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## REVIEW ARTICLE

### USE OF EXTERNAL APPLICATION IN HOMOEOPATHY

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#### Abstract

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**Key Word-** External application, Homoeopathy, lotion, liniment, ointment etc.

The Purpose of this article is to open the mind of old or traditional Homoeopathic physician who always opposed the prescribing or using external application in their Homoeopathic practice. So they harmed the popularity of Homoeopathy among public in modern era. This work

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involved a systematic study of employment of external application in the mother tincture form and along with other forms i.e. Lotion, ointment, liniment, poultices, Plaster oil etc.

#### INTRODUCTION

A topical medicine is a form of medication meant to be administered externally onto the body rather than ingested or injected into the body. Medicines administered to the eye, ear, and nose are considered topical medicines. Topical medicine refers to medicines applied externally onto the skin. Topical

medicines available for external application include lotions, creams, ointments, powders (talc), and solutions (liquids). A specific dose of medication is prepared and suspended into a transport media such as a lotion. Topical lotions are water based and thin. They are absorbed quickly into the skin and are often invisible after application. Topical creams

are thicker and are visible on the skin after application. They require more time for the medication to be absorbed into the skin. Ointments or unguents are the thickest form of topical medication. The medicine is suspended in a greasy substance that adheres to the skin until the medicine is absorbed.

The purpose of using topical medicine is to deliver medication directly onto areas of the skin that are irritated, inflamed, itching, or infected. Topical medicines are often applied directly onto a rash or a irritated area on the skin for rapid relief of symptoms. Topical skin medicines should not be applied near the eyes or the mouth.

A topical medication is a medication that is applied to a particular place on or in the body. Most often topical administration means application to body surfaces such as the skin or mucous membranes to treat ailments via a large range of classes including creams, foams, gels, lotions, and ointments. Many topical medications are epicutaneous, meaning that they are applied directly to the skin. Topical medications may also be inhalational, such as asthma medications, or applied to the surface of tissues other than the skin, such as eye drops applied to the conjunctiva, or ear drops placed in the ear, or medications applied to the surface of a tooth. The word topical derives from Greek τοπικός *topikos*, "of a place".

([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Topical\\_medication](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Topical_medication))

The time is always changeable, So Homoeopathic literature has never been a static subject, and it kept on growing, and today refined a lot of work available on the subject. Yet in the present world it will be certainly be looked at with a critical view.

The physicians as well as the patient are now eager to use new products or new therapeutic approach. Moreover as the population of educated patient is increasing they have started playing more active role in therapeutic approach. As a result, usual clinic based medically supervised therapy is shifting towards home based self administered therapy. So the use of complimentary medicines like Homoeopathy is becoming more popular as they are easily available. So there is urgent need to educate the public and clinical training in health workers especially in village or remote area about the mode of preparation of external application and its effective action to the public. This action will more popularise Homoeopathy.

The use of external application in Homeopathy has borne much controversy. Dr. Samuel Hahnemann criticized the use of external application in the early editions of organon of medicine. The 6<sup>th</sup> edition of organon of medicine is considered to be most perfect of all.

However, In 5<sup>th</sup> edition aphorism no. 186. In 6th edition, aphorism no. 284, 285 and Footnote of 282 witnessed the in favour of external application in Hahnemann's organon of medicine.

In foot note of aphorism 282 Hahnemann says that long standing large condylomata interfering with the activities of the part which has to be treated both internally with dynamic medicine and also externally as its present amounts to obstacles in recovery.

In spite of various argument majority of young Homoeopathic physician consciously or unconsciously, to fullest extent or to limited extent, quacks or the so called literates, all uses external application to over come the distressful symptom with varying results. The result ascertained by different physician is different.

Homoeopathy mainly advocates internal medication alone on symptom similarity for the treatment of diseases. External applications are not in accordance with the principles of homoeopathy (5th edition Organon of Medicine, § 185-203). But in aphorisms 284-285 in his Organon of Medicine, 6th edition, Hahnemann has given an exceptional allowance for external applications. It implies that while the curative remedy should be continued internally, the same medicine may only be

used externally as a lotion, liniment, ointment, etc.

