

HOMOEOPATHIC APPROACH TO DERMATOLOGY: A REVIEW OF HOMOEOPATHIC MANAGEMENT OF ACNE, SCABIES, AND OTHER COMMON SKIN DISORDERS FROM HOMOEOPATHIC STALWARTS' VIEW

**Dr. Ajay kumar pandey^{1*}, Dr. Mehboob², Dr. Lukky Chauhan³, Dr. Shubhangi Maharana⁴,
Dr. Parveen Kumar⁵**

^{1*}MD(Hom.), Ph.D.(Homoeopathy), Assist. prof., State Shri Durga ji Homoeopathic medical college, Azamghar (U.P.).

²MD(Hom.)(Scholar), Dept. of Paediatrics, Sri Ganganagar Hom. Medical College, Hospital and Research Institute, Tantia University, Sri Ganganagar (Raj.)

³MD(HSm.), Ph.D. (Homoeopathy) (scholar), Assistant Professor, Department of Community Medicine, University College Of Homoeopathy, Kekri, Ajmer (Raj.).

⁴MD(Hom.)(Scholar), Dept. of Materia Medica, Sri Ganganagar Hom. Medical College, Hospital and Research Institute, Tantia University, Sri Ganganagar (Raj.)

⁵MD(Hom.)(Scholar), Dept. of Organon of medicine, Sri Ganganagar Hom. Medical College, Hospital and Research Institute, Tantia University, Sri Ganganagar (Raj.)

***Corresponding Author-** Dr. Ajay kumar pandey

*Assist. prof., State shri Durga ji Homoeopathic medical college, Azamghar (U.P.) Email- drjaypandey834@gmail.com

Abstract

Homoeopathy has a long history of use in dermatology, with classical stalwarts such as Hahnemann, Kent, Boericke, Allen, and Clarke contributed extensive materia medica descriptions and clinical observations. Although modern scientific evidence remains limited and inconclusive, homoeopathy continues to be practiced widely in the management of dermatological complaints. This review highlights the perspectives of homoeopathic stalwarts on treating acne, scabies, eczema, urticaria, and other common skin diseases, focusing on remedy selection, constitutional prescribing, and individualized case-taking. The approach emphasizes understanding the patient's physical, emotional, and constitutional characteristics, with remedies selected according to the law of similars. While these views reflect important historical and philosophical foundations of homoeopathic dermatology, they should be interpreted as part of a complementary framework rather than a substitute for evidence-based dermatologic care.

Keywords- Skin diseases like acne, scabies, eczema, urticarial, Homoeopathic remedies etc.

Introduction

Dermatologic conditions significantly affect physical comfort and psychological well-being. Classical homoeopathy has historically addressed skin disorders through individualized prescribing based on totality of symptoms. Foundational practitioners—including Hahnemann, Kent, Boericke, and Allen—described numerous remedies for cutaneous complaints grounded in provings and clinical experience. Their approach centers on understanding the patient as a whole, including modalities, mental symptoms, miasmatic background, and constitutional traits. Modern integrative practice often incorporates these homoeopathic perspectives to support holistic care. This review explores the homoeopathic stalwarts' understanding and management strategies for acne, scabies, eczema, and other common skin disorders.

Homoeopathic Understanding of Skin Diseases

Homoeopathic stalwarts viewed skin manifestations as external expressions of internal imbalance. Hahnemann emphasized that chronic skin diseases often arise from underlying miasmatic influences—psora, sycosis, or syphilis—requiring deep-acting anti-miasmatic remedies¹. Dr. Kent similarly argued that suppression of skin eruptions could drive disease deeper, and favoured constitutional prescribing to restore internal harmony².

Materia medica texts by Boericke, Allen, and Clarke provide detailed remedy descriptions that continue to guide practice today³⁻⁵.

Homoeopathic Management of Acne: Stalwarts' Perspectives

Although acne is now known to involve hormonal, inflammatory, and microbial factors, homoeopathic stalwarts interpreted it through constitutional and miasmatic frameworks.

