



THE CONCEPT OF CURE: A SYSTEMATIC ANALYSIS INTO ITS BRANCHES

S. Afshana Safrin¹, R.Sony Mon², M. Murugan³, Jeyasree.V⁴

¹ Second year BHMS Sarada Krishna Homoeopathic Medical College, Kulasekharam, Kanyakumari district, Tamilnadu.

² Associate prof, Department of Organon of Medicine, Sarada Krishna Homoeopathic Medical College, Kulasekharam, Kanyakumari district, Tamil Nadu.

³ Hod & Professor, Department of Organon of Medicine, Sarada Krishna Homoeopathic Medical College, Kulasekharam, Kanyakumari district, Tamil Nadu.

⁴ Assistant Professor, Department of Organon of Medicine, Sarada Krishna Homoeopathic Medical College, Kulasekharam, Kanyakumari district, Tamil Nadu.

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this review is to explore “The concept of "cure" across various medical and philosophical frameworks, particularly within homoeopathy. The discussion examines definitions, principles, and methodologies associated with the idea of restoring health, emphasizing perspectives from Hahnemann, Stuart Close, Carroll Dunham, and others. Key Topics include the relationship between disease properties and medicinal effects, the distinction between curing and healing, and the role of pathology in treatment. The paper contrasts homoeopathy's holistic approach with modern medicine's symptom-based interventions and highlights the importance of understanding the root cause of disease. Historical and contemporary views on cure in Ayurveda, Siddha, and modern medicine are also considered. The review concludes that the concept of cure varies significantly across different medical systems and different philosophies of homoeopathy. The study raises questions about the validity of existing cure principles, particularly Hering's Law of Cure, and suggests further investigation on it.



INTRODUCTION

Background

Health care system years ago was dominated by several and acute diseases. Due to the lack of research and technologies, the finding of medicines or techniques for curing the disease was lagging behind. In recent years, it is found that most acute infectious illnesses are preventable or curable. Many of the chronic illnesses of 1905, such as leprosy, syphilis and tuberculosis have become so rare. Today, unlike other systems of medicine, homoeopathy also plays a role in curing several conditions. Various stalwarts in homoeopathy have contributed towards the concept of cure. This review contributes to the various concept of cure in homoeopathy and other systems of medicine. "The purpose of this study is to explore and compare the concept of 'cure' in Homoeopathy and other systems of medicine, examining the underlying principles, philosophies, and approaches to healing, with the aim of gaining a deeper understanding of the multifaceted nature of cure and its implications for healthcare practices."

In the field of medicine cure means a successful medical treatment of restoration of health from disease. An incurable disease may or may not be a terminal illness ; conversely a curable illness may also lead to death¹. **Hahnemann** introduced the concept of 'Like cures like' which states that a substance that causes symptoms in a healthy person can be used to treat similar symptoms in a person who is ill. **H.A Robert** in his philosophy mentions that cure must have some relationship between the properties of disease and medicinal qualities of the drug. **Stuart clause** says that Cure is effected only by dynamical treatment according to fixed principles.

METHODOLOGY

Review article is based upon references from different literatures which includes books and journals. A comprehensive and systematic approach was employed to select and analyse relevant literatures and articles on the concept of cure in homoeopathy and other systems of medicine.

Body of review

H.A. Robert's view on the concept of cure

Dr. H. A Robert on his book "The principles and arts of cure " emphasize that , cure must have some relationship between the properties of disease and medicinal qualities of the drug . We must have some character of the drug's action on the living body so that it will



interpret the law of cure in disease. He says that, *there can be no law of cure unless it expresses some definite relation between these two groups, or classes*. The medicine cannot cure the disease unless it acts on all the diseased parts, either directly or indirectly. His writings suggest that No medicine can effect a perfect cure unless it has a curative action upon every diseased part and in just the proportion that each part manifests disorder. According to him, the number of parts of human body susceptible of receiving the curative action of drugs vastly outnumbers those that are recognized in the anatomy because disease and cure do not lie in the tissues except as a reflection of man himself. He also explains some common obstacles to cure, it can be either from the side of physician which can be due to the wrong selection of remedy or failure in understanding the pathological condition of the patient etc. The other obstacle can be from the patient's side which could be due to any kind of lifestyle changes of the patient , any kind of mechanical obstruction or emotional conditions such as stress , anxiety , psychic drama can affect the cure ².