External applications are used in various cases like accidental cases, injuries, lacerations, burns, to relieve muscle tension and antiseptic, dressings. Homoeopathic medicines are dispensed as external application in vehicles like the oils— Almond, Rosemary, Sesame, Olive, etc. Also glycerine, soft paraffin, spermaceti, prepared lard, starch, white wax, etc.

**The Principles and Art of Cure by Roberts**, H.A. mentioned that "Medicine having the power of curing internally, should not be employed exclusively as a topical application to the local symptoms of chronic miasmatic diseases."

LOCAL applications—what visions these words bring to mind! Mustard plasters, onion poultices, boneset and brine—in fact, anything in common usage that could be applied by the home nurse or procured by the most skilful physician. From time immemorial local applications have been the rule among the laity as domestic remedies and among physicians from \*\*\*AEsculapius down to the present day. This method of treatment was based on the teaching and general belief that if the outward manifestations were removed, the disease was cured; that the outward manifestation was the disease itself and

that the individual would be cured were the manifestations removed.

This doctrine was taught from the earliest times until Hahnemann proclaimed to the world a new doctrine, that the local manifestations were but an outward expression of the inward and spiritual force, which when disturbed expressed itself in external signs; that if these external manifestations were removed by local treatment, the disease was not cured, but driven in to some more centrally located organ, there to express itself in some graver form.

It was the custom of the older physicians to use find the local applications; then if the manifestation showed itself in the internal organs, the ever-present purge was used to drive it out. It has been said that the use of the purge was the last remnant of pagan medicine, and was based on the theory that all disease was caused by a very active evil spirit.

Hahnemann's teaching in regard to local applications is very clear and distinct, and in practice has thoroughly proven its value. In *Organon*, **Par. 104**: It is neither beneficial in acute local diseases of rapid growth, nor in those of long standing, to use a remedy externally as a local application to the diseased part, even if the medicines were specific and curative in that form. Acute local diseases, such as

inflammations of single parts, like erysipelas, for instance, which are not produced by violent external injuries, but by dynamic or internal causes, will usually yield rapidly to internal homoeopathic remedies selected from our stock of well-tested medicines....

In a recent homoeopathic journal one of our distinguished English confreres advocated the use of the potency as a local application. This method of treatment received censorious consideration from Hahnemann, in Paragraphs 196, 197 and 198 of the *\*Organon*. It may seem as if the cure of a local disease could be accelerated, not only by internal administration, but also by external application of the correct homoeopathic remedy adapted to the totality of symptoms, since the effect of a medicine, applied locally to the disease itself, might possibly produce a more rapid improvement. But this kind of treatment is entirely objectionable, not only in local affections dependent on psora, but also in local symptoms arising from syphilis and from sycosis, \*because the local application of a medicine, simultaneously with its internal use, results in great disadvantages. For in diseases characterized by a main symptom in the form of a permanent local affection, the latter is generally dispelled by topical applications more rapidly than the internal

disease. This often leads to the deceptive impression that we have accomplished a perfect cure. At all events the premature disappearance of this local symptom renders it very difficult, and in some cases impossible to determine whether the total disease has also been exterminated by the internal remedy.

For the same reason, a medicine having the power of curing internally should not be employed exclusively as a topical application to the local symptoms of chronic miasmatic diseases. For, if these are only topically suppressed, this partial effect will leave us in doubt regarding the action of the internal remedies, which are absolutely indispensable to the restoration of general health....

There is only one condition where local application of the indicated potentized remedy may be used to advantage, and that is in cases where it is impossible to administer it by mouth. This statement is based on Hahnemann's observations that mucous surfaces and denuded surfaces are receptive to the indicated remedy, but in a more limited degree than through the alimentary canal. Paragraphs 290, 291, 292: Besides the stomach, the tongue and mouth are the parts most susceptible of medicinal impressions; but the lining membrane of the nose possesses this susceptibility in a high degree. Also the rectum, genitals, and all sensitive organs

of our body are almost equally susceptible of medicinal effects. For this reason, parts denuded of cuticle, wounded and ulcerated surfaces, will allow the effects of medicines to penetrate quite as readily as if they had been administered by the mouth, and therefore olfaction or inhalation must be still more efficacious. Parts of the body deprived of their natural sense, e.g. in the absence of the sense of taste or smell, the tongue, palate, and nose will impart impressions made primarily on these organs, with a considerable degree of perfection to all other organs of the body. Also the external surface of the body, covered by the cutis and cuticle, is capable of receiving the action particularly of liquid medicines; and the most sensitive parts of the surface are, at the same time, the most susceptible.

