



Successful Homoeopathic Treatment of Phyllodes Tumour: A Case Study

Purnima Shukla¹ Purak Misra² Risabh Kumar Jain³ Rajiv Kumar Misra⁴

¹Senior consultant, Independent researcher, Former member of ethical committee, CCRH (Under Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India), New Delhi, India

²Department of Surgery, ESIC Medical College, NCR, Delhi, India

³Department of Radiodiagnosis, Baba Raghav Das Medical College, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, India

⁴Department of Pathology, Baba Raghav Das Medical College, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, India

Address for correspondence Dr Purnima Shukla, MD (Homoeo), C4, Shivalik, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi 110017, India (e-mail: drpurnimashukla2019@gmail.com).

Homœopathic Links 2021;34(2):130–140.

Abstract

Phyllodes tumours (PTs) of the breast are rare biphasic fibroepithelial neoplasm. They have potentiality to recur and metastasise. Majority of them follow a benign clinical course. We have treated one patient suffering from PT at the out-patient department of Sri Ram Medical & Homoeopathic Research Centre, Gorakhpur, India. After detailed case taking and repertorisation, first *Conium maculatum* and later on *Phytolacca decandra* and *Calcarea fluorica* were prescribed on the basis of individualisation to treat the case. Outcomes were assessed clinically every month for subjective improvement and objectively by ultrasonography reports at every 6-month interval. Gradual improvement was noted over time. The case has been assessed with MONARCH Inventory, which shows 'definite' association between the medicine and the outcome.

Keywords

- ▶ *Conium maculatum*
- ▶ homoeopathy
- ▶ phyllodes tumour
- ▶ ultrasonography

Introduction

Phyllodes tumour (PT) of the breast was described properly in 1838, by Johannes Muller. He had given the term cysto-sarcoma phyllodes. But the tumours are rarely cystic and majority of them are benign. The World Health Organization has preferred the term 'phyllodes tumour' to denote this condition.¹ Other synonyms are 'phyllodes sarcoma', 'sero-cystic disease of brodie' and 'benign cystosarcoma'.² PTs are made up of a mixture of cells from connective tissue and the epithelium tissue layer lining the breast. They grow in a leaf-like pattern, hence they get their name from a Greek word that means 'leaf like'. They sometimes degenerate histologically into sarcomatous lesions that lack an epithelial component. Depending on histological features including stromal cellularity, infiltration at the tumour's edge and mitotic activity, PT can be divided into following types: non-cancerous (benign, 50–60%); borderline tumours; and cancerous (malignant, 20–25%).^{3,4} Of all female breast tumours, PTs are 0.3 to 0.5%. The incidence of PT is ~2.1 per million.⁵ Mostly,

they are found in women of 35 to 55 years of age. They are rare in adolescents and elderly women.⁶ No etiologic or predisposing factors have been associated with PTs, with the exception of Li-Fraumeni syndrome, a rare autosomal dominant condition that is characterised by the development of multiple tumours.⁷ The most common symptom is usually a firm palpable mass in the breast. The lump may grow quickly over a few weeks or months. If left untreated, the lump may cause a bulge in the breast and very occasionally the skin over the lump may ulcerate. Fine needle aspiration cytology/needle-core biopsy results when combined with imaging have good diagnostic sensitivity.⁸ Commonly, wide local excision is the treatment. But a very high percentage of surgeries despite wide excision has yielded incomplete excision margins that needed revision surgery.³

We had taken up a project,⁹ 'Homoeopathic Management of Benign Neoplastic Lesions of Breast: An Evidence Based Study', at 'Purti Priya Memorial', Sri Ram Medical & Homoeopathic Research Centre, Gorakhpur, India. This project had continued for 3 years and had included 109 cases of benign

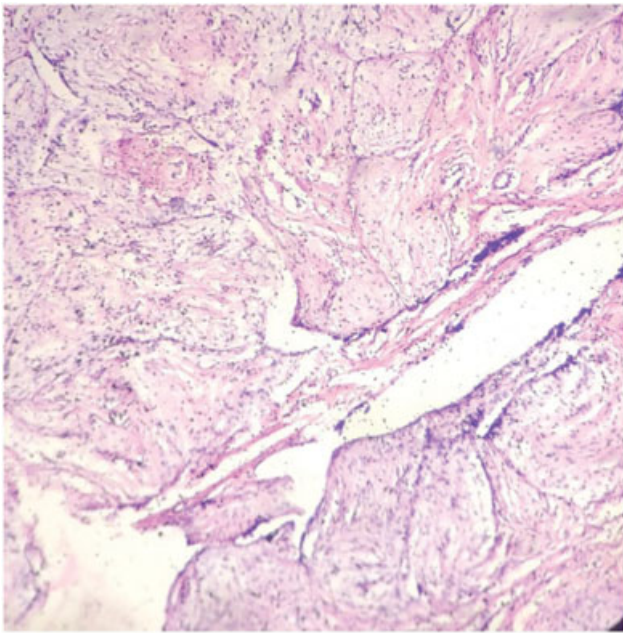


Fig. 1 Histopathology of phyllodes tumour of the patient; H & E x 80.

neoplastic lesions of breast, comprising of 70 cases of fibroadenoma, 29 cases of fibroadenosis, 5 cases of fibrocystic adenoma, 1 case of lipoma, 2 cases of duct papilloma, 1 case of PT and one case of fibroadenoma with fibroadenosis. The data and results before and after treatment were obtained by Department of Radiology and Pathology, Baba Raghav Das Medical College, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh (Government institution, recognised by Medical Council of India). Hence, the integrity and accuracy of the results were well monitored by the concerned departmental faculty. The single case of PT, which had shown persistent improvement over time as demonstrated sonologically, has been presented here. It has been assessed using MONARCH Inventory¹⁰ as well, which shows 'definite' association between the medicine

and the outcome (definite: ≥ 9 ; probable 5–8; possible 1–4; and doubtful ≤ 0).