Common Remedies Historically Used

- **Sulphur** – for oily skin, comedones, itching, and aggravation from heat; often considered an anti-psoric remedy.
- **Hepar sulph.** – for painful pustules, suppurative tendencies, and sensitivity to cold.
- **Calcarea sulph.** – for pustular acne with yellowish discharge.
- **Pulsatilla** – for hormonally influenced acne, especially in gentle, emotional individuals.
- **Berberis aquifolium** – widely used for improving complexion and reducing blotches, described as a supporting remedy in various materia medica.

Homoeopathic practitioners emphasize understanding modalities (aggravating and relieving factors), general symptoms, and emotional characteristics alongside skin symptoms.

Dr. Kent noted that acne often reflects sycotic miasm and recommended deep-acting remedies such as *Thuja* in selected cases².

Homoeopathic Approaches to Scabies: Historical Views

Scabies is an infectious parasitic condition that requires conventional anti-parasitic therapy, but homoeopathic stalwarts historically described remedies based on symptomatic expressions rather than parasitology.

Classical remedies described include:

- **Sulphur** – for intense itching, worse at night and from warmth of bed; considered by Hahnemann as an anti-psoric cornerstone.
- **Psorinum** – for individuals with marked psoric history, dirty-looking skin, and severe itch, chilly patients.
- **Mercurius solubilis** – for moist eruptions with offensive discharge and aggravation at night.

Homoeopathic Approaches to other chronic skin disorders

Eczema

Stalwarts emphasized constitutional prescribing for eczema, selecting remedies such as:

- **Graphites** – for thick, sticky discharge and fissured skin.
- **Rhus toxicodendron** – for intensely itchy eruptions relieved by warm applications.
- **Arsenicum album** – for burning eczema with restlessness and anxiety.
- **Mezereum** – for crusting eruptions that ooze and crack.

Dr. Boericke highlighted that many chronic eczemas require anti-psoric treatment, indicating deep constitutional imbalance³.

Urticaria

Remedies traditionally described include:

- **Urtica urens** – for burning, stinging wheals.
- **Apis mellifica** – for pink, puffy, stinging hives relieved by cold applications.
- **Natrum muriaticum** – for chronic urticaria related to emotional stress.

These descriptions arise from classical provings and clinical experience.

Concept of Miasm in Homoeopathic Dermatology

Homoeopathic stalwarts commonly attributed chronic skin diseases to miasmatic inheritance. According to Dr. Hahnemann's *Chronic Diseases*¹:

Psora underlies many itchy, dry, scaling disorders.

Sycosis contributes to warty growths and pustular eruptions.

Syphilis may be associated with ulcerative or destructive skin lesions.

Many practitioners today continue to use miasmatic analysis alongside constitutional case-taking.

Discussion

Homoeopathic stalwarts contributed rich philosophical and clinical frameworks for understanding dermatologic diseases. Their materia medica and repertories remain central tools in classical homoeopathic dermatology. Its individualized approach, holistic orientation, and focus on general well-being continue to appeal to patients. Along with the removal of underlying cause- miasms, homoeopathic perspectives may support emotional balance, stress reduction, and lifestyle awareness—factors that influence chronic dermatologic symptoms.

Conclusion

Homoeopathic stalwarts provided extensive insights into the management of skin diseases through detailed provings, materia medica descriptions, and constitutional analysis. Although these approaches differ fundamentally from modern biomedical dermatology and lack robust clinical evidence, their historical and philosophical significance remains strong. When used responsibly and adjunctively, classical homoeopathic perspectives can enrich holistic, patient centred care while ensuring the removal of the fundamental cause-miasm, of the chronic skin diseases. Currently, the consensus within the mainstream scientific and medical communities, including organizations like the National Centre for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH), is that there is little scientific evidence from rigorous clinical trials to support the effectiveness of homeopathy for specific health conditions, including skin diseases⁸. Therefore, conducting high-quality, rigorous research is the necessary next step to either validate these remedies or confirm existing findings.

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