Dr Sunil Tyagi Scope of external applications in homoeopathy <https://www.homeobook.com/scope-of-external-application-in-homoeopathy/> say that local application in homeopathy is not allowed by over master Samuel Hahnemann except in some special condition mention in organon of medicine. Homoeopathy is the science of experience in which no one can add or subtract any symptom from the homeopathic materia medica from his/her logic without any scientific proving. Every symptom mention in our old literature is true to their

level and verified many times. But when the topic came to the application of these remedies we need to apply law of similia and need to select the drug on the basis of similarity of symptoms of disease and remedy. Whole procedure is beautifully explained by our great master in his book ORGANON OF MEDICINE and other literature work but very few of us try to go through the whole work done by our masters. We try to search shortcuts and move here and there for success without any predefined goal. Many of us say it is impossible to learn homoeopathy without any mentor but who taught homoeopathy to our great master he learnt by himself and invented such a big system. No one can teach homoeopathy to you if you have no patience and courage to learn it. Homoeopathy needs years of devotion to understand the things. Our master wrote Our master wrote in introduction to organon that "hitherto no one has ever taught this homoeopathic mode of cure, no one has carried it out in practice. But if the truth is only to be found in this method, as I can prove it to be, we might expect that, even though it remained unperceived for thousands of years, distinct traces of it would yet be discovered in every age"

A skin disease is not just a disease of the surface as it is seen only on the skin. Any skin disease is an outward manifestation of an inner disease. In such

case, only the use of lotions or creams may not help. We need to treat a skin disease only with the help of an internal medicine. For one thing, external applications often contain cortisol or other such agents. Indeed, these agents suppress the immune function of the body. As a matter of fact, it should not be applied for skin diseases. Since it usually suppresses the disease and the disease often penetrates to a deeper level. Thus, when its use is stopped, skin disease manifests itself in more vigorous form. Notably, skin symptoms change in its appearance or they affect other parts of the body.

You must use external applications which only aim to reduce the itching and burning. As for example in cases of eczema, psoriasis, lichen planus, etc. Hence, you should use petroleum jelly or coconut oil or ointments containing soothing moisturizing agents. Surely, that helps keep the skin moist. However, we advise you against using any medicated lotions, medicated cream or medicated ointment for the same.

It seems that many people think, homeopathy is against applying anything over the skin. Further stretching this theory to the use of perfumes, make-ups, etc.

§ 284 Organon Sixth edition

Hahnemann recommended in the sixth edition of the Organon that the indicated remedy can be given internally in

conjunction with external application on the healthy skin, whereas external applications on affected parts are to be avoided in general.

Local applications are originally based on the theory that the outward manifestations represent the disease itself, so that only these have to be removed to cure the patient. With Hahnemann's doctrine of the vital force and the proclamation that local manifestations, like any other signs and symptoms, were but the outward expression of the internal disease, the view of external applications also changed. Hahnemann clearly explains the purpose of local manifestations:

“The presence of the local affection thus silences, for a time, the internal disease, though without being able either to cure it or to diminish it materially. The local affection, however, is never anything else than a part of the general disease, but a part of it increased all in one direction by the organic vital force, and transferred to a less dangerous (external) part of the body, in order to allay the internal ailment”.

§ 201 Organon Sixth edition -No external manifestation, not occasioned by some important injury from without, can arise, persist or even grow worse without some internal cause, without the co-operation of the whole organism. Hence the local removal of outward manifestations does not cure the underlying cause and even

rouses the internal disease and drives the disease deeper to more vital organs.