Case Report

Case: S, 22-year-old, female, married, housewife presented with painful lumps and itching in both the breasts for past 2 years. Pain as well as itching would become intolerable before menses. No remarkable past illness was noted. Regarding family history, her father had tuberculosis earlier and her mother had uterine fibroid; both are alive. No striking features in her physical generalities were noted except that she suffered from bloody leucorrhoea frequently for the last 1 year. She was nullipara and her menses were normal. On further enquiry, it was revealed that she had some cough for last few months, which returned only when she lied down. She said that she was having anxiety about her future as she was advised earlier for surgical removal of the lump. She was very superstitious, which was evident from her narration. She was talking about evil powers that were trying to destroy her and somebody was using these evil powers against her. Consequently, she said that she was confused about what to do and what not to do regarding her disease, her future, etc.

Clinical examination: On local examination, it was found that the right breast was wholly indurated and the lump was a huge one. There was a grape-size lump in the left breast. It was stony hard and limited to lower outer quadrant only. Also, there was tenderness in both the mammae. No axillary or cervical lymph gland was palpable. On enquiry, it was revealed that she was suffering from this for the last 1 year.

Investigation: Tru-Cut biopsy confirmed that it was a case of PT (→ Fig. 1); ultrasonography (USG) report done 3 days later (→ Figs. 2 and 3) shows size of the lesions as follows. Right breast: 103.9 mm × 34.3 mm; shape, oval; margins, circumscribed and regular; echo pattern, hypoechoic; vascularity, hypovascular—BI-RADS 3. Left breast: 9.4 mm × 8.6 mm.

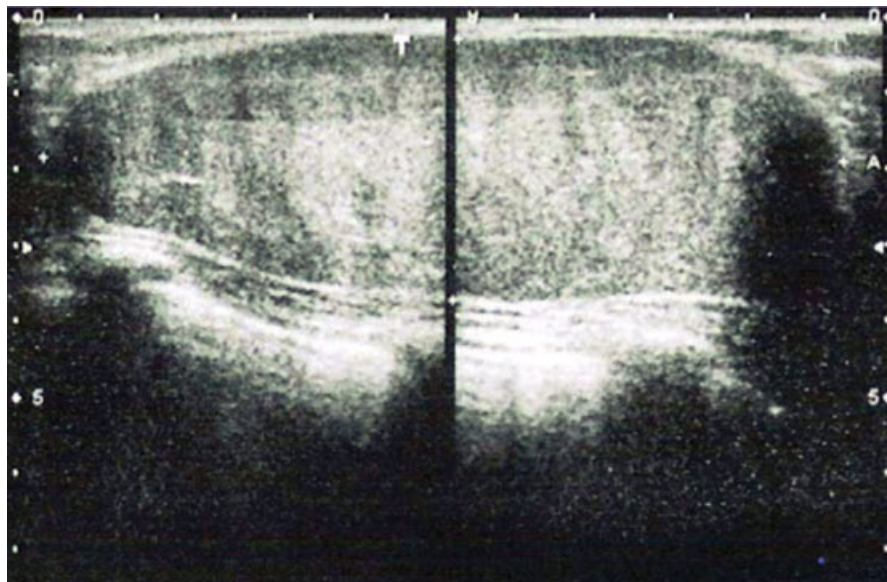


Fig. 2 Ultrasonography scan of first visit (measurement of tumours: right breast, 103.9 mm × 34.3 mm; left breast, 9.4 mm × 8.6 mm).

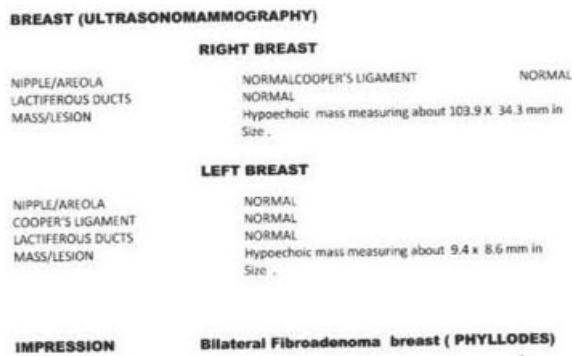


Fig. 3 Ultrasonography report of first visit (measurement of tumours: right breast, 103.9 mm × 34.3 mm; left breast, 9.4 mm × 8.6 mm).

Vaginal swab test was done to detect any bacterial infection, which was not present. (We had planned for trans-vaginal USG, but was not required as the complaint of bloody leucorrhoea ameliorated gradually and subsided completely after sixth visit.)

Guidelines for prescription: She had confusion regarding the decisions to be taken, and was anxious about her future. She was bearing some superstitious beliefs. Her both breasts were indurated and itched much, which always aggravated before menses. She had mild cough only while lying down. Often, she had bloody leucorrhoea. On the basis of this totality, repertorisation¹¹ was done (► **Tables 1** and **2**).

Prescription: She was prescribed with *Conium maculatum* 200C, unit dose, to be taken next morning in empty stomach.

