ABSTRACT

Effect of Homoeopathic medicine administered based on the totality of symptoms, personality and diseases activity in common musculoskeletal disorders.

The study is on the background that the customary way of selection of medicine in homoeopathy is based on the totality of symptoms and disease activity. The medicine selection on personality alone is a less explored area. Musculoskeletal disorders, osteoarthritis knee and periarticular lesions are taken as a subject for the study because they have constitutional, psychological and pathological impacts. The main objective of the study is to construct scientific knowledge on the effect of homoeopathic medicine administered based on the totality of symptoms, personality and disease activity. The aim also includes the comparison of the effectiveness of the same. Being personality is a part of the study, the influence of the Big Five dimensions of personality on osteoarthritis and periarticular lesions were also set as an objective.

The experimental study includes ninety each clinically diagnosed cases of osteoarthritis and periarticular lesion. The sample size is calculated after a pilot study. Simple random sampling methods are used for the study and the sequence is generated by computer assistance. The scores were recorded before and after intervention on the Routine Assessment of Patient Index Data (RAPID 3) sheet, which is an aggregate of physical function, pain and patient global estimate. The personality assessment tool for this study is the 44-item Big Five Inventory. A self-made tool transcribing trait keywords to rubrics of Homoeopathic repertory was prepared for the medicine selection based on personality. The intervention period was six months. The statistical analysis tool is SPSS version 20.

The study using the paired t- test revealed that homoeopathic medicine is effective in reducing the scores of RAPID 3 when a medicine is administered based on the totality, personality and disease activity. The comparison of the three methods on ANOVA revealed no significant difference in their efficiency. However, an assessment at 95% confidence interval proved the better effectiveness of totality based administration over other methods in both diseases. Multiple linear regression analysis revealed that there is a significant influence for dimensions of personality on periarticular lesion patients. The findings help to confirm the efficiency of homoeopathy as well as the feasibility of linking homoeopathy with personality dimensions though the findings needs study in more samples for a longer period.

Keywords: Totality of symptoms, Personality, Disease activity, Osteoarthritis, Periarticular Lesion, Routine Assessment of Patient Index Data (RAPID 3), Big Five Inventory.