Systematic review of homoeopathic treatment of dermatitis.

Revisión sistemática del tratamiento homeopático de la dermatitis.

Swati Singh¹, Sheetal Ajit Patil²

1- Harati Vidyapeeth Deemed to be University Homoeopathic Medical College, Pune, India.

Author for correspondence, email: swatisingh3058@gmail.com

2- Bharati Vidyapeeth Deemed to be university homoeopathic medical college and hospital, India

RESUMEN

Dermatitis refers to a wide range of skin irritations and rashes produced by a variety of causes such as heredity, an overactive immune system, infections, allergies, irritating substances, and more. The symptoms of dry skin, redness, and itching are all frequent.^{1,3} When compared to conventional medication, the treatment of skin disorders with homoeopathic remedies appears to be safer and more satisfactory to the patient, with an improvement in quality of life and general health.² This review article is written after studying many homoeopathic and dermatitis papers which shows some very positive results of homoeopathic medicine done on dermatitis and in skin disease. Articles published between 2005 to 2021 were included in review. MEDLINE, PubMed, Google Scholar, reference lists, and expert textbooks were used to gather information. Although we are supposing to do more research in field of homoeopathy as well as dermatology for some better results and proof. The goal of this systematic review is to summaries and critically evaluate the evidence from clinical trials and other study, as well as to assess the efficacy of homoeopathy as a dermatitis treatment.

Keywords: Dermatitis, homoeopathy, individualization.

RESUMEN

La dermatitis se refiere a una amplia gama de irritaciones y erupciones cutáneas producidas por una variedad de causas, como la herencia, un sistema inmunitario hiperactivo, infecciones, alergias, sustancias irritantes y más. Los síntomas de piel seca, enrojecimiento y picor son frecuentes^{1,3}. En comparación con la medicación convencional, el tratamiento de las alteraciones de la piel con remedios homeopáticos parece ser más seguro y satisfactorio para el paciente, con una mejora en la calidad de vida y salud general.² Este artículo de revisión está escrito después de estudiar muchos artículos homeopáticos y de dermatitis que muestran algunos resultados muy positivos de la medicina homeopática realizada en dermatitis y enfermedades de la piel. Se incluyeron en la revisión artículos publicados entre 2005 y 2021. Se utilizaron MEDLINE, PubMed, Google Scholar, listas de referencias y libros de texto de expertos para recopilar información. Aunque se supone que debemos investigar más en el campo de la homeopatía y la dermatología para obtener mejores resultados y pruebas. El objetivo de esta revisión sistemática es resumir y evaluar críticamente la evidencia de los ensayos clínicos y otros estudios, así como evaluar la eficacia de la homeopatía como tratamiento de la dermatitis.

Palabras clave: Dermatitis, homeopatía, individualización.

INTRODUCTION

Dermatitis refers to a wide range of skin irritations and rashes produced by a variety of causes such as heredity, an overactive immune system, infections, allergies, irritating substances, and more. The symptoms of dry skin, redness, and itching are all frequent.^{1,3}

The word "infection of the skin" means "infection of the skin." The rashes can be minor to severe in severity, and depending on the source, they can cause a number of problems. Dermatitis is a non-communicable skin irritation that causes erythema, scaling, oedema, vesiculation, and leaking.^{2,3,4} It is founded on a complex interaction between genes and their surroundings. Despite the fact that genetic studies have established a correlation in this case, the early life environment has a substantial impact on the immunological hyperactivity that develops in this sickness. A fundamental phase in the development of this sickness condition appears to be an immune system imbalance with favored lymphocyte activation.^{4,3}

Dermatitis is caused by a mix of immune system activity, genetics, and environmental factors. If you have dermatitis, you may also have the following ailment, which does not cause it but is frequently observed in conjunction with it.⁴

• Sleep loss, Depression, Anxiety, Asthma, Allergies

The types of dermatitis

- Atopic dermatitis (eczema).
- Contact dermatitis.
- Neurodermatitis.
- Nummular dermatitis.
- Seborrheic dermatitis (dandruff, cradle cap).
- Stasis dermatitis.