Follow-up and assessment: She returned every month for regular follow-up for next 3 years. Remarkable follow-ups are tabulated (► **Table 3**). By the next visit, there was a remarkable change in her left breast; the lump was almost impalpable. She also had relief in pain, tenderness and itching of mammae. Later on, due to the standstill condition of the case, even after repetition of the previous medicine, we went for further revision of the case. Some new symp-

toms like excoriation and painful cracks on the nipple were seen. Also, it was found that she was having general aggravation at night in cold. New totality was framed. Her right breast was sensitive and painful, which aggravated during menses. Her nipples were excoriated with painful cracks. She never felt well at night. Cold exposure was also not agreeable. Repertorisation (► **Tables 4** and **5**) indicated another medicine this time. After careful consultation with the *Materia Medica*,^{12,13} she was prescribed with *Phytolacca decandra* 200C, unit dose. She was gradually getting better. By the end of the second year, no more anxiety or confusion was noted in her. Remarkable improvement was noted in the breast tumours as well. At this point of time, her complaints had come to a standstill. Though she had improved a lot earlier, no further progression was happening. There was no tumour in her left breast anymore. Tumour in the right breast also reduced in size but hardness was remaining. Excoriation as well as cracks were completely healed up. During her menses, there was no pain in her mammae anymore. Then, again complete case taking was done and it was found that there were some disturbances in her family environment that acted as obstacle in her treatment. Apart from her mental symptoms, some physical general symptoms like sensation of heat and flushes of heat alternating with chill were found. Consequently, we gathered another totality of symptoms. She was anxious about her own health. She feared mice, misfortune and poverty. She did not like warm weather. She had heat flushes, alternating with chills occasionally. She had desire for pickles. Her right breast was sensitive as well as indurated. Repertorisation (► **Tables 6** and **7**) indicated *Calcarea fluorica*. We prescribed *Calcarea fluorica* 200C, unit dose. She was getting better gradually. Last time she visited us, we palpated two small potato-sized lesion in the same part of the breast instead of the solitary lesion, which was palpated earlier. But by the end of the third year, she migrated to some other city, and could not visit us further. Before leaving the town, she was demonstrated regarding the technique of breast self-examination and was provided with pictorial guidelines of the same. By the sixth month we were informed over telephone that she was not having any

Table 1 Rubrics enumerated for repertorisation (first visit)

S. No.	Rubrics	Number of medicines
1	MIND—CONFUSION of mind	571
2	MIND—ANXIETY—future, about	200
3	MIND—SUPERSTITIOUS	22
4	CHEST—INDURATION—Mammae—right	10
5	CHEST—INDURATION—Mammae—left	9
6	CHEST—ITCHING—Mammae	43
7	CHEST—MAMMAE; complaints of—menses; before	19
8	COUGH—LYING DOWN aggravated	35
9	FEMALE GENITALIA/SEX—LEUCORRHOEA—bloody	88

Table 2 Repertorisation sheet as obtained by using the rubrics of ►Table 1

Medicine	Con.	Calc.	Lyc.	Sil.	Ars.	Carb-v.	Rhus-t.	Arg-n.	Caust.	Kali-c.
Score	9/20	7/11	6/8	5/11	5/8	5/8	5/8	5/7	5/7	5/7
1	2	3	2	3	2	3	3	2	1	2
2	2	3	–	2	1	1	2	1	2	1
3	2	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	–	–
4	3	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
5	3	1	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–
6	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	–	2	2
7	2	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
8	1	1	1	–	2	1	1	1	1	1
9	2	1	2	2	2	2	–	2	1	–

Table 3 Follow-up of the case

Date	Complaint	USG report	Prescription
Third follow-up	Itching was relieved; other complaints were persisting; on examination, lesions were found to be less tender	Not done	<i>Conium maculatum</i> 200, 1 dose
Sixth follow-up	Anxiety was much better; sensitive of breasts were persisting; leucorrhoea, present occasionally, no more ‘bloody’	Right breast (Rtb) 95.5 mm × 46.6 mm; left breast (Ltb) within normal limit (WNL; ►Figs. 4 and 5)	Placebo
10th follow-up	Excoriation and cracks on the nipples were new symptoms to appear	Not done	<i>Phytolacca decandra</i> 200, 1 dose
12th follow-up	Excoriation and cracks were much relieved; firmness of the lesion was persisting	Rtb 40.4 mm × 32.5 mm × 28.3 mm; Ltb WNL (►Figs. 6 and 7)	Placebo
15th follow-up	Almost similar state was persisting	Not done	<i>Phytolacca decandra</i> 200, 1 dose
19th follow-up	Lesions became less tender, less sensitive; no excoriation, no cracks on the nipples	Rtb 25.8 mm × 20.8 mm (►Figs. 8 and 9)	Placebo
23rd follow-up	Anxiety returned somewhat; firmness was same as before	Not done	Placebo
25th follow-up	Anxiety got added with fearfulness; sensitivity of right breast returned	Rtb 23.2 mm × 20.8 mm (►Figs. 10 and 11)	<i>Calcarea fluorica</i> 200, 1 dose
28th follow-up	Anxiety, fearfulness was still persisting; sensitivity of right breast had improved to some extent	Not done	Placebo
30th follow-up	Two small potato-sized lesion was palpated at the same location instead of solitary lesion palpated earlier; sensitivity was reduced further	Rtb 21 mm × 18.7 mm (►Figs. 12 and 13)	<i>Calcarea fluorica</i> 200, 1 dose

complaint and that the swelling of her right breast had subsided entirely. She had visited local gynaecologist, where she was informed that on palpation of the breasts nothing abnormal was there, hence USG was also not required. Accordingly, our patient did not opt for any

investigation thereafter. Even after repeated request for investigation from our side, she is not ready to undergo one.

