

Viral Nosodes as an Alternative to Vaccination: An Update

Review Article

Bhargavkumar Patel and Rajashree Mashru*

Quality Assurance Laboratory, Faculty of Pharmacy, Shree G.H. Patel Pharmacy Building, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Fatehgunj, Gujarat, India

***Corresponding author:** Dr. Rajashree Mashru, Quality Assurance Laboratory, Faculty of Pharmacy, Shree G.H. Patel Pharmacy Building, Donor's Plaza, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Fatehgunj, Vadodara-390002, Gujarat, India, E-mail: rajshreemashru@yahoo.com

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Abstract

Nosodes are homeopathic preparations of organic materials made from inactivated disease products, cultures of microorganisms (e.g. bacteria, fungi, and viruses) or parasites, infected or pathologically altered material or decomposition products from humans or animals, rendered safe during the homeopathic manufacturing process. It is now taken as an alternative to all other therapies owing to its advantages like efficiency in diphtheria, hepatitis, parvovirus infection in dogs, rabies, gonorrhoea, polio, syphilis, varicella zoster, and variolinum infection in dogs as medicines well. Nosodes today, are considered as a vital and essential part of therapy. Nosodes can be classified according to sources from which it is being prepared. It has a tremendous use in therapy with certain limitations. The nosodes comprise of less than about 4% of all homeopathic medicines listed in homeopathic pharmacopeia. Nosodes are not a routine prescription (prescribed infrequently) and are largely prescribed for chronic conditions. Use of nosodes and sarcodes in the treatment of disease conditions is known as biotherapy or immunotherapy or organopathy or homeoprophylaxis.

Keywords: Nosodes; Vaccination; Viral safety

Introduction

The Greek prefix “noso” means disease, thus indicating the pathological root of nosodes. This term is also connected with the Latin word “noxa”, related to noxious or damaging, which implies the use of noxious materials as a basis for a homeopathic remedy [1,2].

Nosodes are highly diluted homeopathic preparations sourced from biological materials such as diseased tissues, organisms, cultures (bacteria, fungi, and viruses), or parasites, or from decomposed products from humans or animals. In homeopathic practices, more than 45 major nosodes have been in use since 1830 [3,4]. Though clinical benefits of nosodes have often been experienced by homeopathic practitioners and patients, very few have so far been scientifically tested for their anticipated effects, particularly in vitro [5-7]. Nosodes came into use since the earliest experiments by

Constantine Hering while he was in South America between 1827 and 1833. In one of the studies Joshi et al. developed a method for preparation and standardization of univalent and polyvalent Mycobacterium nosodes (labeled as Emtact), using different strains of Mycobacterium tuberculosis [8]. The homeopathic nosodes can be used for treating residual infections (e.g. bacillinum for tuberculosis) and as a prophylactic (e.g. Influenzium for swine flu) whereas sarcodes are used to help rebuild organs and tissue that may be diseased or malfunctioning (e.g. lymph, spleen) [9]. Nosodes have been explored and experimented with many from time to time, but because of the nature of their starting materials, they have been frequently scrutinized for safety and efficacy. There are approximately 150 nosodes mentioned in the homeopathic literature, but very few are part of official homeopathic pharmacopoeias [10]. Nosodes can be used in the same way as vaccines, that is, to prevent viral infection. Like

