

# ULTRA-DILUTED ATROPINE BELLADONNA MANAGED LIPOMA: A STUDY OF TWO CASES

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## ABSTRACT

A lipoma is a benign tumor of fatty tissues. It is usually harmless; however, may sometimes need laboratory examinations to confirm diagnosis. Conventional medicines are mostly ineffective in diminishing fat spar, therefore surgical removal is preferred. This article is to report case studies of two individuals of a fairly large lipoma, which were treated with ultra-diluted atropine belladonna. In both cases the lipoma wall punctured within few days, drained all the debris and healed lesion surface observed within four weeks. This alternative treatment evidenced that ultra-diluted atropine belladonna may have significant role in lipoma management. More extensive research is needed to understand the mode of action of ultra-diluted atropine belladonna in managing lipomas.

**KEYWORDS:** Lipoma, tumor, belladonna, ultra-dilution.

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## Introduction

A lipoma is a fat tissue tumor that is soft, round, and discreet in character; usually benign in nature and mostly found in the subcutaneous tissue of the body (Radivojcevic et al., 2016). It is derived from adipose tissues surrounded with a capsule that may consist of fibers, vessels, or mucus in the intracellular spaces, mostly appearing on the latter half of life (Bortnik et al., 2017). There are many variants of lipomas based on histological characteristics. They include: fibrolipomas containing abundant fibrous tissue, angiolipomas composing of mature adipocytes; chondrolipomas containing cartilaginous and lipomatous elements, myxolipomas, consisting of mucoid mesenchymal tissues and mature fat; myelolipomas containing adipocytes and hematopoietic tissue; and ossifying lipoma showing osseous changes without a connection to bone. Site and size of these tumors may vary, and may develop randomly in CNS, larynx, gastro-intestinal tract etc. yet some researches indicated higher prevalence in head and neck region (Radivojcevic et al., 2016; Bortnik et al., 2017; Italiano et al., 2008).

Cause of lipoma is still unrevealed, however, some posits a correlation between solitary lipomas and gene rearrangements of chromosome 12 as well as abnormalities in the HMGA2-LLP fusion gene (Italiano et al., 2008). Though lipoma is innocuous, yet surgical removal is recommended to avoid risks. Removal is mainly recommended if a lipoma causes distress for cosmetic reasons and interferes with normal body functions (Cillo Jr et al., 2006, Williams and O'Connell, 2008, Elahee et al., 2008). As a part of an alternative treatment,

homeopathic medicine is recognized in various countries including Bangladesh. Moreover it is a popular choice of effective treatment in chronic diseases and sometimes is desirable as it is cost-effective (Elahee et al., 2008). The principle of homeopathy is based on 'similia' or 'simile' which states that patients exhibiting a particular symptom can be cured by treating them with a drug that produces similar symptoms in healthy individuals (Kleisiaris et al., 2014). Hahnemann improvised the philosophy in 1790 A.D. by adding concept of minimum dose and named it 'Homeopathy' in 1796 A.D (Hahnemann, 2012). Relation between ultra-dilution and homeopathy is well discussed in a recent article (Allan, 2022).

In this current case study the investigator initiated an approach in treating lipoma with ultra-diluted atropine belladonna. This medicinal plant is an important herb and had been used as both cosmetic and toxins from ancient time which showed unpredictable effectiveness in humans (Hodgson, 2012). In potentized form according to homeopathic pharmacopeia, the same herb exhibited more symptoms proving its influences in human body (Teut et al., 2010).

### Case Presentation

Case 1: A 75 years old female came with a large sized lesion (SOL) at occiput region of her head (Figure: 1), which was soft in consistency and slight pain generated after pressing. She had been suffering from this for one year or so, and did not take any step to treat as it was small initially but suddenly

(within two months) it grew large. Due to this she was unable to and afraid of getting hurt during brushing hair. Despite her age, she was maintaining a good health including good blood pressure, controlled blood glucose level and controlled lipid profile. She wanted to try homeopathic medicine to avoid surgery, as she heard it might help.

Case 2: A 37 year old male presented with a lipoma on the left forearm which was clinically diagnosed. He was carrying it for the last 3 years, without any adverse effects. The lipoma site was slight red with a feeling of heaviness, and there was insignificant pain on squeezing with no other complications. Other than this, he was maintaining a good health. He also wanted to try homeopathic medicine to avoid surgery.

**Diagnosis**

Case1: Patient was advised to perform a computed tomography (CT) scan of her brain and fine needle aspiration cytology (FNAC) of the above mentioned swelling. CT revealed that the lesion was extra-cranial measuring 5.2x2.3cm and FNAC confirmed that features are consistent with lipoma (Figure-1, A-Case 1). She was a non-alcoholic, non-smoker considerably healthy individual with no known allergy.

Case 2: This case was diagnosed with physical examination using ‘slippage sign’, (Figure-1, B-Case 2), a characteristic sign of lipoma (Kolb et al., 2022).

