient's perspective, the study focused specifically on the therapeutic alliance and organisational capacity. Semi-structured telephonic interviews were conducted with 15 participants with a mean age of 43 years, who completed the parent study and were grouped as individualised Homoeopathy group (n = 2), placebo group (n = 5) and standardised Homoeopathy group (n = 8) from 9 study centres in Berlin approximately 2–4 weeks after completion of treatment. The statistical analysis was done using qualitative content analysis with MAXQDA software. The feasibility of the trial was confirmed by the results, which showed that despite their time-intensive nature, empathetic, professional and holistic consultations fostered deep patient trust. While the paperwork was well-structured, participants found it large and anonymous. However, a supportive, approachable study team effectively mitigated the logistical challenges and drug delays.

**Comments:** This qualitative feasibility study provides valuable methodological understanding into patient-centered RCTs for complex therapies like Homoeopathy. It emphasises that the therapeutic relationship mechanism-rich domain that greatly improves patience adherence and acceptability, despite the rigors of research bureaucracy. For future trials, the findings lead to several design-level recommendations that may include open information about the duration of appointments to manage patient expectations, transition to digital diaries from paper-based for free-text personal input and reduction of organisational implementation of tracked medicine shipping and provide a single point of contact.

## Nanoparticle and physicochemical characterisation of ultra-diluted homoeopathic medicines *Curcuma longa* and *Ocimum sanctum*

**Title:** Spectroscopy, acoustics, and AI-based studies of nanoparticles formed from ultra-diluted homoeopathic medicines[8]

**Authors**: Shalu Goyal, Swati Rani, Ved Prakash Meena, Ritika Hassija Narula, Subhash Kaushik, Anil Kumar Nain, Vikas Chauhan, Sweta Singh, Sheetal Budhiraja, Rakesh Kumar Sharma

**Journal:** Results in Chemistry, DOI: 10.1016/j.rechem.2025.103023

**Summary:** This study investigated the physicochemical properties, nanoparticle formations, and antibacterial activity of ultra-diluted homoeopathic medicines of *Curcuma longa* and *Ocimum sanctum* at different potencies (3X, 6X and 3CH). Advanced analytical techniques including Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FT-IR), UV–Visible spectroscopy, acoustic measurements, Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM), and AI- based analysis were employed to examine the structural properties of the medicines and to assess the presence of nanoparticles across different potencies. Furthermore, physicochemical and acoustic studies were conducted to evaluate parameters such as density, viscosity, and ultrasonic velocity of the medicines in 90% ethanol–water solutions at varying temperatures ranging from 293.15 K to 318.15 K. These analyses provided insights into solute-solvent interactions between medicinal compounds and water-ethanol

aggregates, suggesting that molecular dynamics and structural organisation are retained even at ultra-high dilutions. The FT-IR spectroscopic analysis identified characteristic functional groups, including conjugated carbonyl groups and phenolic-OH, indicating that the "molecular imprints" of the original phytoconstituents are retained during the potentisation process. Transmission electron microscopy and AI-based analysis showed the presence of spherical nanoparticles (10–50 nm) across all tested potencies, even beyond Avogadro's limit. Furthermore, antibacterial assays demonstrated that the preparations of *Ocimum sanctum* and *Curcuma longa* exhibited inhibitory activity against both Gram-positive (*Staphylococcus aureus*) and Gram-negative (*Escherichia coli)* bacterial strains, whereas control samples showed no antibacterial effects. Overall, the findings suggest that potentisation process may facilitate the preservation of structural and functional characteristics of the original substances, potentially maintaining biologically relevant structures even at high dilutions.

**Comment:** This study provides robust physiochemical evidence to challenge the prevailing skepticism regarding ultra- high dilutions remedies in Homoeopathy by modern physicochemical techniques and provides new insights into the potential mechanisms and therapeutic relevance of homoeopathic medicines. The study validates Homoeopathy as a type of nano-pharmacology by confirming the existence of structural memory and nano-scale entities using advanced AI and spectroscopic techniques. These discoveries bridge the gap between conventional medical knowledge and modern scientific evidence, offering a tenable explanation for therapeutic effects observed in clinical practice.