vaccines, nosodes sensitize the body to a particular virus, as a result, the immune system responds instinctively and effectively to natural response. Nosodes, in some cases, have been shown to be significantly more effective than vaccines in preventing infection. The advantage of nosodes over vaccines is the fact that they are completely safe and they can also be safely administered to puppies and kittens much earlier than vaccines. Nosodes, like others homeopathic remedies, are very easy to administer: they are given by mouth and don't even need to be swallowed [11,12]. Christopher Day, Veterinarian and former Chairman of the International Association for Veterinary Homeopathy (IAVH) have gained extensive experience with the use of nosodes in herds of food producing animals [13,14]. Nosodes are successful in the treatment of severe and economically relevant health problems in these animals. "Nosodes are an essential component of natural products for farm livestock. The European consumer is right in demanding an ever decreasing reliance on conventional drug intake for food animals. Natural products represent the only way forward to satisfy this demand in order to maintain or enhance the health of the animals. Infectious diseases such as mastitis in many herds can only be treated using nosodes. The loss of nosodes for the homeopathic treatment approach would be a serious animal welfare issue" [15]. Homeoprophylaxis (HP) is the use of homeopathically prepared

substances to prevent targeted infectious diseases in recipients. Its first use in an epidemic of Scarlet Fever was documented in 1801. It has been used throughout the world since then for both short-term and long-term preventative purposes. The effectiveness and safety of Golden's long-term HP program using homeopathically prepared substances to prevent targeted infectious diseases in recipients were tested through two research projects. The effectiveness of the program could not be established with statistical certainty given the limited sample size and the low probability of acquiring an infectious disease. However, a possible level of effectiveness of 90.3% was identified subject to specified limitations. Further research to confirm the effectiveness of the specific program is justified. Statistically significant results were obtained that confirmed the safety of the program both in absolute terms as well as compared to all other methods of disease prevention studied. It also appeared possible that a national immunization system where both vaccination and HP were available to parents would increase the national coverage against targeted infectious diseases, and reduce the incidence of some chronic health conditions, especially asthma [16].

Steps to Nosode Preparation

The steps have been described here with for nosodes preparation method in Table 1.

Table 1: Steps of Nosode preparation.

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Step I: Identification and procurement of source material | Standard tests must be specified confirming the exact organisms. In case of HIV, HIV duo serum screening test (fourth generation test), and in case of Hepatitis C, Hepatitis C antibody test may be done to confirm the specific organisms [17]. |
| Step II: Nature of material | Depending on the nature of material, whether organisms are capable of producing endotoxins, exotoxins, made from purified toxins or made from microbes, viruses, or clinical material from diseased subjects, these preparations are divided in HPI into four groups N I, II, III and IV. N I-Preparations made from lysate of micro organism capable of producing bacterial endo-toxins. N II-Products made from micro organisms capable of producing exotoxin, e.g. <i>Corynebacterium diphtheria</i> . N III-Preparation made from purified toxins. N IV-Preparation made from micro organisms/viruses/clinical materials from human convalescents or diseased subjects, e.g. <i>Variolinum</i> , <i>Influenzinum</i> , <i>Psorinum</i> , <i>Syphilinum</i> , and <i>Morbillinum</i> . New nosodes sourced from HIV, Hepatitis C, and <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> falls under this group [18]. |
| Step III: Removal of common co infection/contamination | All possible contaminants must be removed. All possible contaminants must be removed. In the case of the source material being blood samples, Hepatitis C and HIV nosodes, possible co-infections such as gonorrhoea, syphilis, herpes, and tuberculosis, and pure cultures, this step may be omitted [19]. |
| Step IV: Removal/Separation of other components | In the case of any nosode sourced from serum, serum expression, centrifugation, and/or filtration can be used to procure the organism from the source material. The blood samples collected from HIV and Hepatitis C positive donors are subjected to serum expression to separate blood cells and suspended particles from the whole blood. The samples were subjected to centrifugation to obtain clear serum and filtration (Seitz filter) to get rid of cell debris [19]. |
| Step V: Characterization of source material | The microorganisms need to be characterized in terms of genotyping and strains, as per the latest available technology. In the case of bacteria strain characterization and for the virus, typing requires being done. For example, diphtheria toxin is a protein exotoxin produced by <i>Corynebacterium diphtheria</i> , Pertussis Toxin (PT) is a protein based AB5 type exotoxin, and Cholera Toxin (sometimes abbreviated to CTX, Ctx, or CT) is a protein complex secreted by the bacterium <i>Vibrio</i> [18]. |
| Step VI: Safety | Biosafety: Stringent biosafety compliant environment is recommended with minimum handling, using sealed containers and disposable auto tip pipettes. The safety of nosodes in various potencies must be established as per the sterility testing mentioned in Indian Pharmacopoeia or European Pharmacopoeia [20,21]. |
| Step VII: Mother preparation | At this stage, specified quantity of pure culture of one strain or more (polyvalent) nosode or more than one type of organisms can be mixed in vehicle to obtain original stock nosode. Vehicle: Water for injection that is free from organisms, pyrogens, and NaCl is recommended as preferred vehicle, at least up to 6C potency. In Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia of India and French Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia, alcohol has been advocated as a medium for preparing nosodes [16,20]. |
| Step VIII: Quantification | It should be considered mandatory to specify the strength of stock nosode, whenever technology is available. Organism count is to be done by the digital counters, turbidity match method, or as specified in individual monograph [21,22]. |
| Step IX: Potentiating: Machine and method | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trituration method has been recommended if disease tissues (such as cancerous organ tissues) were used as source material instead of culture of organisms. • Succession is recommended over trituration for the microorganisms that are found in micron size, which are generally uniformly spread in the solution, which should be applicable to nosodes sourced from virus, bacteria, and fungi [21,22]. |