Cure: not the removal of primary cause

Dr. Stuart clause in his book “The genius of Homoeopathy lectures and essays on Homoeopathic philosophy” emphasize that, cure is not effected by the removal of external, secondary, pathological end products of the disease surgically nor any local means. Primarily and essentially, cure is the restoration directly by medical art or by physiological action. He states that, Cure is effected only by dynamical treatment according to fixed principles. According to him, Cure is not merely the removal of primary causes of disease. Even if all the causes of disease are known and removable , it may continue as secondary causes after the removal of the primary causes ³.

Knowledge of Pathology: an instrument to cure

Dr. Carroll Dunham in his book” Homoeopathy; the science of therapeutics “explains that when a disease occurs the disease has no tendency to revert back to health without any intervention of some extraneous influence foreign to the organism. A special stimulus which constitute the fundamental law of therapeutics must be sought to bring back the healthy state. He states that Physiology and pathology are quite indispensable to the physician. Pathology is not a guide for him in therapeutics but an instrument which he uses in studying those phenomena which are to be the subject and agents of therapeutic actions. Through the pathology the physician learns to know about the disease but only through the therapeutics he can cure the disease condition⁴.



Cure: restoration of health

Dr. James Tailer kent in his book “Lectures on homoeopathic philosophy” states that, cure is restoration of health and not removal of symptoms on first. He adds up that if removal of symptoms are not followed by restoration of health, it cannot be called as cure. He says that, it is the physician’s duty not merely to remove the symptoms or to change the aspect of disease but to restore back the health. The patient should be able to realise by his feelings and continue to say that he is being restored to health whenever a symptom is removed. He also says that there should be a corresponding inward improvement whenever an outward symptom has been caused to disappear and this will be true whenever the disease has been displaced by the perfect order. He adds up that, manner of cure can only be mild if it flows in the stream of natural direction and thereby removing disease. He states that every homoeopathic practitioner who have knowledge about the art of healing knows that symptoms which go off in these directions remain away permanently. It is thus he knows that the patient did not merely get well in spite of the treatment, but that he was cured by the action of remedy. According to his observations, quick ,short and strong aggravation with a rapid improvement of a patient is a good indication of cure ⁵.

Homoeopathy: unique method of curing

Dr. Elizabeth wright Hubbard in her book “Homoeopathy as art and science” states that, homoeopathy helps nature to cure not just by diet, physiotherapy or manipulative substances but by working against nature or trying to make the patient feel no pain. She also states that, homoeopathy takes longer, requires far more time to cure and it helps in all the field toward the limit of curability. She also adds up that, curing the patient with few sugary powders or conveying faith in his improvement is not enough. The patient should be aware of certain principles of cure. In order to get a perfect cure ,the patient should have an idea about how cure occurs , its progression, possibilities of aggravation etc ⁶.

The highest ideal of cure

Hahnemann in his book “Organon of medicine” states about cure in various aphorisms. His principle was ‘like cures like’ which means that the substance that causes certain symptoms can also help to remove those symptoms. He says that the highest ideal of cure must be very fast, in a gentle manner and bring about permanent restoration of health. According to him , Cure is obtained by removal or annihilation of disease in its whole extent in the most reliable and harmless way using the principles of homoeopathy⁷.



Knowledge about the root cause of the disease

Hahnemann also says that, useful to the physician in assisting him to cure the condition is the knowledge about the most probable exciting cause of the disease. The physician must have a clear knowledge about the cause that produces the disease and the cause that maintains the disease. homoeopathy helps nature to cure not just by diet, physiotherapy or manipulative substances but by working against nature or trying to make the patient feel no pain. A particular case contains a bundle of symptoms. The totality of all these symptoms must be obtained using case taking and all these symptoms should be removed to cure the disease. He states that, by opposite medical symptoms persistent disease symptoms can not be cured. Opposite symptoms producing agents can ameliorate in first phase and then aggravate. His writings suggest that without removing the root cause and totality of symptoms cure cannot be effected⁸.