The skin, which is made up of water, protein, lipids, and minerals, is the body's largest organ. By protecting you from pathogens and regulating your body temperature skin keeps you healthy. Heat and cold feelings are felt by skin nerves. The integumentary system includes your skin, hair, nails, oil glands, and sweat glands, among other things. ^{5,20}

Thanks to recent research, the underlying causes of this complex disease are beginning to emerge. Because inflammation is essentially a defense mechanism mediated by both the innate and adaptive immune systems, the disease now has an immunological basis. Thanks to a group of pioneering dermatological experts, we are now beginning to understand how inflammation is induced by a basic defect in the epidermal skin barrier.^{6,7,8}

The pathogenesis of dermatitis is multifaceted and multifactorial, with factors such as barrier dysfunction, alterations in molecular mediated immune responses, IgE mediated hypersensitivity, and environmental factors all contributing to the disease.⁷

Dermatitis has a complex etiology, and genetic variables have been shown to differ amongst racial groups ⁹⁻¹¹. Because environmental factors have a role in the a etiology of dermatitis, epidemiology differs widely from country to country ^{11,12}. The incidence appears to be increasing in impoverished countries. ¹³owing to increased urbanization, pollution, and Western diet consumption, as well as obesity ¹². Dermatitis prevalence

was high in Africa and Latin America, at 12–14 percent and 6–10 percent, respectively, in the International Study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood (ISAAC) Phase 3, whereas values were lower in Asian-Pacific countries, the Eastern Mediterranean region, and the Indian subcontinent, at 3–6 percent; among 6- to 7-year-old children, AD prevalence was high in Asian-Pacific countries, Africa, and Latin America. (14)

During inflammatory responses, the body, particularly the skin, communicates with the brain through a variety of sensations such as pain, heat, itch, and discomfort. Anxiety and sadness, as well as fatigue and hazy thinking, can result from these feelings. Controlling dermatitis flare-ups brought on by psychological stress may aid in the reduction of anxiety and depression symptoms ^{17,18,19}The healing procedures of homeopathy are based on well-established rules and concepts. Homeopathy is a disease treatment that takes a holistic approach.

The objective of this article is to evaluate the evidence supporting the efficacy of homoeopathic medicines in dermatitis.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Articles published between 2005 to 2021 were included in review. MEDLINE, PubMed, Google Scholar, reference lists, and expert textbooks were used to gather information. Subsets were created based on the skin illness or condition that has been treated i.e., dermatitis and its types. The information on study quality, kind of cure, demographic, and outcomes were extracted from the articles. All clinical trials were considered, if they tested homeopathic remedies for dermatitis in human patients regardless of control intervention or randomization. Ayurvedic trials, cohort studies and trials with conventional medicines were excluded.

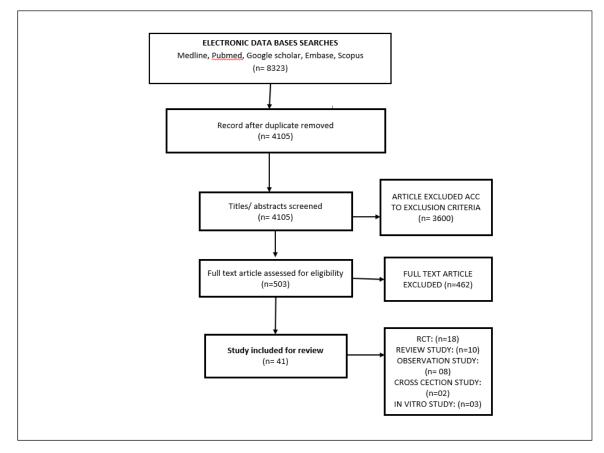


Figure 1: Identification of studies via databases.