These all steps were summarized in Figure 1.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Nosodes

Advantages and disadvantages were shown in Table 2.

Classification

Nosodes may be used to treat pathological conditions; some historical nosodes also have drug pictures. Examples of nosode source material are:

- Plant nosodes: examples include remedies derived from *Secale cornutum* (ergot); *Ustilago Maydis* (corn smut);

Solanum tuberosum aegrotans (diseased potato). A drug picture of the latter, accredited to Benoit More (1809-1858), may be found in a fascinating book entitled *Homoeopathy in the Irish Potato Famine* (Treuherz, 1995). The isopathic use of this remedy is advocated by inoculation of healthy potatoes as a form of prophylaxis against the blight (Kennedy, 1997) (Figure 2).

- Animal nosodes derived from pathological secretions, for example: *Ambra grisea* (from sperm whale).
- Microbial nosodes derived from pathological samples, for

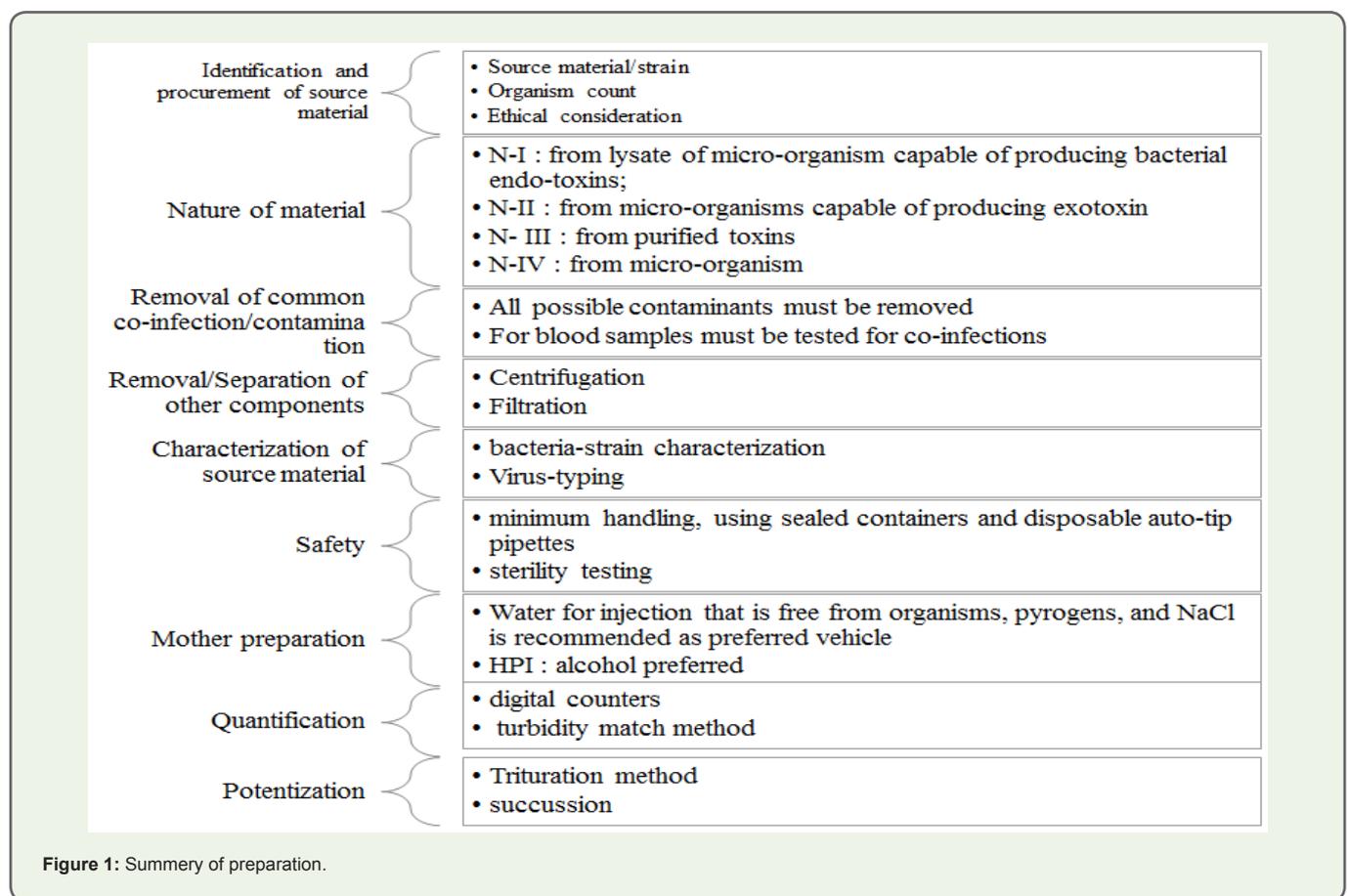


Table 2: Advantages and disadvantages of nosodes.

| Advantage [12] | Disadvantage |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nosodes, like all homeopathic remedies, are very easy to administer they are given by mouth, and don't even need to be swallowed. • The remedies are all natural, rarely have side-effects and are not addictive. • They are safe for adults, the elderly as well as for infants and children. Even pregnant women can take the remedies safely. • They are also very economical - far less expensive, in fact, than vaccination. • Used as a both prophylactic and preventive. • Homoeopathic Nosodes are a Better Alternative to Vaccination. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are some limitations to the use of nosodes. Rabies vaccination for dogs is required by law in most counties, and the rabies nosode, called Lyssin, will not satisfy that requirement [12]. • This treatment has not been proven scientifically to be efficacious [23]. • The disadvantage of the treatment is the possibility of a healing crisis, commonly referred as a Herxheimer Reaction [24]. |

example: Syphilinum (Lueticum) spirochetes in syphilitic exudate; Variolinum from smallpox vesicle.

- Pathological autosodes: made from patients' own body fluids, exudates and infected lesions (e.g. vesicles and pustules) can be useful in dealing with long-standing chronic infections, particularly those showing resistance to orthodox homeopathy. This treatment is not carried out routinely and the preparation of the remedies necessitates substantial precautions to prevent the spread of disease [25].

Various Examples of Nosodes

Examples of nosodes represented in Table 3.