Local manifestations indicate to us the state of the internal disease, and if this is cured by means of internal remedies then the local affection is cured at the same time. But if the local affection is only removed locally then the “internal treatment indispensable for the complete restoration of the health remains in dubious obscurity” (vide § 198 Organon sixth edition). This will render it more difficult to find the perfectly homeopathic remedy if it has not yet been discovered.

Therefore Hahnemann wrote: “It is not useful, either in acute local diseases of recent origin or in local affections that have already existed a long time, to rub in or apply externally to the spot an external remedy, even though it be the specific and, when used internally, salutary by reason of its homeopathicity, even although it should be at the same time administered internally”

§ 194 Organon Sixth edition To employ the indicated remedy not only internally, but also externally on affected parts, is also quite inadmissible, because then the local manifestation will usually be annihilated sooner than the internal disease. The premature disappearance of the local manifestation will render it difficult or even impossible to determine if the general disease is destroyed also.

This also holds true for local maladies which have been caused by external injury a short time previously. Hahnemann writes in § 186 Organon Sixth edition, that if the lesion is very trivial and the damage is without particular significance, it would be of no great moment and hence no treatment necessary at all. If, however, maladies are severe and of any importance whatsoever, then they draw the entire living organism into sympathy. Therefore, the whole living organism requires, as it always does, active dynamic aid to put it in a position to accomplish the work of healing.

Even though many homeopaths advocate local creams of Arnica or Calendula, taking the indicated remedy internally is all that is needed to cure, and the disease will always yield to this. Hahnemann still recommended in the *Materia Medica Pura* to apply Arnica also externally in severe bruises, and wrote (until the 3rd edition of the *Organon*), that the externally applied remedy also has to be the internally indicated remedy for the overall condition of the disease. However, since the fourth edition of the *Organon* he generally wrote that it is neither useful in acute local diseases of recent origin nor in local chronic affections to apply an external remedy.

Hahnemann does recommend for very old chronic diseases the external

application of the remedy in solution directly on healthy areas of the skin, while taking the oral solution at the same time, to intensify the impact and speed the cure.

§ 285 Sixth Edition Still, the principle of the minimum dose should not be lost sight of, and the dose is to be individualized and adjusted according to the reaction of the patient.

But whilst he still recommended in *The Chronic Diseases* pure juice pressed from the green leaves of Thuja, mixed with an equal quantity of alcohol, and in the most longstanding and difficult cases to moisten the larger figwarts every day with the mild solution, he requires the external application of their specific medicine in the sixth edition of the *Organon* (which was written afterwards!). With specific medicine he regularly refers to the medicine indicated according to the totality of characteristic symptoms in the sixth edition of the *Organon*.

Remember that Hahnemann said:

“Every external treatment of such local symptoms ... has been the most prolific source of all the innumerable named or unnamed chronic maladies under which mankind groans; it is one of the most criminal procedures the medical world can be guilty of, and yet it has hitherto been the one generally adopted, and taught from the professional chairs as the only one.”



§ 203 Organon Sixth edition As the epidermis is less sensitive to medicinal impressions than the mouth and tongue, the skin method is also applicable for hypersensitives, so that the remedy is given exclusively on the skin. Medicines can also be applied on the healthy skin if oral intake is not possible. The solution is prepared in the same way as when taken orally and the amount used, usually drops, suited to the sensitivity of the patient.

Comprehensive Study of Organon, Dr. G. Nagendra babu, 1st edition, B Jain Publishers LTD., New Delhi, 110055 - The external applications are not allowed not only in psoric cases but also in syphilitic as well as sycotic types. This is because if local application is given the chief presenting complaint will disappear, leaving the internally present miasmatic disease uncured. So judicious and ideal cure is not possible (§ 196-198).

## CONCLUSION

I hope my research work will help to satisfy a need of Homoeopathic profession for an accurate and realistic description about external application of drugs in Homoeopathy. An effort has been made to present this topic in its originality and have been presented in a way to bring confidence to the professionals and make them more definitive of the matter.

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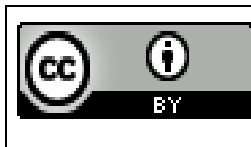
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