Sustainability, Agri, Food and Environmental Research, (ISSN: 0719-3726), vol 13, special issue. 2025 http://dx.doi.org/

RESULTS

Following a thorough search, I discovered a small number of trials looking into homoeopathic treatments for dermatitis. Overall, 21 of the 41 experiments with interpretable results showed that homoeopathy has beneficial effects. The others were either of poor methodological quality or did not adequately demonstrate results.

S.NO	AUTHOR	STUDY TYPE	ARTICLE NAME	INTERVENTION	POPULATION	CONTROL	RESULTS
		CLINICAL nd Environmental R		GRAPHITIS. (30,200,1M) 13, special issue. 2025	TOTAL 40		A constant relief in
htt	p://dx.doi.org/	RANDOMISED	dermatitis with	FOLLOWED BY CAUSTICUM	MALE 22		symptoms was seen within 6
		SINGLE BLIND	homoeopathy a clinical	randomly few selected subjects	FEMALE18		weeks amongst 75% of the
		STUDY	study	were given placebo and rest			patients. AFTER THE STUDY
				were continued on graphite for			32 out of the 40 patients had
				next 3 months			no symptoms what so ever.
2)	Arun S. Raj and M.		EFFICACY OF	Sepia 0/3 in weekly three doses	38 YEARS OLD		The patient got result while
	Muruga	CASE REPORT	INDIVIDUALISED	administered in alternate	FEMALE		continuing the medicine for 2
			НОМОЕОРАТНІС	morning.	PATIENT		months.
			TREATMENT FOR				
			RESOLVING ATOPIC				
			DERMATITIS: A CASE				
			REPORT				
3	N. BAGADI	CASE REPORT	A case report for successful	NAT MUR	28 YEARS OLD		SCORAD FROM 44.5 WENT
	H. RAM		treatment of atopic		FEMALE		TO 4.3
			dermatitis (AD) with a		PATIENT		CONSTITUTIONAL REMEDY
			Constitutional				HELPS BODY TO HEAL ITSELF.
			homoeopathic medicine				
			Natrum muriaticum				
4	R. SUBHRAMANIUM	CLINICAL	A Clinical study on the Anti-	ANTI MIASMATIC REMEDY	30 PATIENTS		29 WERE IMPROVED 1
		RANDOMISED	Miasmatic Treatment of				SHOWED MODERATE
			Patients with Atopic				SYMPTOMS
			Dermatitis				
5	Suraia Parveen	CASE STUDY	Homoeopathic treatment in	CAUSTICUM	38-YEAR-OLD		he gradually showed stable
			a case of co-morbid atopic	GRAPHITIS	MALE PATIENT		improvement on both the
							domain of symptoms and

			dermatitis and depressive			reached remission by 3
			disorder			months. Remission
						maintained without any
						recurrence over the next 3½
						years
6	Dr. Seetha Devi and	CASE STUDY	MANAGEMENT OF	Amapachana done with	20 YEARS OLD	At the end of 3 months
	Dr. V. Shreeshananda		SEBORRHOEIC	Jeerakadi churna 3gms tid	MALE PATIENT	patient is completely cured
	Sharma		DERMATITIS-AN	before food for 4days. 2.		of the complaints and there
			AYURVEDIC APPROACH - A	Snehapana in arohana karma		is no occurance of pidakas
			CASE REPORT	with guggulu tikta ghrita for 5		which are completely
				days, started with 30ml on 1st		disappeared after virechana.
				day, 50ml on 2nd day, 70ml on		
				3rd day, 90ml on 4th day and		
				110ml on 5th day. 3. 3days		
				vishrama kala- Abhyanga with		
				yashtimadhu taila and bashpa		
				sweda done for 3 days. 4.		
				Virechanartha trivruth lehya		
				30gms given and patient had 12		
				vegas. 5. Patient is advised to		
				wash the head with triphala		
				Kashaya daily. 6. Samsarjana		
				karma is advised for 5 days		
		1	1	1		4

