

CADTH RAPID RESPONSE REPORT: REFERENCE LIST

Nosodes for the Prevention of Vaccine Preventable Illness: Clinical Effectiveness

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About CADTH: CADTH is an independent, not-for-profit organization responsible for providing Canada's health care decision-makers with objective evidence to help make informed decisions about the optimal use of drugs, medical devices, diagnostics, and procedures in our health care system.

Research Questions

1. What is the clinical effectiveness of nosodes for the prevention of vaccine preventable illnesses?
2. What is the clinical evidence regarding the safety of nosodes?

Key Findings

No relevant literature was identified regarding the effectiveness and safety of nosodes.

Methods

A limited literature search was conducted on key resources including Ovid Medline, PubMed (for non-Medline records), the Cochrane Library, University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused Internet search. Methodological filters were applied to limit retrieval to health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, and non-randomized studies. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2008 and October 18, 2018. Internet links were provided, where available.

Selection Criteria

One reviewer screened citations and selected studies based on the inclusion criteria presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Selection Criteria

Population	Any individual using a nosode as a substitute to prevent an illness for which there is a known and proven vaccine
Intervention	Nosodes
Comparator	Q1. Licensed vaccines Q2. No comparator
Outcomes	Q1. Effectiveness for preventing illnesses for which there are known efficacious vaccines; Safety related to nosodes taken for prevention of vaccine preventable illness Q2. Harms and adverse events – regarding the ingestion/use of the product itself
Study Designs	Health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies

Results

Rapid Response reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials and non-randomized studies.

No relevant health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, randomized controlled trials, or non-randomized studies were identified regarding the effectiveness and safety of nosodes.

References of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

Health Technology Assessments

No literature identified.

Systematic Reviews/Meta-analyses

No literature identified.

Randomized Controlled Trials

No literature identified.

Non-Randomized Studies

No literature identified.

Appendix — Further Information

Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses

Illnesses Not Necessarily Treated with Preventative Vaccines

1. Hawke K, van Driel ML, Buffington BJ, McGuire TM, King D. Homeopathic medicinal products for preventing and treating acute respiratory tract infections in children. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2018;4:CD005974.
[PubMed: PM29630715](#)

Alternative Comparator

2. Mathie RT, Frye J, Fisher P. Homeopathic Oscillocoquinum® for preventing and treating influenza and influenza-like illness. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2015;1:CD001957.
[PubMed: PM25629583](#)
3. Vickers A, Smith C. WITHDRAWN: Homeopathic Oscillocoquinum for preventing and treating influenza and influenza-like syndromes. *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2009;3:CD001957.
[PubMed: PM19588329](#)

No Comparator

4. Ulbricht C, Chao W, Clark A, et al. Oscillocoquinum: an evidence-based systematic review by the natural standard research collaboration. *Altern Complement Ther*. 2011;17(1):41-49.

Non-Randomized Studies

Illnesses Not Necessarily Treated with Preventative Vaccines.

5. Michalsen A, Uehleke B, Stange R. Safety and compliance of a complex homeopathic drug (Contramutan N Saft) in the treatment of acute respiratory tract infections: a large observational (non-interventional) study in children and adults focussing on homeopathy specific adverse reactions versus adverse drug reactions. *Regul Toxicol Pharmacol*. 2015 Jul;72(2):179-184.
[PubMed: PM25882307](#)

Alternative/No Comparator

6. Beghi GM, Morselli-Labate AM. Does homeopathic medicine have a preventive effect on respiratory tract infections? A real life observational study. *Multidiscip*. 2016;11:12.
[PubMed: PM27004125](#)
7. Shah R. A clinical evaluation of a Hepatitis C nosode in the treatment of Hepatitis C. *J Altern Complement Med*. 2016 Mar;22(3):197-203.
[PubMed: PM26914029](#)

Review Articles

8. Marrari LA, Terzan L, Chauferin G. Oscillocoquinum for influenza treatment. *Ann Ist Super Sanita*. 2012;48(1):105-109.
[PubMed: PM22456024](#)

9. Roniger H, Jacobs J. Prophylaxis against Leptospirosis using a nosode: can this large cohort study serve as a model for future replications? *Homeopathy*. 2010 Jul;99(3):153-155.

[PubMed: PM20674838](#)