The term cure: in homoeopathy

The term cure as stated, it was a homoeopathic term in case of many acute conditions. In Australia, in 2015, the national health and medical research council released a statement on homoeopathy based on its own review of available clinical evidence. It concluded that there is no reliable evidence that homoeopathy is effective for any health condition. This information is gathered from an article entitled “ homoeopathy- better health channel”⁹. Based on this, there was so many misconceptions regarding the curative power of Homoeopathy. The scientific evidence for the effectiveness of homoeopathic medicine is still unknown. But there are many clinical based case reports that claims that homoeopathy can treat various disease conditions. Dr. Rajesh shah in his article explains about the curative power of Homoeopathic medicine. He comments that all the diseases are not curable in Homoeopathy. He also explains the factors that homoeopathy depends to cure a condition¹⁰. Homoeopathy and homoeopathic medicines have been used successfully used to treat and cure all forms of cure over the centuries. It has been proven to cure all forms of physical illness, mental illness and other developmental problems. Homoeopathy claims to stimulate a healing response and strengthen the body’s ability to heal itself. Being a holistic system of medicine, based on the theory ‘like cures like’, it claims to stimulate the body’s own healing response to disease using specially prepared high diluted preparations.

The principle of ‘like cures like’

Homoeopathy is based on the principle “ like cures like” which means that a



substance that causes certain symptoms can also help to remove those symptoms "¹¹.

Definition for the word cure

Cure is not well defined in current medical theory and practice. Many medical dictionaries do not even contain an entry for the word cure. The world health organization (WHO) does not define cure for any type of disease. The alphabetical list of health topics on WHO website does not contain the word cure, and a search for word cure on the site's documents reveal that the word cure is only used with communicable diseases. Cure is often used as a publicity reference by WHO and many others. In the WHO article titled "Prevention is better than cure" the word cure is not defined and does not even appear in the article and "Miracle cure for an old scourge" contains 'cure' in the title but not in the article. This information is derived from the article "A definition and explanation of cure" by Tracy Kolenchuk published in July 2018 ¹².

Term Cure: in other dictionaries

The term cure has been defined in Cambridge dictionary as 'something that makes someone who is sick healthy again , to make someone someone healthy again , or to cause an illness to go away ¹³. Cure is the course of treatment used to restore health. Cure is an agent, such as a drug that restores health¹⁴.

Cure and healing: by Tadgemore Murigwa

An article entitled "concepts of cure, healing, disease and illness" by Tadgemore Murigwa claims that, cure and healing although they may be interchanged have different meanings if taken in their rightful context. When individuals experience disease, there is always a tendency to think in obsolete terms of being curable and incurable. When we talk of curing we talk of the restoration of health by eliminating the symptoms that characterise a disease. Healing on the other hand calls for the restoration of wholeness. Cure is instant and one can be cured without healing¹⁵.

The Law of cure: Similia Similibus Curentur

The concept of cure has been varying from authors to authors. Law of cure as taught by Hahnemann is not and cannot be limited to a small group of conditions. The limitations resist only because of our ignorance. It has been proven by experience that a medicine will remove a group of symptoms similar to symptoms which it is capable of producing. This law, founded upon observation of facts, has been the product of inductive reasoning and has been proven by years of experience to be true and sure. The law of cure 'Similia Similibus



Curentur', is a fundamental as many laws in nature. It is a law of universal adaptability to human sickness. This is the only general law for the cure of physical and mental illness of man. It is the only method of healing that deepens man as a whole.

High and only mission of the physician

Hahnemann in 1st aphorism states that the physician's high and the only mission is to restore the sick person to a healthy condition which leads to cure¹⁶. While restoring the sick to health it is not just about providing medications and treatments. The physician should identify the root cause of the disease and remove them. He should provide general managements and dietary regulations to be followed during the process of cure. As mentioned in H.A. Robert's literature there are certain obstacles that interfere the curative process. The patient as well as the physician should be aware of the obstacles and remove those obstacles that prevent the curative process².

Hering law of cure

Hering's law of cure by Dr. Roger Schmidt presented by Sylvain Cazalet, helps us to observe the direction in which the symptoms of the patient should disappear while under a homoeopathic treatment. According to this law, cure take place with the disappearance of symptoms from above downwards, inside-outwards, from more important to less important organs, symptoms disappear in the reverse order of their appearance which means the first appeared symptoms disappears at last. This means that simply the disappearance of symptoms cannot be called as a ideal cure. This suggest that, While removal of symptoms it has to follow this direction to obtain the perfect cure¹⁷.