8	Akanksha Chauhan*	CASE STUDY	Management of allergic	Panchatikta ghrit,	18 YEARS OLD	After treatment, the patient
	and Ruby Rani		contact dermatitis with		FEMALE	got significant relief in the
	Agarwal		Ayurvedic intervention		PATIENT	symptoms. T, the symptoms,
			Akanksha Chauhan* and			i.e. itching, redness, burning
			Ruby Rani Agarwal			skin and irregular bowel
						habit have been improved.
9		CASE STUDY	An Ayurvedic Approach in	ArogyaVardhiniVati	56 YEARS OLD	After 15th, 30th and 45th day
	Kumari Archana D.B.		the Management of	TriphalaChurna	MALE PATIENT	assessment, variations in
	Vaghela		Darunaka (Seborrhoeic	ManjishthadiKwath		results were found on each
			Dermatitis): A Case Study	TriphalaYavkut		symptom associated with
				+ShuddhaTankana Hair wash		Darunaka
				Thrice weekly for 45 days 5.		
				YashtiChurna		
10	Dr. Priyanka Nagar	Article	Stress does hurt skin: Stress			The remedy selected on the
			and atopic dermatitis			basis of totality of
						characteristic symptoms and
						through individualization
						which covers the patient's
						mental, physical and
						particular symptoms, has the
						capability to cure the patient
						at the deeper level which
						leads to permanent
						restoration of health.

11	B. J. L. SUDAN	IN VITRO STUDY	Total abrogation of		The empirical use of
			facial seborrhoeic		homoeopathic high
			dermatitis with		dilutions, which is
			extremely low-		probably dependent
			frequency (1-1.1 Hz)		on the variability of
			'imprinted' water is		extremely low
			not allergen or		frequencies and the
			hapten dependent:		corresponding
			a new visible model		frequencies of each
			for homoeopathy		individual (1 to 1.1
					Hz) could be rapidly
					replaced by a
					specific therapy.
12	Elio Rossi1, *	observational study	Homeopathy in	213 CHILDREN	results seem to
			paediatric atopic		confirm a positive
			diseases: long-term		therapeutic effect of
			results in children		homeopathy in
			with atopic		atopic children.
			dermatitis		

13		A CASE SERIES	A case series on	LACHESIS	A 36 YEARS OLD	. In the case reports
	Author: -Dr. Atul		homoeopathic	ARSENIC Ibum	FEAMALE PATIENT	described above
	Kumar Singh, Dr.		management of	Lycopodium	1) A 41-year-old	clinical
	Anita Alaria		palmoplantar	Sulphur	male patient	improvement was
			dermatitis	Psorinum	3)32-year-old male	sustained in
				Cal carb	4)A 45-year-old	Palmoplantar
				Nuxvomica	male	dermatitis following
				Sepia	5)42-year-old male	homeopathic
				Nat mur	6)35-year-old	treatment and
				Staphysagria	female	significant positive
					7)30-year-old male	result were
					8)28-year-old	observed on
					female	assessment by VAS
					9)38 YEARS	(itching and
					FEMALEPATIENT	distress) and DLQI
					10)28-YEAR-OLD	scores
					FEMALE	
14	Jose Enrique eziaga	OBSERVATIONAL	Prospective	Twelve	42 PATIENTS	study suggests that
		STUDY	observational study	individualized		in a general medical
			of 42 patients with	homeopathic		practice setting,
			atopic dermatitis	medicines were		homeopathic
			treated with	prescribed; Sulphur		treatment could be
			homoeopathy	accounted for 60%		regarded as an
			medicine.	of cases		

						effective choice for patients with AD.
15	Lawrence Chukwudi	Case study	SEBORRHEIC	Ignatia	25 years old female	Homeopathy may
	Nwabudike		DERMATITIS AND	Mag carb	42 years old female	provide a cheap and
			НОМЕОРАТНУ			effective means of
						treating this
						disorder.
16	T.keil cm witt	Cohort study		Homoeopathic	118 children were	Eczema symptoms
			Homoeopathic vs	medicine and	included: 54 from	(assessed by
			conventional	conventional	homoeopathic and	patients or their
			treatment of	medicine	64 from	parents) improved
			children with		conventional	from 0 to 12 months
			eczema: - a		medicine	for both treatment
			comparative cohort			options, Disease-
			disease			related quality of life
						improved in both
						groups similarly. In
						the subgroup of
						children aged 8–16
						years the general
						quality of life
						showed a better
						trend for
						conventional

