

# Vaccination and homoeopathy

**Dr.Dilip B. Patil ,Dr.Ulhas Patil Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital, Jalgaon.**

---

## Summary

Many Australians think about or utilize CAM, or complementary and alternative medicine. When mainstream treatment isn't an option, people may turn to complementary or alternative medicine instead. Homoeopathy is a complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) practice that employs mild, water-diluted remedies with the belief that they may aid in the prevention and treatment of many diseases by triggering the body's natural healing mechanisms. Instead of traditional vaccination, some parents are considering homoeopathy, which is sometimes spelled "homeopathy," for their child's immunization. Nevertheless, in contrast to traditional immunizations, no well-designed studies have shown that homoeopathic remedies protect children against infectious infections. Homoeopathy also has no known physiologically viable method for preventing viral illnesses.

By providing answers to the following frequently asked questions, this fact sheet hopes to further the discussion about this issue:

---

## Homoeopathy: what is it?

Samuel Hahnemann, a German physician and chemist, founded homoeopathy (1755–1843). According to the fundamental principle of homoeopathy, "like cures like."<sup>1</sup>

The two main processes in homoeopathic preparation manufacture are "potentiation" and "succussion." Until the preparation loses all trace of the original material, the illness, tissue, or plant extract (the nosode) is diluted in water many times while being forcefully shaken in between each dilution. During succussion, the protective activity of the nosode is believed to be transmitted to the diluting water. Due to the extreme diluting effect, it is very unlikely that any of the original material remains in the finished homoeopathic combination. The most common dilution factor is 1060, which

means the original ingredient has been diluted many billion times. However, dilution factors may be either small or extremely enormous. Many homoeopathic treatment programs are time-consuming, difficult, and costly, including several doses spread out over years, even if there is no evidence that they are beneficial. A wide range of homoeopathic remedies are available, each with its own special blend of substances and degree of effectiveness. The training of homoeopaths in Australia varies widely, and there is no central body that oversees the field. Homoeopathic treatments are not evaluated for safety and efficacy by the Therapeutic Goods Administration in the same rigorous manner as conventional medications.

---

**Dr.Dilip B. Patil ,Dr.Ulhas Patil Homoeopathic Medical College & Hospital, Jalgaon**

---

### **Is homoeopathy a viable substitute for traditional vaccination methods?**

No. Measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough, and pertussis are among the infectious diseases that can affect children. Despite the development of homoeopathic remedies and schedules that purport to prevent these diseases, homoeopathic peak organizations continue to advocate for conventional vaccinations for children. The nosodes used in homoeopathic remedies are diluted to the point that the original nosode is no longer detectable. In contrast to traditional vaccine immunisation, the purported protective effect of homoeopathic "immunization" has not been substantiated by any credible evidence (see to "How effective is homoeopathy in preventing..."). sickness that is contagious.

In Australia, homoeopathic "immunization" does not meet the standards for daycare or school entrance vaccinations and is not accepted for family tax advantages or rebates that are tied to immunisation status.

What is the efficacy of homoeopathy in warding against contagious diseases?

Research has shown that several homoeopathic remedies may alleviate symptoms of certain conditions, including hay fever and infantile diarrhea. Despite this, there is a substantial danger of bias in the existing research that does not adequately assess the efficacy of homoeopathic "immunisations" in preventing or treating vaccine-preventable illnesses.<sup>1, 4,5</sup>

Unlike traditional vaccines, which have undergone extensive testing and have a mountain of high-quality clinical and epidemiological evidence demonstrating their effectiveness in warding off certain infectious illnesses in children, this approach has not been scientifically validated.

The efficacy of homoeopathic "immunization" has not been extensively studied in peer-reviewed literature.

The purpose of the most recent Cochrane Intervention Review was to assess how well the homoeopathic remedy Oscilloccinum® prevented influenza. With regard to the prevention of influenza-like sickness, this review found no statistically significant difference between the effects of homoeopathic preparation and placebo.<sup>6</sup> Additionally, the evaluation found that the included research had a low overall reporting quality and included studies with unknown risk of bias.

A research that applies homoeopathic "immunization" to limit the spread of Leptospirosis

has been published in an ecological journal. There was a decline in illness in the area that got the homoeopathic intervention, but it was impossible to tell whether it was because of the intervention or some other reason since ecological study designs aren't as good as other types of epidemiological research. Homoeopathic "immunization" should not be considered a substitute for traditional disease preventive techniques, according to the authors of the research.<sup>7</sup>

Other research has shown that homoeopathic remedies may provide some protection against infectious infections, however these studies have not been peer-reviewed. Having said that, the scientific quality is low, the sample sizes are tiny, and the evidence provided is restricted.