## Homoeopathic medicines as root canal medicaments

**Title:** Efficacy of homoeopathic drugs as root canal medicament against root canal microbes: An nn vitro comparative study by PCR analysis[9]

**Authors**: Vaishnavi Chetan Joshi, Yadav Chakravarthy, Aarthi Ganapathy, Assmee Mohammed Noon, Divyameena Bommiah, Mathan Kumar Kannan

**Journal:** World Journal of Dentistry, DOI: 10.5005/jp-journals-10015-2729

**Summary:** This in vitro comparative study evaluated the antimicrobial efficacy of three homoeopathic medicines, *Mezereum* 200C, *Acid benzoicum* 30C and *Syzygium jambolanum* 30C as root canal medicaments in comparison with the conventional treatment calcium hydroxide [$Ca(OH)_2$]. The study assessed their activity against common root canal pathogens, including *Enterococcus faecalis, Porphyromonas endodontalis, Porphyromonas gingivalis* and *Candida albicans.* Further, the quality of the anti-microbial efficacy was determined using the real-time quantitative PCR (RT-qPCR) analysis by calculating threshold cycle (Ct) values. The obtained data were tabulated and analysed statistically using ANOVA followed by post hoc Tukey's HSD test. The results indicated that calcium hydroxide [$Ca(OH)_2$] demonstrated the highest antimicrobial effect (Ct value: 36.48). Among the homoeopathic medicines, *Acid benzoicum* 30C and *Syzygium jambolanum* 30C showed significant antimicrobial activity. Further findings revealed that *Syzygium jambolanum* 30C was particularly effective against *Porphyromonas endodontalis*, while *Acid benzoicum* 30C demonstrated effectiveness against *Enterococcus faecalis* and *Porphyromonas gingivalis. Mezereum* 200C showed the best antimicrobial action specifically against *Candida albicans* among the tested microbes. It is concluded that although the commonly used $Ca(OH)_2$ exhibited the highest anti-microbial effect, all the evaluated homoeopathic medicines demonstrated promising antimicrobial potential.

**Comments:** This study shows that various homoeopathic medications can serve as effective substitutes to traditional root canal medicaments, which often have drawbacks like microbial resistance or root dentin degradation. The result highlights the potential of *Acid benzoicum* 30C and *Syzygium jambolanum* 30C as reasonably priced, promising, and non-toxic intracanal medications. Before recommending these remedies assafe and biocompatible for standard clinical practice, further clinical and pre-clinical trials are required.

## Antifungal activity of homoeopathic medicines against Candida albicans

**Title:** Antifungal activity of six homoeopathic medicines against *Candida albicans*: In vitro assay[10]

**Authors:** Gopal Kumar Saha, Abhijit Bepari, Chingngaihlam Chingngaihlam, Shawoli Das, Priyanka Chourasia, Laxmi Mahto, Kumaravel V

**Journal:** Homoeopathic Links, DOI: 10.1055/s-0045-1814159

**Summary:** This study investigated the antifungal potential of six homoeopathic medicines *Curcuma longa* (200C)*, Kreosotum* (6C, 12C, 30C and 200C)*, Mercurius solubilis* (6C, 12C, 30C and 200C)*, Sepia*

*officinalis* (6C, 12C, 30C and 200C), *Mezereum* (6C, 30C), and *Myristica sebifera* (12C, 30C, 200C) against *Candida albicans*, a common fungal pathogen associated with superficial skin infections and mucocutaneous candidiasis, and known for developing antifungal resistance. *Candida albicans* is recognised for its propensity to form biofilms, which adhere to epithelial surfaces and can survive under diverse environmental conditions contributing to persistent infections and therapeutic challenges. Each medicine was evaluated in comparison with 91% ethanol as a negative control and *fluconazole* as a positive control using three approved laboratory models: biofilm inhibition assays, broth microdilution assays and trypan blue exclusion assays. These methods were employed to assess the anti-fungal properties of the medicines at various potencies. All experiments were conducted in triplicate using standardised fungal suspensions in Mueller–Hinton broth. The outcome measures included fungal growth suppression (OD 630 nm), reduction in cell viability and decrease in biofilm biomass. The statistical analysis was performed using one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's post-hoc test ($p < 0.05$). The results demonstrated notable antifungal activity among several preparations. *Kreosotum* 12C displayed the strongest microdilution inhibition and highest biofilm inhibition, *Sepia officinalis* 30C demonstrated statistically significant antifungal effects over control and exhibited the highest cell viability inhibition (89.41%). This preclinical study validates the historical use of these homoeopathic medicines and provides a robust in vitro rationale for their further investigation.

**Comments:** The study is an in vitro laboratory investigation and serves as scientific evidence in validating the traditional use of homoeopathic medicines against fungal infections. Since these *Candida albicans* biofilms are a major hurdle in the traditional therapy, the discovery that these homoeopathic remedies can inhibit *Candida albicans* biofilms is very pertinent. The subsequent steps entail conducting molecular docking studies to elucidate potential drug–target interactions, followed by in vivo assessments of efficacy and toxicity using suitable animal models and human candidiasis studies to substantiate the findings.

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Nil.

## Conflict of interest

None.

## Author's contribution

**MG:** Drafting original manuscript, review, and editing

**SS:** Drafting original manuscript

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