Patient perspective

According to her, she is much better than before. No breast lump can be palpated any more though she undertakes

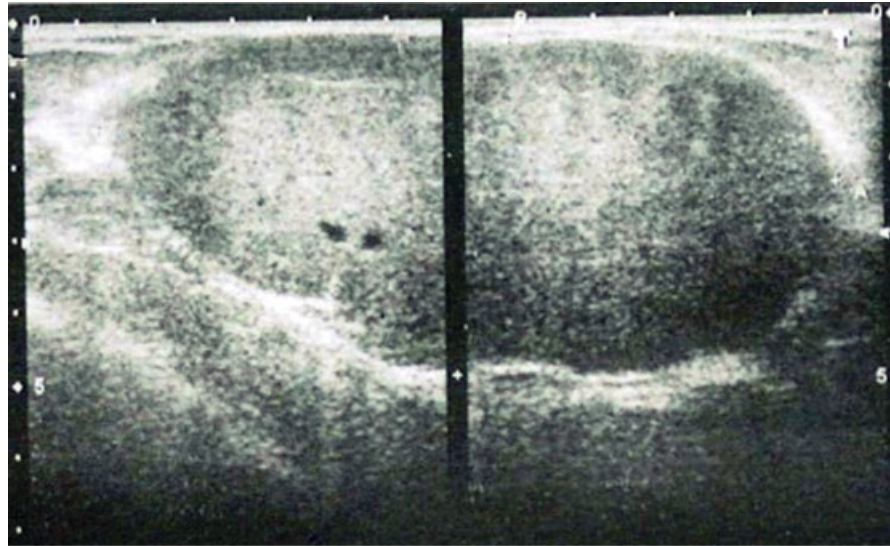


Fig. 4 Ultrasonography scan of sixth follow-up (measurement of tumour: right breast, 95.5 mm × 46.6 mm; left breast, within normal limit).

BREAST (ULTRASONOMAMMOGRAPHY)		
	RIGHT BREAST	
NIPPLE/AREOLA	NORMAL	COOPER'S LIGAMENT
LACTIFEROUS DUCTS	NORMAL	NORMAL
MASS/LESION	Hypochoic mass measuring about 95.5 X 46.6 mm in Size .	
	LEFT BREAST	
NIPPLE/AREOLA	NORMAL	
COOPER'S LIGAMENT	NORMAL	
LACTIFEROUS DUCTS	NORMAL	
MASS/LESION	NORMAL	
IMPRESSION	FUC OF Bilateral Fibroadenoma breast (PHYLLODES)	

Fig. 5 Ultrasonography report of sixth follow-up (measurement of tumour: right breast, 95.5 mm × 46.6 mm; left breast, within normal limit).

'breast self-examination' every month. At the same time, the quality of her daily living has also improved a lot. So, she is not willing to have any more follow-up investigation.

Discussion

This case was extracted from the project⁹ done by the authors at 'Purti Priya Memorial', Sri Ram Medical & Homoeopathic Research Centre, Gorakhpur, India. Written informed consent by the patient regarding publishing was obtained prior to approaching for publication. Here, the final selection of the medicine was done on the basis of the standard homoeopathic guidelines at every instance. In modern medicine, the only treatment for PT is its surgical removal. Moreover, there may again be the recurrence of the disease.¹⁴ Also, surgery cannot be done in every patient, either because of advanced pathology or some other systemic illness of the patient or sometimes because the patient is not ready for the surgery due to mental anxiety. But, in homoeopathy, 'there are no diseases, but sick people',¹⁵ so, whatever may be the systemic illness or mental anxiety or

any other type of situation, if signs and symptoms are present then treatment can be done.¹⁶ Though it has been said that women of age 35 to 55 years are commonly affected,⁶ our case was aged only 22 years. In the case described above, after repertorisation, a group of medicines were found, among which *Conium maculatum*, *Calcarea carbonica*, *Lycopodium clavatum* and *Silicea* were the leading remedies. After consultation of Materia Medica, *Conium maculatum* was prescribed on the basis of totality of the symptoms.^{12,13} But with the progression of time, some new symptoms were found that were not found earlier, like there were excoriation and cracks on the nipple, and all the complaints aggravated at night and in cold. Hence, again repertorisation was done and *Phytolacca decandra* was prescribed, which did well, and maximum physical complaints were relieved. Due to some disturbances in her family, the patient had some mental symptoms. We had considered these disturbances as obstacles in her treatment. Hence, again, fresh repertorisation was done including her present mental complaints. On the basis of that, *Calcarea fluorica* was prescribed. By the time of last follow-up, the previously examined single lesion was palpated to be two small potato-sized lesion. One repetition of the same remedy was done. After that the patient had to travel to another city but we were informed later on over telephone that she got complete relief from this tumour. Dose, in terms of potency as well as repetition, was also individualised on the judgement of susceptibility of the patient. Follow-ups were done according to the classical homoeopathic guidelines. 'Definite' association between the medicine and the outcome has been found while assessing the case using MONARCH Inventory (► **Table 8**). For domain 1 of the inventory, it is clear that the main symptom improved gradually as evident from the available USG reports. By the end of third month (third follow-up as well) of treatment, she started feeling better as far as her sensations are concerned. Next (sixth follow-up)