### **When it comes to immunizing my kid, is it safer to use homoeopathic remedies or conventional medicine?**

Vaccines and other conventional medications undergo extensive testing, evaluation, and monitoring to ensure they are safe and effective. There is a lack of care and attention given to homoeopathic remedies. Conventional vaccinations require testing and approval by government regulatory authorities like the US Food and Drug Administration and the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration. However, many homoeopathic formulations have not.

### **What are the suggestions made by homoeopathic groups?**

Homoeopathic remedies "should not be suggested as a replacement for [conventional] immunisation," according to the Australian Register of Homoeopaths and the British Homeopathic Association, respectively. While some homoeopaths may have this view, anecdotally not all do.<sup>8, 9</sup>

Strict regulations governing the use of homoeopathy are set forth by the Australian Homoeopathic Association.

The therapy is not an immunisation, no preventive treatment can ensure protection from infectious diseases, and there is minimal evidence for the effectiveness of homoeopathic "immunization," among other things, as stated in a mandatory permission form.

### **Is it feasible to use homoeopathic remedies to mitigate the adverse reactions to traditional vaccines?**



Redness, swelling, and discomfort at the injection site are common adverse effects of conventional immunization; however, these symptoms are usually manageable with over-the-counter pain relievers and other comfort measures. No major adverse effects have been reported. See The Australian Immunisation Handbook, 10th Edition, for further details.<sup>10</sup> To yet, there is no proof that homeopathic treatments may avoid or mitigate vaccine-related adverse effects.

## online materials

Homoeopathic Association of Australia go to <http://www.homeopathyoz.org/> during your search. (retrieved on April 8, 2014)

The Healthier Choice Channel. Homeopathy fact sheet. Health Victoria's Department. 2011. This is the link to the article on homeopathy: <http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/bhcv2/bhcArticle.s.nsf...> (retrieved on April 8, 2014)

The Healthier Choice Channel. Immunization - facts and misunderstandings - fact sheet. Health Victoria Department.

2013. Various misunderstandings about vaccinations (retrieved on April 8, 2014)

Association for British Homeopathy. Immunization and homeopathy [information sheet]. 2013. Immunization Fact Sheet 2-1.pdf. Retrieved from [http://www.britishhomeopathic.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/immunization\\_factsheet-2-1.pdf](http://www.britishhomeopathic.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/immunization_factsheet-2-1.pdf). (retrieved on April 8, 2014)

The National Institutes of Health's National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine. Studies in humans. Retrieved from <http://nccam.nih.gov/research/clinicaltrials/> in 2012. (retrieved on April 8, 2014)

Pharmaceutical Research and Quality, Inc. The HRS division of the federal government. Situations under which homeopathic medications may be sold. In the month of March 1995. This link will take you to a PDF file containing the FDA's ICECI Compliance Policy Guidance Manual (UCM074360). as of 8 April 2014

## Research papers

1. Ernst E. A comprehensive analysis of homeopathic systematic reviews. Published in 2002 in the *British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology*, volume 54, pages 577–87.

The Registered Homoeopaths of Australia (AROH). The AROH has issued a statement about the preventative use of homeopathic medicines. 2013. The statement was retrieved on April 8, 2014, from the following URL: <http://www.aroh.com.au/Resources/Documents/AROH%20HP%20Statement%204%20Oct%2013.pdf>.

3. Council of the Faculty of Homeopathy.

Declarations of opinion. Vaccination in the year 2005. It may be seen at: <http://www.facultyofhomeopathy.org/media/position-statements/immunization/>. Retrieved on April 8, 2014.

Supplemental medication for the treatment and prevention of influenza and influenza-like illnesses; Guo R, Pittler MH, Ernst E. *Journal of the American Medical Association* 2007;120:923-9.

5. Albrecht H. Clausen, R. van Wijk, and J. van Wijk. Infection models in homeopathic fundamental research. The article "Homeopathy" was published in 2010 and covers pages 263–270.

6. Homeopathic Oscilloccinum® for the prevention and treatment of influenza and influenza-like illnesses, by Mathie RT, Frye J, and Fisher P. *Systematic Reviews and Cochrane Database*, 2012, 12:CD001957.

6. Bravo G, Varela E, Fernández R, et al. Leptospirosis epidemic control by the widespread use of diluted bacteria. Published in 2010 by the *Homeopathic Journal*, volume 99, pages 156–66

8. When it comes to alternative and complementary medicine, Ernst E. 'First, do no damage'. *Current Opinion in Pharmacological Sciences*, 2007;28:48-50.

9. The continued resistance to measles vaccination by complementary and alternative medicine practitioners persists. *Emphasize Non-Conventional and Allied Health Practices* 2011, volume 16, pages 110–4.

10. The Immunization Council of Australia. Immunization guidelines for Australia. 10th edition. Published in 2013 by the Australian Government's Department of Health and Ageing in Canberra.