



Is homoeopathy a viable treatment option for molluscum contagiosum

Molluscum contagiosum (MC) is a viral infection observed to be benign and self-limiting. Studies indicate majority prevalence in the paediatric age group, whereas, infection in adults and adolescents is often opportunistically associated with conditions that cause immune deficiency, namely HIV. Though observed to be harmless, parents/patients seek treatment for MCV for the following reasons:

- embarrassment/discomfort from cosmetic disfigurement due to lesions on visible areas like face neck and extremities
- fear of risk of transmission and spread of lesions
- reluctance and anxiety regarding common destructive therapies (curettage, manual extrusion, trichloroacetate, salicylic acid, hydrogen peroxide, cantharidin, potassium hydroxide, cryotherapy and laser therapy) may lead parents to seek safer and more palatable treatment for their children that may include homoeopathy.

As current treatment options for MCV are inconclusive and results inconsistent, an opportunity to explore the use of homoeopathy for this condition exists.

METHOD:

A retrospective analysis of paediatric cases of molluscum contagiosum from Dr Sujata Naik's Homeopathy Clinic, India, and Harbord Homeopathic Clinic, Sydney, was conducted. Criteria of assessment: symptoms, time taken for resolution, scarring, complications.

RESULTS:

Of all the cases included in the study, results showed steady improvement in the majority of cases after starting constitutional homoeopathic treatment or recovering earlier than the expected stipulated time for self-resolution. In a few cases disappearance of lesions took more than the expected time for recovery while some patients were lost to follow up.

CONCLUSION:

Based on a retrospective collaborative study of cases from two clinics, homoeopathy may be considered as a viable treatment for paediatric cases of MC. Further large-scale studies are suggested to extrapolate the findings.