The homeopathic pathogenic trail done by Rajesh Shah who conducting double blind, placebo-controlled Homeopathic Pathogenic Trail (HPT) with aim to produce a new nosode to the profession. They applied 30C potency of HIV nosode on the 22 volunteer and the HIV nosode intake is proved to be safe for volunteer [5].

Carcinosinum or Carcinosisin is a cancer nosode of a very deep acting nature and its efficacy is also at par excellence. Carcinosisin has shown its efficacy by helping some the difficult & stubborn cases. Although, many practioners have admitted the marvelous results obtained by carcinosisin but the available text of it is not much extensive. The credit for bringing carcinosisin into lime light goes to Dr. W. lees Templeton & Dr. Donald M. Foubister. Dr. Templeton was the dean of the faculty of homoeopathy and director of proving at Royal London Homeopathic Hospital. He carried out a proving of carcinosisin in around 1952-53 by dividing provers into two groups. Group- I, consisted 4 provers & 4 controls, Group-II consisted 5 provers & 4 controls. The drug was proved in 30 and 200 potencies.

Viral Safety

Since the source material of nosodes is potentially infectious, a perceived potential risk of infection is associated with their use. However, according to the European Directive 2001/83/EC as amended, the requirement for the viral safety of nosodes is fulfilled by

complying with the manufacturing methods specified in the German Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia or the French patented process of tyndallisation. The Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia of the United States (HPUS) considers both manufacturing methods as valid to guarantee the viral safety of nosodes and their safety for public health. By applying the homeopathic potentiating procedures alone, the number of infectious particles decreases to zero in all potencies above 24X or 12C. At that level of dilution theoretically, no molecule of the starting material can be present [1].

Rules of Prescribing Nosodes

- As a Constitutional Medicine-i.e. when the mental, physical generals and particulars are characteristics.
- When well-chosen remedies fail to give relief.
- When there is a lack of symptoms - i.e. to clear-up the case.
- "Never been well since" symptoms.
- As "Miasmatic inter-current" medicine.
- When there is a partial portrait of the disease and no medicine completely fits the case.
- As "Homeopathic Prophylaxis".
- As "Genus Epidemicus".
- As an "Auto-nosodes".

Contra-Indications of Prescribing Nosodes

- In Active Phase of the Disease.
- During the Incubation of the Disease.
- In the Acute Explosive Stage of the Disease.
- During the Active Phase of a Recurrent Attack.
- Auto-nosodes, during the acute infectious disease.
- Below 200c or 30x Potency; and should be administered in Infrequent Repetition.

Therapeutic Use of Nosodes

- ✓ In addition to helping prevent specific viral diseases with prophylactic use, nosodes can be used even after exposure to a virus has taken place.
- ✓ If given immediately after exposure, before symptoms develop, these nosodes can prevent the development of clinical disease.
- ✓ Viral diseases such a feline leukemia, feline infectious peritonitis, canine distemper and canine parvo virus are usually incurable with conventional medical treatment (antibiotics, steroids, etc.). However, they frequently respond very quickly and favorably to homeopathic treatment.
- ✓ If your pet shows any symptoms of illness, specific, individualized homeopathic treatment will be needed.

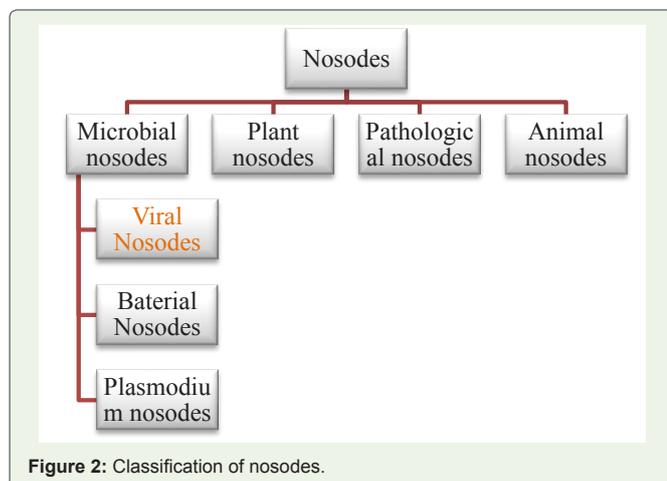


Figure 2: Classification of nosodes.