Nature's law of cure

Our master says that the similar remedy is able to cure the patient because in nature too it has been observed that a weaker disease is automatically removed if the patient contracts a similar but stronger disease. He calls this phenomenon – the homeopathic law of nature or the nature's law of cure.

“A weaker dynamic affection is permanently extinguished in the living organism by a stronger one, if the latter (whilst differing in kind) is very similar to the former in its manifestations.”

The nature's law of Homoeopathy says, to produce cure it is important to consider two things. One is the medicine should be stronger and the other is medicine should be similar¹⁸.



Rule of dosage to obtain cure

The rule of dosage in homoeopathy is that minimum quantity of medicine should be used to obtain cure. It is mentioned by Hahnemann in aphorism 280 that a Homoeopathic dose of minimum quantity is much capable of overpowering, annihilating, and extinguishing the disease force from the vital force to produce a scarcely perceptible homoeopathic aggravation⁷. For that purpose the repetitions of medicine are not done when a favourable response has been witnessed unlike in other therapeutic systems. So naturally, when a homoeopathic aggravation has witnessed medicinal dose is not continued so that the effect of medicine is reduced to reduce the intensity of primary action. Primary action of homoeopathic medicine is homoeopathic aggravation and it is considered as a good sign for cure. This is the time when the vital force reacts to the primary action of homoeopathic medicine powerfully. The secondary action is the reaction of vital force against the primary action of the disease or medicine. In the case of homoeopathic medicine it produces an artificial disease that is in the same line of natural disease. Therefore, during the secondary action, the vital force reacts against the primary action of the medicine. By this way the vital force will be bought back to a state of norm. The potency, quantity, and form of the drug, as well as its repetition, are all parts of the homoeopathic dose. It is either always a sub-pathogenetic or sub-physiological dose. This dose is so small that it just alleviates current symptoms rather than causing pathogenetic ones. The finding of the opposing effects of high and small dosages of medicine served as the foundation for the homoeopathic concept of dose, just like the law of cure¹⁹.

The practice of Homoeopathic therapeutics rests not on the Law of Similaxis alone but on the selection of small infinitesimal dose. A Homoeopathic physician has to accurately assess the susceptibility in a patient before he selects the right potency. Any error in this is immediately reflected either in a poor response or in an exaggerated response even though the remedy has been correctly selected. A Homoeopathic physician employs a minimum dose and has little use for maximum tolerated one. Thus, the proper Dose in Homoeopathy is as important as the similimum for cure of an individual. If anything, lacking in the selection of potency, proper repetition and administration the chances of failure or the similimum are there²⁰.

The goal of homoeopathic disease treatment is to eliminate symptoms rather than to induce them. It is feasible to accomplish this directly without causing symptoms by using a



similar medication in the smallest dose. The state of restoration of vital force into normalcy. This state of restoration of vital force into normalcy is designated as cure in homoeopathy¹⁹.

Definition and exploration of cure: by Tracy Kolenchuk

The definition of word 'cure' has been differing from authors to authors and to various systems. In the article "A definition and exploration of cure" by Tracy Kolenchuk, he claims that if we wish to cure, we need to develop definition of cure for every disease and work to redefine those definitions. He says that the best cure comes from health, from improvements in process or attribute healthiness. Unhealthy life processes result in casual illnesses, which are cured with healthy processes. Unhealthy attributes cause attribute illnesses, which are cured by healthy transformations¹².

Cure: According to Ayurvedha

Ayurveda or Ayurvedic medicine is a system of traditional medicine native to India, which uses a range of treatments, including panchakarma ('5 actions'), yoga, massage, acupuncture and herbal medicine, to encourage health and wellbeing. According to Ayurvedic system of medicine, the human body is composed of tissues, waste and humoral biomaterials. The three postulated elemental bodily Humors, the Doshas are Vata, pitta and Kapha. When there is derangement in any one of these Humors it leads to disease. Bringing back the balance leads to cure. Ayurvedic treatment is administered as a combination of herbal concoctions and lifestyle changes that help balance the three principle energies of the body²¹.