						treatment
						compared with
						homoeopathic
						treatment
17	Jeena K. Sandhu,	Review study	Association	Methodology	4 770 767	Results of this study
			Between Atopic	We performed a	participants, of	suggest that
			Dermatitis and	systematic review	whom 310 681 were	patients with AD are
			Suicidality. A	and meta-analysis in	patients with AD	at significantly
			Systematic Review	accord with the	(52.7% female) and	increased risk of
			and Meta-analysis	Preferred Reporting	4 460 086 served as	suicidal ideation and
				Items for Systematic	controls (50.9%	suicide attempts
				Reviews and Meta-	female)	
				analyses (PRISMA)		
				reporting guideline		
				to investigate the		
				association between		
				AD and suicidality.		
				The protocol for this		
				study was registered		
				in the PROSPERO		
				database		
				(CRD42018105291)		
18	JaniceChungBS*Eric	Review study	The socioeconomics	Studies were		Many studies have
	L.Simpson		of atopic dermatitis	included if they		reported that higher

				provided		SES is associated
				information		with increased AD
				pertaining to		prevalence,
				socioeconomics.		whereas lower SES is
						associated with
						increased AD
						severity.
19	P. YAGHMAE	cross-sectional	Mental health		92,642	The odds of having
	CAROLINE	study design	comorbidity in		noninstitutionalized	attention deficit
	Eric L. Simpson		patients with atopic		children aged 0 to	hyperactivity
			dermatitis		17 years	disorder was
						significantly
						increased in children
						with AD compared
						with the odds in
						control subjects
						without AD
20	Qian-Wen Xie	Systematic review	Risk of Mental		Data from	Children and
			Disorders in Children		1,935,147 children	adolescents with AD
			and Adolescents with		and adolescents	had an overall
			Atopic Dermatitis: A		(521,976 identified	statistically
			Systematic Review		as having AD) were	significant increased
			and Meta-Analysis		included in this	risk of total mental
					systematic review.	disorders compared

Sustainability, Agri, Food and Environmental Research, (ISSN: 0719-3726), vol 13, special issue. 2025 http://dx.doi.org/

					with those without
					AD
21	Christie L. Carroll.	Observational	The Burden of Atopic		The impact of this
			Dermatitis: Impact on		condition is
			the Patient, Family,		extremely onerous
			and Society		for the family, and
					the societal economic
					burden is high. There
					is a need for cost-
					effectiveness studies
					of newer treatments
					that take into account
					the possibility of long-
					term remission.

DISCUSSION

This review article is written after studying many homoeopathic and dermatitis papers which shows some very positive results of homoeopathic medicine done on dermatitis and in skin disease. Although we are supposing to do more research in field of homoeopathy as well as dermatology for some better results and proof. The goal of this systematic review is to summarize and critically evaluate the evidence from clinical trials and other study, as well as to assess the efficacy of homoeopathy as a dermatitis treatment.

As conclusion, after reviewing many trials and articles I came to the conclusion that Homoeopathy could be a promising new treatment option for dermatitis, but further work and clinical studies which will be completely dedicated to our condition i.e dermatitis and its types are needed to see if it is beneficial in treating the condition.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Authors are thankful to Bharati Vidyapeeth (deemed to be University) Homoeopathic Medical College & Homoeopathic Hospital, Pune for providing the facilities necessary for the research. Author would like to extend their gratitude to Dr. Avinash Mhetre, Principal; Dr. Anita Patil PG Co-ordinator for their unmatched and relentless guidance during the project.

Conflict of interest: Author declares no conflict of interest.