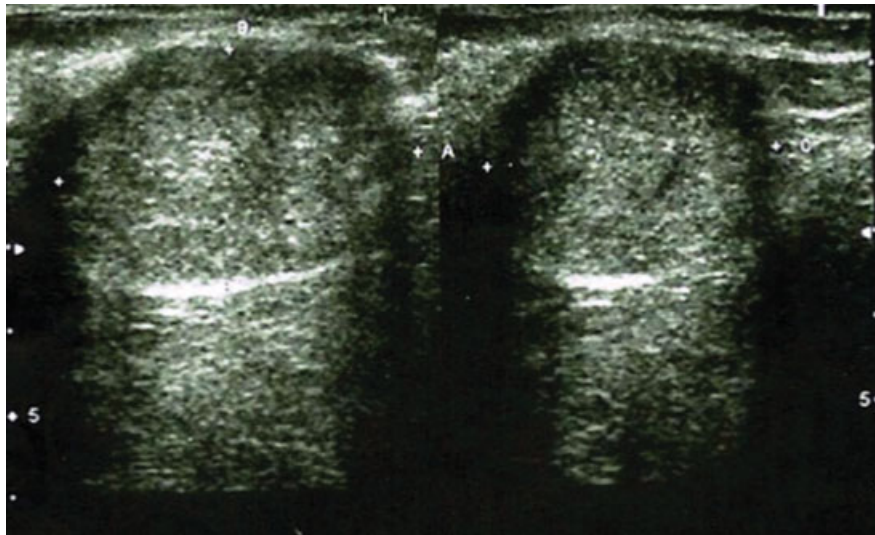


Fig. 6 Ultrasonography scan of 12th follow-up (measurement of tumour: right breast, 40.4 mm × 32.5 mm × 28.3 mm; left breast, within normal limit).

BREAST (ULTRASONOMAMMOGRAPHY)		RIGHT BREAST
NIPPLE/AREOLA	NORMAL	
COOPER'S LIGAMENT	NORMAL	
LACTIFEROUS DUCTS	NORMAL	
MASS/LESION	HYPOECHOIC WELL DEFINED MASS OF 44.4X32.5X28.3 mm IN SIZE	
LEFT BREAST		
NIPPLE/AREOLA	NIL	
COOPER'S LIGAMENT	NIL	
LACTIFEROUS DUCTS	NIL	
MASS/LESION	NIL	
IMPRESSION	F. U. C. OF BILATERAL FIBROADENOMA (PHYLLODES)	
KINDLY CORRELATE WITH FNAC FINDINGS		

Fig. 7 Ultrasonography report of 12th follow-up (measurement of tumour: right breast, 40.4 mm × 32.5 mm × 28.3 mm; left breast, within normal limit).

USG report has shown regression of the lesion. By the end of 2½ years, the lesion has reduced to one-fifth of its initial size, when she was still under treatment only. So, for domain 2, we can consider that the clinical improvement has occurred

within a plausible time frame relative to the medicine intake. For domain 3, we have not encountered any homoeopathic aggravation. During the course of treatment, the patient improved in terms of her leucorrhoea and some mental symptoms. Therefore, as per domain 4, we can consider that the effect of medicine has encompassed more than the main symptom or condition. Along with the improvement of the PT, the patient improved in mental aspects too, which was reflected in her expressions at emotional and behavioural aspects. So, for domain 5, we can state that the overall well-being improved. Regarding domains 6A and 6B, we can observe in the case that, at the 10th visit, excoriation and cracks on the nipples appear as new symptoms, whereas the induration of deeper breast tissues (in the form of PT) has reduced to a great extent. For domain 7, none of the 'old symptoms' were found to reappear during the course of improvement. We could not ascertain any alternative causes

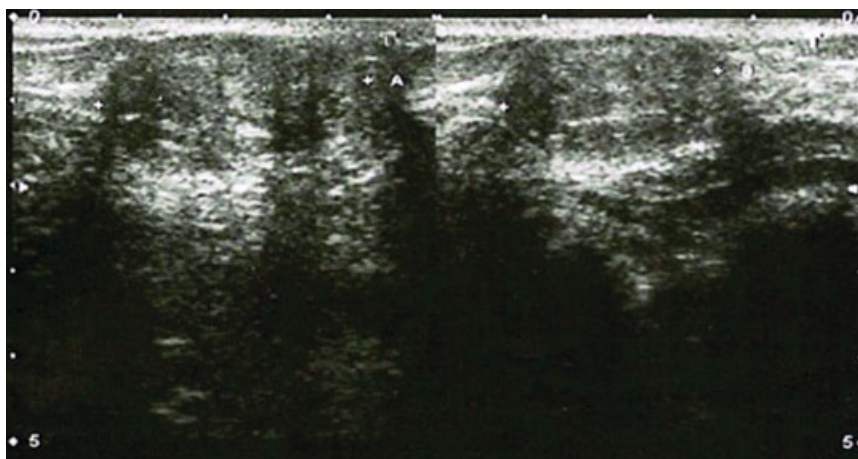


Fig. 8 Ultrasonography scan of 19th follow-up (measurement of tumour: right breast, 25.8 mm × 20.8 mm; left breast, within normal limit).

BREAST (ULTRASONOMAMMOGRAPHY)		RIGHT BREAST
NIPPLE/AREOLA		NORMAL
COOPER'S LIGAMENT		NORMAL
LACTIFEROUS DUCTS		NORMAL
MASS/LESION		HYPOECHOIC WELL DEFINED MASS OF 25.8x20.8 mm IN SIZE
LEFT BREAST		
NIPPLE/AREOLA		NIL
COOPER'S LIGAMENT		NIL
LACTIFEROUS DUCTS		NIL
MASS/LESION		NIL
IMPRESSION		F. U. C. OF BILATERAL FIBROADENOMA (PHYLLOIDES)
KINDLY CORRELATE WITH FNAC FINDINGS		

Fig. 9 Ultrasonography report of 19th follow-up (measurement of tumour: right breast, 25.8 mm × 20.8 mm; left breast, within normal limit).

that could have produced the improvement, as regarding domain 8. Regarding domain 9, the objective evidence of USG reports, done at regular intervals, confirms the health improvement. Domain 10 is not applicable in this case, as this domain is related to reproducibility. The limitation of this study, which is also a very important issue, is non-availability of latest investigation report to demand complete disappearance of the lump.