Cure: According to Siddha

Siddha medicine is a form of traditional medicine originating in southern India. It is one of the oldest systems of medicine in India. Siddha views disease as a condition caused when the normal equilibrium of the three Humors (collectively called mukkuttram) – Vaadham (airy), Pittham (fiery) and Kapam (watery) – is disturbed. The factors assumed to affect this equilibrium are environment, climatic conditions, diet, physical activities, and stress. Under normal conditions, the ratio between Vaadham, Pittham, and Kapam are 4:2:1, respectively²². According to the Siddha medicine system, diet and lifestyle play a major role in health and in curing diseases. This concept of the Siddha medicine is termed as pathiyam and apathiyam, which is essentially a rule-based system with a list of "do's and don'ts"²³.

Can we say cure: by Joseph Pizzorno

An article entitled "Can we say cure"? by Joseph pizzorno states that, Most of the



commonly prescribed conventional drugs treat only symptoms, not the underlying causes of a patient's disease. This logically leads to a perception that much of modern medicine is about management of chronic disease and prevention of more serious diseases – not actual cures. He also says that use of the term cure has been discouraged except in limited number of cases²⁴.

Concept of cure: Modern Medicine

Modern medicine is also called Allopathic Medicine. Modern medicine involves the use of drugs and surgeries to help and cure the disease or solve the problem of the patient. The goals of modern medicine are to help in the prevention of diseases, promote the health of every individual in society and improve the quality of life of individuals or groups. Modern medicine has done much in the fields of infectious diseases and emergencies to aid cure. In most other fields, it is mostly control that it aims for, which is another name for palliation²⁵.

Modern medicine considers the pathological symptoms of the patient and aims to remove those symptoms. Root cause of the illness is not considered to cure the disease. Cure according to them is removal of the physical symptoms or any external affections. Primary action of their medicine would be amelioration. Here Amelioration proceeded by aggravation takes place. With reference to these points, it is evident that permanent cure is not possible in modern medicine most of the times.

Modern concept of Cure

In today's modern world with increased technologies and health care facilities people have different perception about cure. Modern cure is just a temporary solution by suppressing symptoms to make it look like the disease has disappeared, but in fact it is waiting to return back, to unleash a greater war on the immune system. Modern cure doesn't look at the holistic aspect of healing, rather it is a very systematic physical based healing. The concept of emotions being the root cause of illness is overlooked, because of the lack of mind body soul connection being studied in modern cure. When people find any external skin infections, they put themselves in a situation to apply something over it, which vanishes the external affection and they consider themselves to be cured. Modern cure is manufactured at the cost of side affects, which only increases the pockets of pharmaceutical companies and burns a hole in the pockets of those struggling to heal. Modern cure makes us completely into a state of getting ease ignoring how to remove the cause and symptoms so that humans can naturally self heal.



Use of term Cure: in Cancer Care

In cancer care, several terms are used for patients who are free of disease including, “in remission,” “no evidence of disease,” and “doing well.” Sometimes the word cured is used, but it is difficult to find an accepted cancer-related definition of the word cure. Many oncologists describe large-cell lymphoma or testicular cancer as curable and treat patients with these cancers with curative intent, but are then hesitant to describe any individual patient as cured. There are many reasons for this hesitancy. The possibility of a late recurrence is one concern. For breast cancer survivors, the risk of late recurrences continues for decades after treatment, as was reported more than thirty years ago.

In cancer care, however, there is often curative intent, yet the term cure is infrequently used, if it is used at all. Using the word cured for cancer survivors may have positive outcomes, including facilitating positive psychosocial adaptations and increased confidence. However, cancer survivors who are told that they are cured may discontinue or diminish their medical care. For clinicians, a determination that a patient is cured could justify their discharge from oncology follow-up and shift time and attention to newly diagnosed patients. For society, considering cancer a curable disease could promote cancer screening and early detection efforts²⁶.

Intent of medical therapy

The intent of medical therapy may be curative, palliative, restorative, or sometimes each of these for the same patient. In treating cholecystitis or appendicitis, a surgeon would have curative intent and then, after treatment, indicate that their patient is cured. In other diseases, such as diabetes or hypertension, the intent of treatment is typically to manage or control disease, and the term cure would not be expected²⁶.

