

Although many of the cancer patients take homoeopathic treatment either alone or as add on to allopathic treatment but are seldom reported, therefore systematic clinical studies are required. Patients in desperation are consulting doctors claiming to be cancer specialists in Homoeopathy. Keeping this in view, Delhi State Cancer Institute (DSCI)- an autonomous institution par excellence in service of humanity, Government of NCT of Delhi, in collaboration with CCRH have decided to establish this Homoeopathic Clinic-cum-Research Unit at DSCI to provide Homoeopathic consultation and to undertake research studies jointly to elucidate the precise role of homoeopathic interventions in cancer.

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⁷CCRH.Clinical evaluation of homoeopathic medicines along with Iscador therapy in managing malignant diseases.Clinical Research Studies -Series III. New Delhi: CCRH; 2010: 24-35.

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¹⁰Saha S, Sakib Hossain D.M, Mukherjee S, Mohanty S, Mazumdar M, Mukherjee S. et al. Calcarea carbonica induces apoptosis in cancer cells in p53-dependent manner via an immuno-modulatory circuit. BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine 2013, 13:230.

¹¹Saha S, Bhattacharjee P, Mukherjee S, Mazumdar M, Chakraborty S, Khurana A. et.al. Contribution of the ROS-p53 feedback loop in thuja-induced apoptosis of mammary epithelial carcinoma cells. Oncology reports.



HOMOEOPATHY FOR CANCER



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Contribution of Adjunctive Homeopathic treatment in cancer patients

Cancer is a leading cause of death worldwide, accounting for 8.2 million deaths in 2012.¹ The incidence of cancer cases is estimated to increase from 6.1 million in 2008 to 10.6 million in 2030, due to ageing and growing populations, lifestyle and socioeconomic changes.² The treatment modalities for malignancy are very limited and therefore, all medical streams have attempted to find plausible therapeutic options for their control and treatment.³

During the past two decades, the paradigm for cancer treatment has evolved from relatively nonspecific cytotoxic agents to selective, mechanism-based therapeutics including targeted agents and cancer immunotherapy. Cancer chemotherapies were initially identified through screens for compounds that killed rapidly dividing cells. These drugs remain the backbone of current treatment, but they are limited by a narrow therapeutic index, significant toxicities and frequently acquired resistance.⁴ The adverse side-effects associated with conventional cancer treatment have shifted considerable focus towards homoeopathy. The research studies in homoeopathy suggest positive leads in delaying the progress of disease and improving well-being. An improvement of quality of life in cancer patients under complementary homeopathic treatment was observed in different studies.^{5,6,7,8,9}

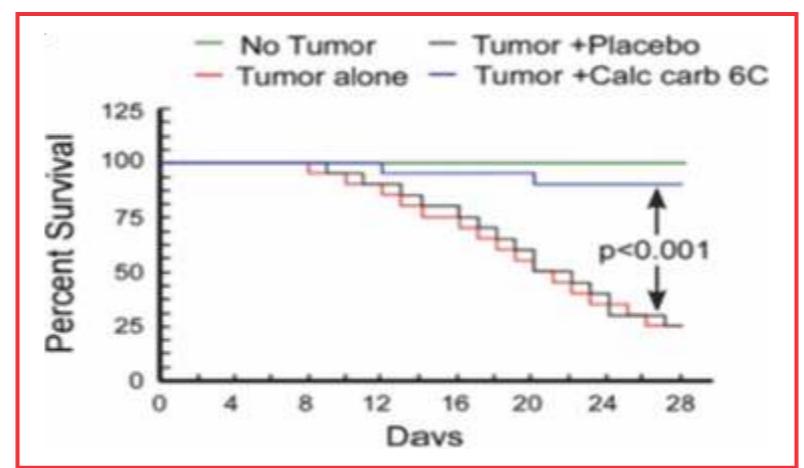
However, the molecular mechanisms underneath the anti-cancer effect, if any, of these medicines are in the exploratory phase. As a step forward in this direction, the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH) an apex organization under the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India collaborated with Bose Institute, Kolkata to evaluate the efficacy of calcarea carbonica, a homoeopathic medicine, as an anti-cancer agent and to delineate the detail molecular mechanism(s) underlying calcarea carbonica-induced tumor regression. Interestingly, although calcarea carbonica (6C) administration to Ehrlich's ascites carcinoma (EAC)- and Sarcoma-180 (S-180)-bearing Swiss albino mice resulted in 30-35% tumor cell apoptosis, it failed to induce any significant cell death in ex vivo conditions.¹⁰