In a case of PT, where evidences of conservative treatment are lacking, it is common for the patients and the surgeons to take surgical help. This case demonstrates that not all apparently surgical cases are truly surgical. Hence, we arrived at a conclusion that if complete case taking is done including all the spheres of the patient and a proper follow-up is done, then we can cure even the most so-called difficult case, but for that a good skill and a lot of patience is needed.

In few case studies published so far, PTs were treated surgically.^{17,18} In one retrospective study, patients undergoing surgery with or without adjuvant radiotherapy (RT) for malignant PTs of the breast were analysed to find out the treatment outcome and risk factors for recurrence.¹⁴ In one

BREAST (ULTRASONOMAMMOGRAPHY)		RIGHT BREAST
NIPPLE/AREOLA		NORMAL
COOPER'S LIGAMENT		NORMAL
LACTIFEROUS DUCTS		NORMAL
MASS/LESION		Hypoechoic well defined mass measuring about 23.2x20.8mm in size.
LEFT BREAST		
NIPPLE/AREOLA		NORMAL
COOPER'S LIGAMENT		NORMAL
LACTIFEROUS DUCTS		NORMAL
MASS/LESION		NORMAL
IMPRESSION FUC of bilateral Fibroadenoma (phyllodes)		

Fig. 11 Ultrasonography report of 25th follow-up (measurement of tumour: right breast, 23.2 mm × 20.8 mm; left breast, within normal limit).

study, chemotherapy and RT without surgical intervention were not found to be effective.¹⁹ Another study has shown malignant/borderline PTs that do not have poor histologic features have favourable prognosis after surgical resection. In this case, a 10-year disease-specific survival is 100%. Uniformly poor pathologic features, when present, predict a poor prognosis. The authors suggest that efforts should be directed towards new treatment approaches for these tumours.²⁰ There is no published evidence regarding the use of only conservative treatment in the conventional therapy. At the same time, no published case has been identified that is treated with homoeopathic medicines. In this regard, this case is the first one. Furthermore, this case demonstrates how a so-called surgical case can be managed conservatively, in a harmless way, within a tolerable period of time. Most vital limitation of the case is the lack of triple

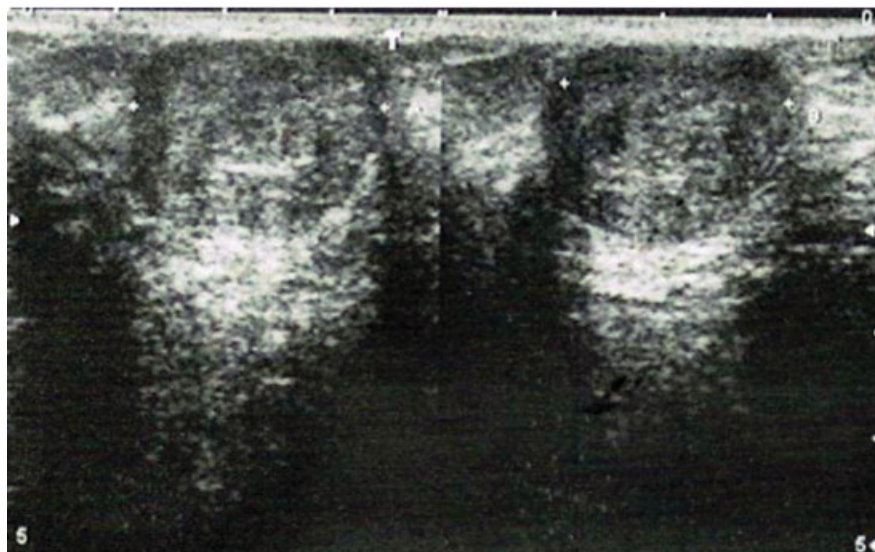


Fig. 10 Ultrasonography scan of 25th follow-up (measurement of tumour: right breast, 23.2 mm × 20.8 mm; left breast, within normal limit).

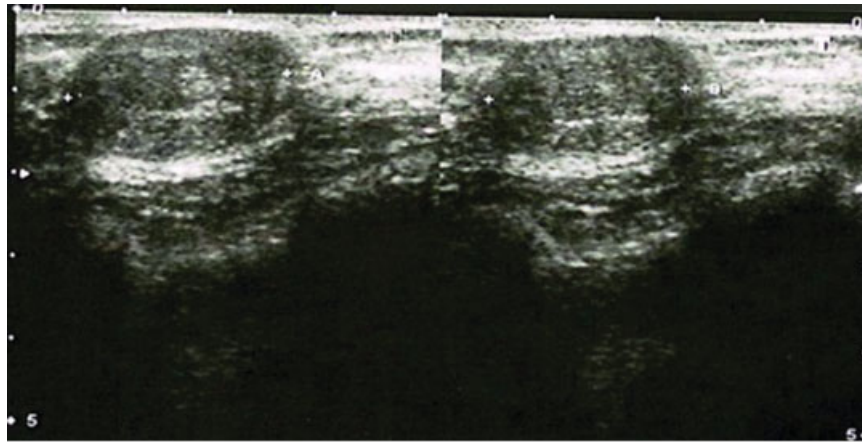


Fig. 12 Ultrasonography scan of 30th follow-up (measurement of tumour: right breast, 21.0 mm × 18.7 mm; left breast, within normal limit).

BREAST (ULTRASONOMAMMOGRAPHY)

RIGHT BREAST

NIPPLE/AREOLA NORMAL
 COOPER'S LIGAMENT NORMAL
 LACTIFEROUS DUCTS NORMAL
 MASS/LESION Hypochoicwell defined mass measuring about 21x18.7mm in Size.