Table 3: Examples of nosodes.

| Nosodes for Human use | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Varicella Zoster Virus | Varicella Zoster Virus is responsible for chicken pox the family of herpes viruses. Doses are to be given over a few month periods starting with 200C, repeating a triple dose of the 200C the following week then a triple dose of 10M followed one month later with a second round of the 10 M. This is the prescription only Varicella zoster nosode available through the Homeoprophylaxis Program (HP) under supervision by a certified Homeopathy in HP. Varicella zoster is used as a preventative remedy to build the immune system before exposure to the chicken pox and during any epidemic as a prevention [26-28]. |
| Medorrhinum | Medorrhinum is the main nosode of the Sycotic miasm, Nosode made from gonorrhoea tissue, potentized to be a remedy and used as both as a chronic remedy or an intercurrent nosode for a case, as appropriate. Dr. Swan introduces this nosode in 1870's. It is made from the Gonorrhoeal discharge. Medorrhinum is offered as Complementary Alternative Medicine (CAM). According to the government's National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM) United States, 38% of adults use complementary medicine [29]. |
| Syphilinum | Luesinum also known as Syphilinum is indicated for various pain. Luesinum can be used for arthritic pain including rheumatic pain in the shoulder. Luesinum with alternate spellings of Syphilinum and Luesinum. Luesinum Syphilinum is useful for pains that are worse in the night time and are better during the day time. Luesinum Syphilinum is listed in the book <i>Materia Medica of Nosodes</i> by H.C. Allen in conjunction with hereditary tendency towards alcoholism and alcohol cravings [30,31]. |
| Variolinum | It is a Nosode which act as a preventive of or protection against smallpox. It is superior to crude vaccination and absolutely safe from sequelae. For pitting scars of smallpox in 200 potency over a long period. For a Chickenpox use 2000D for 3 days. It helps tremendously in singles when they are becoming infected and good to use before infection begin [30,31]. |
| Poliomyelitis | A nosode from polio virus. It is used as a prophylactic and used immediately the illness begins in 6 doses TDS. It is used for someone who had the illness and now paralyzed. It can bring on a severe aggravation in some case. If the polio began with severe headache, this can return in which case do not repeat until aggravation dies down [30]. |
| Cholera virus | Nosode from cholera virus. The nosode used in cholera when disease strikes. If there is a suspicious of cholera in the distinct and vomiting or diarrhea begin then give this immediately. It can also be used as prophylactic one or three time a week during the epidemic [30]. |
| Nosodes for animal use | |
| Lyssin | The Saliva of a Rabid Dog. Lyssinum is a rabies nosode. Lyssinum can be included as an important part of your pet's health program and rabies concerns. Lyssinum may also be spelled Lyssin. FOR DOGS 100 lbs TO 150 lbs: 5 pellets given at one time is one dose. . FOR CATS OR FOR DOGS LESS THAN 15 lbs: 2 pellets given at one time are one dose. Lyssinum can be used with healthy pet program. Lyssin Lyssinum 30C potency in a 1/2 oz bottle of 400 pellets with 133 doses. Alcohol free. Pellets are in a base of sucrose and corn starch [26]. |
| Parvovirus | Parvo (30C) is a homeopathic remedy used both prophylactically (preventatively) and curatively in the treatment of canine Parvovirus. Homeopathic nosodes are similar to vaccines in that they help to build protection and resistance against specific diseases [27]. |
| Porcine Rotavirus | Virus of this group is associated with gastroenteritis and diarrhea and common disease of pigs of all age. Use rotavirus nosode 30C and can combine with any selected remedies. Dose is daily for 5 days. |

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