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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND HOMOEOPATHY: EMERGING CHALLENGES, MISINTERPRETATIONS, AND THE RISK OF CLINICAL MISGUIDANCE

***Dr. Lagisetty Nithin[1] and Dr. Kausar N Jamadar[2]**

[1]Postgraduate scholar, Department of Practice of Medicine, Dr.B.D. Jatti Homoeopathic Medical College, Hospital and P G Research Centre, Dharwad, Karnataka.

[2]Professor, Guide and Head, Department of Practice of Medicine, Dr B.D. Jatti Homoeopathic Medical College, Hospital and P G Research Centre, Dharwad, Karnataka.

*Corresponding Author's Email ID: sainithin3212@gmail.com

Abstract:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is increasingly being integrated into healthcare systems, including complementary and alternative medicine.[1] While AI offers automation, rapid data processing, and decision-support capabilities, its application in Homoeopathy presents unique philosophical and clinical challenges. Homoeopathy is founded upon principles of individualization, totality of symptoms, miasmatic background, and dynamic potency selection as described by Samuel Hahnemann in the *Organon of Medicine*.[2] AI systems frequently rely on generalized symptom–disease correlations, which may oversimplify homoeopathic case analysis. This paper critically examines how AI may misrepresent core homoeopathic principles, particularly in repertorisation, potency selection, dosage, and constitutional prescribing. It further discusses the ethical and clinical implications of AI-driven self-medication and emphasizes the need for professional oversight in integrating AI into homoeopathic practice.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Homoeopathy, Individualization, Clinical Ethics.

Introduction:

Artificial Intelligence has transformed multiple domains of modern medicine through predictive algorithms, automated diagnostic assistance, and digital therapeutics.[1] However, Homoeopathy, as established by Samuel Hahnemann, is fundamentally individualized and dynamic.[2] Unlike disease-based systems of medicine, Homoeopathy emphasizes the totality of symptoms, mental generals and physical generals, modalities, and miasmatic background. AI platforms frequently adopt disease-centered frameworks, which may conflict with the philosophical foundation of Homoeopathy.

1. AI and Misinterpretation of Homoeopathic Philosophy:

Homoeopathy prioritizes constitutional traits, mental generals, and physical generals, modalities, and causation. [2,4] AI systems, however, typically function through symptom clustering. Reduction of Individualization to Symptom Lists **-** Homoeopathy treats the person, not the disease. AI, however, often processes: "Headache + nausea + photophobia = Belladonna". This disease-based pattern recognition ignores: Patient temperament**,** Thermal modality**,** Thirst pattern**,** Mental state**,** Etiology**,** Miasmatic background

For example: AI may suggest **Belladonna** for acute throbbing headache.

- But if the patient is chilly, thirst less, mild, and worse from consolation, the indicated remedy may be **Pulsatilla**, not Belladonna. The nuance of constitutional differentiation is frequently lost.

2. Challenges in AI-Based Repertorisation

Repertorisation is not merely adding rubrics and selecting the highest-scoring remedy. Classical tools like: Kent's Repertory, Boericke's Repertory require [4,5]: Selection of characteristic symptoms, Hierarchy of generals over particulars, Evaluation of modalities, Elimination method and finally Cross-verification in Materia Medica.

How AI Misleads in Repertorisation - AI-based systems may Select too many rubrics without hierarchy, give equal weight to common and rare symptoms, ignore keynote symptoms, Overlook Miasmatic interpretation, fail to cross-verify with Materia Medica.

Example:

Case: Joint pains worse in damp weather, Restlessness, Relief from motion.

AI may suggest: Rhus tox, Bryonia

But proper analysis shows: If pain is worse from initial motion and better from continued motion → Rhus tox. If pain is worse from least motion → Bryonia

AI often fails to differentiate modalities precisely, leading to wrong prescriptions.

3. Potency Selection and Susceptibility Errors

Potency selection is highly individualized and depends on: Susceptibility, Vital force, Nature of disease (acute/chronic), Depth of pathology, Age, Sensitivity.[6] AI commonly suggests generalized potencies like: 30C for acute, 200C for chronic. This mechanical approach contradicts classical teachings.

Example: Two patients with anxiety:

- Highly sensitive, thin, nervous patient → 200C single dose may be suitable.
- Low vitality, advanced pathology → Low potency repetition may be required. AI cannot adequately assess susceptibility or dynamic vitality without physical examination and clinical judgment.

4. Dosage and Repetition Misguidance

Hahnemann's later teachings in the 6th edition of the *Organon* emphasize: Minimum dose, avoid unnecessary repetition, Observe remedy action. AI systems may recommend: "Take 30C three times daily for 7 days."

Classical approach of single dose/ minimum dose is not achieved by this approach which can cause remedy aggravation, lead to proving symptoms, suppress natural response, Confuse case evolution.[7]

Example: A patient with chronic eczema self-medicates Sulphur 200 daily for 10 days based on AI advice.

Possible consequences: Severe aggravation, Return of old suppressed symptoms, Misinterpretation as worsening disease, Loss of follow-up confidence.

5. Ethical and Educational Implications

WHO guidelines on AI ethics emphasize human oversight in health decision-making.[8] Autonomous prescribing without physician supervision increases risk.

- Undermines professional homoeopaths.
- Encourages superficial prescribing.
- Promotes polypharmacy tendencies.
- May damage the reputation of Homoeopathy.
- Leads to clinical failures attributed to the system rather than misuse.

6. Can AI Be Used Responsibly in Homoeopathy?

AI can be helpful if used:

1. As a repertory assistant, not decision-maker.
2. For organizing case records.
3. For cross-referencing Materia Medica.
4. For academic learning.
5. For research pattern analysis.

But final decisions must remain with trained homoeopathic physicians.

7. Conceptual Conflict: Disease-Based AI vs Individual-Based Homoeopathy

AI = Protocol-based + Disease coding

Homoeopathy = Individual-based + Symptom totality

Modern AI models are trained predominantly on biomedical datasets. [1,3] They lack philosophical training in: Miasmatic interpretation, Dynamic disease concept, Vital force theory. This epistemological mismatch risks transforming Homoeopathy into symptomatic alternative therapy, which is doctrinally inaccurate.

Conclusion:

Artificial Intelligence is a powerful technological advancement, but its application in Homoeopathy requires caution. Homoeopathy is an art guided by deep philosophical principles, clinical intuition, and dynamic assessment of the individual. AI systems, by simplifying remedy selection into algorithmic symptom-matching, risk misrepresenting classical doctrines of individualization, Repertorisation, potency selection, and dosage.

Unsupervised AI-driven prescribing may lead to incorrect remedies, inappropriate potencies, aggravations, and patient distrust. Therefore, AI should be considered a supportive academic tool rather than an autonomous clinical authority in Homoeopathy. The future of Homoeopathy lies not in algorithmic automation, but in preserving its individualized, holistic, and dynamic approach while responsibly integrating technological advancements.

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