LEFT BREAST

NIPPLE/AREOLA NORMAL
 COOPER'S LIGAMENT NORMAL
 LACTIFEROUS DUCTS NORMAL
 MASS/LESION NORMAL

IMPRESSION FUC of bilateral Fibroadenoma (phyllodes)

Fig. 13 Ultrasonography report of 30th follow-up (measurement of tumour: right breast, 21.0 mm × 18.7 mm; left breast, within normal limit).

assessment test that was needed to be done towards the end of the treatment. At the same time, a scale assessing subjectively the quality of life of the patient before and after

treatment could be applied. We will be adhering to such details in our future projects.

According to homoeopathic point of view, 'all curable sicknesses make themselves known to the intelligent physician in form of signs and symptoms' (aphorism 14).¹⁶ Moreover, we get some literature in the texts of Dr J.C. Burnett regarding the treatment of such cases, where he had successfully cured breast tumour of size corresponding approximately to that of a large hen's egg and his big fist.^{21,22} Hence, a successful curative approach can be made by homoeopathy in such cases also. The given case can serve as the first step towards evidence-based research. As the results of the homoeopathic treatment are promising, later on, observational trials can be undertaken. As PT is a rare condition, studies with large sample size may not be plausible. But clinical trials can be approached with individualised homoeopathic medicines to assess the outcomes of the different pathological variations in the same individual.^{23,24} Multiple pathological variations in the same person are a matter of study that can be taken up in future, using suitable outcome assessing tools.

Table 4 Rubrics enumerated for repertorisation (10th follow-up)

S. No.	Rubrics	Number of medicines
1	CHEST—NODULES, sensitive—Mammae—painful	3
2	CHEST—NODULES, sensitive—Mammae	51
3	CHEST—PAIN—Mammae—menses—during—aggravated	32
4	CHEST—EXCORIATION—Mammae—Nipples	34
5	CHEST—TUMOURS—Mammae—fibrocystic	4
6	CHEST—TUMOURS—Mammae—painful	2
7	CHEST—CRACKS—Mammae—Nipples—painful	4
8	GENERALS—COLD—aggravated	301
9	GENERALS—NIGHT	292

Table 5 Repertorisation sheet as obtained by using the rubrics of ► **Table 4**

Medicines	Phyt.	Phos.	Graph.	Puls.	Sil.	Nit-ac.	Merc.	Dulc.	Con.	Lyc.
Score	9/16	7/13	6/12	6/11	5/12	5/11	5/10	5/9	4/10	4/9
1	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
2	3	2	2	2	3	2	1	1	3	2
3	2	2	1	2	–	–	2	1	2	–
4	3	1	2	1	2	2	2	1	–	2
5	1	1	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	–
6	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
7	1	–	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–
8	2	3	3	2	3	3	2	3	2	3
9	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2

Table 6 Rubrics enumerated for repertorisation (25th follow-up)

S. No.	Rubrics	Number of medicines
1	MIND–ANXIETY–health; about–own health; one’s	85
2	MIND–FEAR–mice	10
3	MIND–FEAR–misfortune, of	121
4	MIND–FEAR–poverty, of	65
5	GENERALS–HEAT–sensation of	222
6	GENERALS–HEAT–flushes of–alternating with–chills	23
7	GENERALS–FOOD and DRINKS–pickles–desire	42
8	CHEST–INDURATION–Mammae	65
9	CHEST–NODULES, sensitive–Mammae	51

Table 7 Repertorisation sheet as obtained by using the rubrics of ► **Table 6**

Medicines	Calc-f.	Ars.	Calc.	Puls.	Sep.	Sulph.	Sil.	Bry.	Merc.	Cupr.
Score	9/11	8/12	7/15	7/12	7/12	7/12	6/12	6/10	6/9	6/8
1	1	3	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1
2	1	–	3	1	1	–	–	–	–	1
3	1	1	2	2	–	1	1	1	2	1
4	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	3	1	–
5	2	1	2	3	–	3	3	1	2	2
6	1	1	2	–	2	–	–	–	–	–
7	1	1	–	–	2	2	–	–	–	–
8	1	1	2	1	2	2	3	2	2	2
9	1	3	–	2	1	2	3	2	1	1

Table 8 Analysis of the case according to MONARCH Inventory

	Domains	Yes	No	Not sure or N/A
1.	Was there an improvement in the main symptom or condition for which the homoeopathic medicine was prescribed?	+2		

Table 8 (Continued)

	Domains	Yes	No	Not sure or N/A
2.	Did the clinical improvement occur within a plausible time frame relative to the medicine intake?	+1		
3.	Was there a homoeopathic aggravation of symptoms?		0	
4.	Did the effect encompass more than the main symptom or condition (i.e. were other symptoms, not related to the main presenting complaint, improved or changed)?	+1		
5.	Did overall well-being improve? (Suggest using a validated scale or mention about changes in physical, emotional and behavioural elements)	+1		
6A.	Direction of cure: did some symptoms improve in the opposite order of the development of symptoms of the disease?			0
6B.	Direction of cure: did at least one of the following aspects apply to the order of improvement in symptoms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From organs of more importance to those of less importance? • From deeper to more superficial aspects of the individual? • From the top downwards? 	+1		
7.	Did 'old symptoms' (defined as non-seasonal and non-cyclical symptoms that were previously thought to have resolved) reappear temporarily during the course of improvement?		0	
8.	Are there alternative causes (i.e. other than the medicine) that—with a high probability—could have produced the improvement? (Consider known course of disease, other forms of treatment and other clinically relevant interventions)		+1	
9.	Was the health improvement confirmed by any objective evidence? (e.g. investigations, clinical examination)	+2		
10.	Did repeat dosing, if conducted, create similar clinical improvement?			0

Conclusion

The presented case report is a rare case of PT. Homoeopathic treatment was found useful in treating the case.