Author's contribution

SS has contributed in writing the draft of manuscript, SAP and SS have designed the concept and study. Both authors have reviewed and approved the manuscript.

REFERENCES

- 1. Pietro, M. D. (2021, October 18). What is dermatitis? Healthline Media. https://www.healthline.com/health/dermatitis
- 2. *Dermatitis: Types, treatments, causes & symptoms*. (n.d.). Cleveland Clinic. Retrieved May 14, 2022, from https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/articles/4089-dermatitis
- 3. Eczema (homeopathy) health information library. (n.d.). PeaceHealth. Retrieved May 14, 2022, from https://www.peacehealth.org/medical-topics/id/hn-2222001
- 4. Skin: Layers, structure and function. (n.d.). Cleveland Clinic. Retrieved May 14, 2022, from https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/articles/10978-skin
- 5. Yahoo image search. (n.d.). Retrieved May 14, 2022, from https://in.images.search.yahoo.com/search/images;
- 6. https://jsstd.org/pathogenesis-of-atopic-dermatitis-current-concepts/
- 7. Archer, C. B. (2000). The pathophysiology and clinical features of atopic dermatitis. In *Atopic Dermatitis* (pp. 25–40). Cambridge University Press. http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/cbo9780511545771.004
- 8. Tu, P. (n.d.). Pathophysiology and causes of atopic dermatitis.

- 9. Al-Shobaili, H. A., Ahmed, A. A., Alnomair, N., Alobead, Z. A., & Rasheed, Z. (2016). Molecular Genetic of Atopic dermatitis: An Update. *International Journal of Health Sciences*, *10*(1), 96–120.
- 10. Brown, S. J., & McLean, W. H. I. (2012). One remarkable molecule: Filaggrin. *The Journal of Investigative Dermatology*, 132(3 Pt 2), 751–762. https://doi.org/10.1038/jid.2011.393
- 11. Kaufman, B. P., Guttman-Yassky, E., & Alexis, A. F. (2018). Atopic dermatitis in diverse racial and ethnic groups-Variations in epidemiology, genetics, clinical presentation and treatment. *Experimental Dermatology*, *27*(4), 340–357.
- 12. Nutten, S. (2015). Atopic dermatitis: Global epidemiology and risk factors. *Annals of Nutrition and Metabolism*, 66(Suppl. 1), 8–16. https://doi.org/10.1159/000370220
- 13. Williams, H., Stewart, A., von Mutius, E., Cookson, W., & Anderson, H. R. (2008). Is eczema really on the increase worldwide? *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*, *121*(4), 947-954.e15. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaci.2007.11.004
- 14. J. Mallol, Crane, J., von Mutius, E., Odhiambo, J., Keil, U., & Stewart, A. (2013). The International Study of Asthma and Allergies in Childhood (ISAAC) Phase Three: A global synthesis. *Allergologia et Immunopathologia*, 41(2), 73–85. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aller.2012.03.001
- 15. Skin problems and treatments. (n.d.). WebMD. Retrieved May 14, 2022, from https://www.webmd.com/skin-problems-and-treatments/eczema/eczema-stress
- 16. Eczema and emotional wellness. (2017, October 26). National Eczema Association. https://nationaleczema.org/eczema-emotional-wellness/
- 17. The pathogenesis of atopic dermatitis. (2008). In *Textbook of Atopic Dermatitis* (pp. 37–46). CRC Press. http://dx.doi.org/10.3109/9780203091449-7
- 18. Nagar, Dr. P. (n.d.). Stress does hurt skin: Stress and atopic dermatitis.
- 19. Eczema. (2020). In Definitions. Qeios. http://dx.doi.org/10.32388/eimts7
- 20. Sanyal, S., Bhaumik, H., & Goswami, P. (2022). Management of atopic dermatitis with individualised homoeopathic treatment. *Homoeopathic Links*. https://doi.org/10.1055/s-0041-1736436

Received: 06th March 2023; Accepted: 09th March 2023; First distribution: 23th April 2023.