**Material and Methods**

Images:

With aseptic methods image of SOL site was captured using digital camera from the beginning to the end of the treatment and compared improvement.

Medicine and doses:

After clinically diagnosing and confirming by laboratory methods, the patients were advised to take atropine belladonna orally in 6C dilution, 0.5 ml dissolved in 60 ml distilled water and distributed in 20 equal doses (3 ml each time, four times a day). Patients were scheduled for re-visit after finishing the medicine. With satisfactory outcome (comparing the images) the selected medicine was suggested to continue for four consecutive weeks. During this period of time they used tincture iodine externally during regular dressing.

General guidance:

Patients were advised to maintain all personal hygiene, not to scratch the lesion area, avoid lying on supine posture and application of any other topical medicine was prohibited.

**Results**

In Case-1, the lipoma site ruptured, drainage from lesion observed (Figure: 2, Case 1-B) and healed surface witnessed within 28 days with the given treatment (Figure: 2, Case 1-C). In Case-2, the lipoma site fissured, leakage from the lesion was observed (Figure: 2, Case 2-B) and restored skin was found (Figure: 2, Case 2-C) within less than 28 days. Changes at the lesion sight were monitored and gradual healing was observed. Both the patients were supervised and followed to the end of the treatment pathway.



**Figure 1.** A-Case 1- Physical (left) and computed tomographic lipoma image (Seely et al.) of the patient; B-Case 2- Physical lipoma image of the patient’s left forearm



**Figure 2.** Chronological changes of lipoma (left to right). A: Before treatment, B: Drainage from the lesion, and C: After 28 day’s medication

**Discussion**

Homeopathy is an alternative system of medicine that uses highly diluted substances to stimulate the body's natural healing properties (Rajendran, 2019). Although the mechanism of action of this treatment is not well understood, it is hypothesized to work by stimulating the body's own healing mechanisms to restore health (Rubik, 2002). The selection of homeopathic medicine is based on the principle of similarity of symptoms, as described in various materia

medica texts and in accordance with the Organon of Medicine, which is the fundamental framework established by Hahnemann (Figure 3) (Hahnemann, 2012, Murphy, 2005). In homeopathy, the plant extract atropine belladonna has been recommended when exhibiting several clinical symptoms such as an increase in body temperature accompanied by congestion, redness in the affected area, mental restlessness, delusion, and fear of death (Vermueulen, 2001).

1 Head - TUMORS		bell.	con.	phos.	sep.	merc.	ars.	agar.	op.	sulph.	acon.	cannib.	bry.	cham.	ferr.	calc.	kali-i.	lach.	med.	nux-v.	rhust.	zinc.	cann.s.	glon.	phac.	arg-m.	nat-m.	carb-w.	plb.	aesc.	aps.	bar-c.	canth.	d.	
1	8	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	
2	13	9	7	5	7	6	5	5	7	6	6	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	3	5	5	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	
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**Figure 3.** Representative repartORIZATION of the symptoms of Case-1 using Clinical Repertory by Robin Murphy (Murphy, 2005)

RepartORIZATION is a process followed by the physicians to reach proper repertory and remedies. The patient of Case 1, reported a sensation of warmth and mild discomfort at the site of the lipoma (Figure-3), which may be attributed to the inflammatory response to the homeopathic remedy. However,

both the patient's lipoma was treated with ultra-diluted atropine belladonna, which resulted in the resolution of the lipoma without surgical intervention (Figure-2, Case 1-C, Case 2-C). The opening in the skin overlying the lipoma and the subsequent drainage of the lipoma may be attributed to the

action of the atropine belladonna on the lipoma tissue. In homeopathy, selecting a medicine's appropriate strength or "potency" is a delicate matter. It is hypothesized that higher potencies become more potent due to higher dilution (Khuda-Bukhsh, 2006). However, potency selection depends on the individual's symptoms, the severity of the condition, and how the individual may respond to the medicine. It has been documented that using lower potency, such as 6C, can also be effective in certain cases (Hasan et al., 2021). In this particular instance, the results suggest that the use of lower potency was justified.

## Conclusion

Lipoma is a very common clinical condition among elderly people yet treatment with ultra-diluted homeopathic medicine is not usually a common practice. These particular case studies showed a new dimension of research in treatment of Lipoma. Easy to use, less expensive and minimum side effects are appealing point of this system of medicine, though mode of mechanism(s) is not fully understood. Further extended researches with more similar cases are necessary to verify this concept of ultra-diluted medicine.

## Conflict of Interest

Author has no conflict of interest to declare

## Consent

Well informed written consent was taken from the patients, and both patients had no hesitation about taking ultra-diluted homeopathic medicine as this is a well-practiced alternative medicine in Bangladesh.

## Acknowledgement

Author is a certified homeopathic medicine practitioner and treated these patients.

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