Author Contributions

P.S.: concept, literature search, clinical study and preparation of the article; P.M.: about the present modern medicine intervention, drafting the paper; R.K.M.: expert opinion regarding pathological investigation; R.K.J.: ultrasonological examination and expert opinion; all the authors reviewed and approved the final paper.

Funding

The project was funded under the Extra-Mural Research Scheme of Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy, Government of India

(vide letter no F. No-23-111/2009-10/CCRH/Tech/EMR/8758 dated 7th September 2009). Technical and administrative support was provided by the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy.

Conflict of Interest

None of the authors have a conflict of interest in respect to the present work.

References

- 1 McCarthy E, Kavanagh J, O'Donoghue Y, McCormack E, D'Arcy C, O'Keeffe SA. Phyllodes tumours of the breast: radiological presentation, management and follow-up. *Br J Radiol* 2014;87(1044):20140239
- 2 Das S. *A Concise Textbook of Surgery*. 5th ed. Kolkata. Published by Dr. Somen Das; 2009:710
- 3 Calhoun K, Lawton TJ, Kim JM, et al. Phyllodes tumour. In: Harris J, Lippman ME, Osborne CK, Morrow M, eds. *Diseases of the Breast*. Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams and Wilkins; 2010:781

- 4 Chaney AW, Pollack A, McNeese MD, et al. Primary treatment of cystosarcoma phyllodes of the breast. *Cancer* 2000;89(07):1502–1511
- 5 Rowell MD, Perry RR, Hsiu JG, Barranco SC. Phyllodes tumors. *Am J Surg* 1993;165(03):376–379
- 6 Bernstein L, Deapen D, Ross RK. The descriptive epidemiology of malignant cystosarcoma phyllodes tumors of the breast. *Cancer* 1993;71(10):3020–3024
- 7 Birch JM, Alston RD, McNally RJ, et al. Relative frequency and morphology of cancers in carriers of germline TP53 mutations. *Oncogene* 2001;20(34):4621–4628
- 8 Ward ST, Jewkes AJ, Jones BG, et al. The sensitivity of needle core biopsy in combination with other investigations for the diagnosis of phyllodes tumours of the breast. *Int J Surg* 2012;10(09):527–531
- 9 Shukla P, Misra P, Misra RK, et al. Homoeopathic management of breast fibroadenoma – an open label, single arm, observational trial. *Homoeopathic Links* 2020;33(02):90–98
- 10 Lamba CD, Gupta VK, van Haselen R, et al. Evaluation of the Modified Naranjo Criteria for assessing causal attribution of clinical outcome to homeopathic intervention as presented in case reports. *Homeopathy: the Journal of the Faculty of Homeopathy* 2020. Doi: 10.1055/s-0040-1701251
- 11 RADAR®, version 10.0.028 (ck), Archibel 2007, Belgium
- 12 Kent JT. *Lectures on Homoeopathic Materia Medica*. New Delhi: B. Jain Publishers; 2006:467–473
- 13 Boericke William. *Pocket Manual of Homoeopathic Materia Medica and Repertory*. New Delhi: B. Jain Publishers; 2008:230–232
- 14 Park HJ, Ryu HS, Kim K, Shin KH, Han W, Noh DY. Risk factors for recurrence of malignant Phyllodes tumors of the breast. *In Vivo* 2019;33(01):263–269
- 15 Kent JT. *Lectures on Homoeopathic Philosophy*. New Delhi: Indian Books & Periodicals Publishers; 2007:10
- 16 Hahnemann S. *Organon of Medicine*. 6th edition. New Delhi: B. Jain Publishers (P) Ltd; 2002:103
- 17 den Exter PL, Hornstra BJ, Vree R. [Phyllodes tumour: a rare, rapidly growing breast tumour]. *Ned Tijdschr Geneesk* 2009;153:A981
- 18 Yan Z, Gudi M, Lim SH. A large benign phyllodes tumour of the breast: a case report and literature review. *Int J Surg Case Rep* 2017;39:192–195
- 19 Barth RJ Jr, Wells WA, Mitchell SE, Cole BF. A prospective, multi-institutional study of adjuvant radiotherapy after resection of malignant phyllodes tumors. *Ann Surg Oncol* 2009;16(08):2288–2294
- 20 Spanheimer PM, Murray MP, Zabor EC, et al. Long-term outcomes after surgical treatment of malignant/borderline phyllodes tumors of the breast. *Ann Surg Oncol* 2019;26(07):2136–2143
- 21 Burnett JC. *Tumours of the Breast and Their Treatment and Cure by Medicines*. New Delhi: B. Jain Publishers (P) Ltd; 2005:84–86
- 22 Burnett JC. *Curability of Tumours by Medicines*. New Delhi: B. Jain Publishers (P). Ltd.; 2014;191:255
- 23 Tanwar P, Gupta S, Bharti D, Kalra D, Kumar N, Sodha VS. Magnitude of hypothyroidism in benign breast disorders and effect of thyroxin replacement on clinical outcome of benign breast disorders with hypothyroidism as co morbidity. *International Journal of Research in Health Sciences* 2016;6(06):61–70
- 24 Cerrag X. Breast fibroadenoma and uterine fibroid in a female with HACEK endocarditis: is there any possible correlation? *J Womens Health Care* 2015;4(08):1000287