Cure: in diabetes

Diabetes is an incurable condition, but the person suffering from it may go into remission. When a patient goes into remission, their body does not show any symptoms of diabetes when they undergo a test. Remission does not mean they are cured of the condition. The disease is present, it is still present in the body, but it just doesn't show²⁷.

Although there's no cure for type 2 diabetes, studies show it's possible for some people to reverse it. Through diet changes and weight loss, you may be able to reach and hold normal blood sugar levels without medication. This doesn't mean you're completely cured. Type 2 diabetes is an ongoing disease. Even if you're in remission, which means you aren't



taking medication and your blood sugar levels stay in a healthy range, there's always a chance that symptoms will return. But it's possible for some people to go years without trouble controlling their glucose and the health concerns that come with diabetes²⁸.

Curing and Healing: difference

Both curing and healing offer a multitude of benefits. The difference can look like the process and the ending of one's journey. To cure means Trusted Source to be without illness or to eliminate sickness that brings disease. Usually, curing requires help from a physician. The goal is to return the body, mind, or spirit to its original state and to avoid change. Curing may take less time and may be less painful, although it's an end and total removal of the problem. To heal means to repair or strengthen the body, mind, or spirit. In a 2015 research paper Trusted Source, Kimberly Firth and other researchers developed an operational definition of "healing," concluding that it is "a holistic, transformative process of repair and recovery in mind, body, and spirit resulting in positive change, finding meaning, and movement towards self-realization of wholeness, regardless of the presence or absence of disease²⁹ .

Yoga: an option to Cure?

Yoga, an ancient practice and meditation, has become increasingly popular in today's busy society. For many people, yoga provides a retreat from their chaotic and busy lives. Yoga develops inner awareness. It focuses your attention on your body's abilities at the present moment. It helps develop breath of strength of mind and body. It's not about physical appearance. Yoga is known for its ability to soothe tension and anxiety in the mind and body. But it can also have an impact on a person's exercise capacity³⁰.

Discussion

While other systems focus on removing the physical symptoms alone, Homoeopathy focuses the disturbance on physical, mental and emotional level and cures the person on all these aspects. Hahnemann's emphasis on treating the whole person, rather than just symptoms, is a key aspect and strength of his concept of cure. Hahnemann's stress on individualizing treatment, considering unique characteristics and circumstances, is crucial for effective cure. Hahnemann's concept of using the minimum dose necessary to effect a cure is an important principle for gentle healing. Hahnemann's understanding of human physiology and disease mechanisms was limited by the scientific knowledge of his time. The strength of



system elevates if we further investigate the effectiveness of Hahnemann's holistic approach compared to conventional medical approaches.

CONCLUSION

The main findings of the review are that, cure must have some relationship between the properties of disease and medicinal qualities of the drug. Cure is not effected by the removal of external, secondary, pathological end products of the disease surgically nor any local means. If removal of symptoms is not followed by restoration of health, it cannot be called as cure. Homoeopathy helps nature to cure not just by diet, physiotherapy or manipulative substances but by working against nature or trying to make the patient feel no pain. Hahnemann's principle was 'like cures like' which means that the substance that causes certain symptoms can also help to remove those symptoms. Hering's law of cure helps us to observe the direction in which the symptoms of the patient should disappear while under a homoeopathic treatment. According to this law, cure take place with the disappearance of symptoms from above downwards, inside-outwards, from more important to less important organs, symptoms disappear in the reverse order of their appearance which means the first appeared symptoms disappears at last. It is necessary to investigate the application of Hering's Law of cure in disease conditions. The concept of disappearance of symptoms in reverse order of their appearance as stated in Hering's Law contradicts to certain diseases and conditions. Hence a study to investigate the validity of Hering's Law in predicting the direction of symptom changes during homeopathic treatment will help us to understand the concept of cure in a better way. Exploring the concept of cure is essential for advancing our understanding of health, disease, and healing, ultimately more effective and holistic approaches to healthcare.

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***Address for Correspondence:**

S. Afshana Safrin, Second year
BHMS, Sarada Krishna
Homoeopathic Medical College,
Kulasekharam, Kanyakumari
district, Tamilnadu.

Email:

afshanahameed12@gmail.com

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