RESULTS

Calcaria carbonica induces tumor regression in vivo



Swiss albino mice were intra-peritoneally injected with 1×10^6 EAC (Ehrlich's ascites carcinoma). After 1 week, placebo/Calcarea carbonica (1C, 6C, 12C, 30C and 200C) were administered orally for 27 days.



Calcaria carbonica inhibited tumor growth and increased survival rates of tumor bearing mice

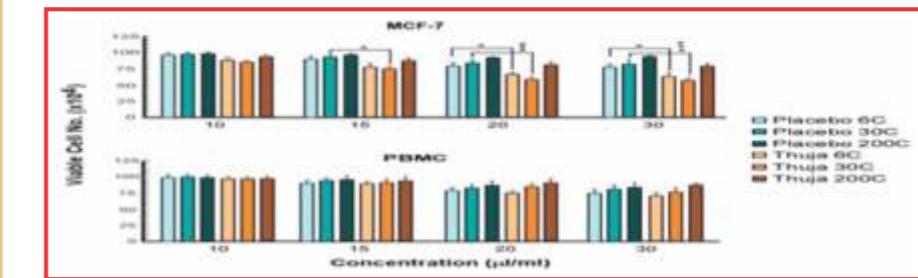
Calcaria carbonica induced apoptosis of cancer cells if further investigation confirmed the effect of homoeopathic medicine in treatment of cancer it can save many lives and sequelae morbidities resulting from cancers.

In another study, the antitumorigenic activity of thuja, the bioactive derivative of the medicinal plant *Thuja occidentalis* was evaluated and the molecular mechanisms underlying thuja-induced apoptosis of functional p53-expressing mammary epithelial carcinoma cells were elucidated. Results showed that thuja successfully induced apoptosis in functional p53-expressing mammary epithelial carcinoma cells.¹¹

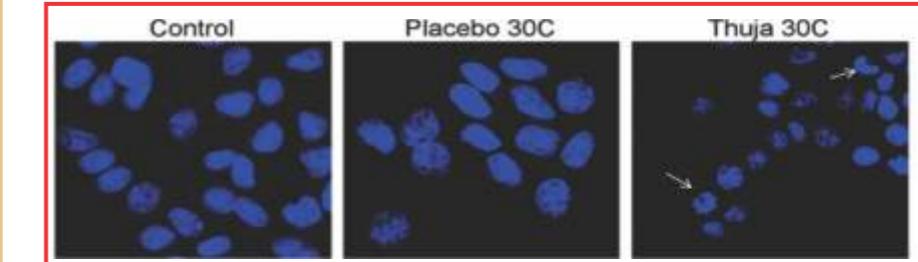
RESULTS

Thuja-induced apoptosis is favored in functional p53-expressing cells.

Tumor-suppressor protein p53 plays an important role in the canonical apoptotic pathway. Our results depicted a significant increase in the levels of p53 in MCF-7 cells after Thuja treatment.



Effects of various doses of Thuja in breast cancer cell death



Arrows indicating Apoptosis

SIGNIFICANCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH

Thuja induced apoptosis of breast cancer if further investigation confirmed the effect of homoeopathic medicine in treatment of cancer it can save many lives and sequelae morbidities resulting from cancer