

# The Use of Synthesis Repertory in Daily Practice: A Contemporary Tool for Clinical Homoeopathy

Dr. Rupali Tejrao Rindhe

*BHMS, MD [Repertory], PhD Scholar at Tantiya University, Rajasthan*

*Associate professor in the Department of Repertory at Government Homoeopathy College, Jalgaon, Maharashtra, India*

**Abstract-** The Synthesis Repertory, developed by Dr. Frederik Schroyens and derived from Kent's Repertory, represents one of the most comprehensive and widely used repertories in homoeopathic practice. With its integration of modern provings, clinical confirmations, and cross-references, Synthesis Repertory has become indispensable in both academic and clinical settings. This article reviews its historical development, unique features, application methodologies, and role in enhancing daily homoeopathic practice. Two case examples—a chronic migraine case and an acute case of viral gastroenteritis—are presented to demonstrate the practical utility of the Synthesis Repertory in individualised remedy selection.

**Keywords:** Homoeopathy, Synthesis Repertory, Repertorization, Clinical practice, Case analysis

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Repertorization is a cornerstone of classical homoeopathic practice, providing a systematic method for analysing and interpreting symptoms to identify the most comparable solution. Since Dr. Samuel Hahnemann laid the foundation of homoeopathy in the late 18th century, practitioners have sought reliable tools to bridge the gap between the extensive knowledge of material medica and the complex symptomatology of patients [1].

The development of repertories—from Hahnemann's fragmentary indexes, through Boenninghausen's Therapeutic Pocket Book (T.P.B.) (1846), to Kent's Repertory of the Homoeopathic Materia Medica (1897)—marked significant milestones in refining clinical decision-making [2]. However, with evolving clinical needs, modern provings, and complex disease presentations, there was a growing necessity for a comprehensive and updated repertory that could support contemporary practice while staying rooted in classical principles.

This need led to the development of the Synthesis Repertory, compiled by Dr. Frederik Schroyens in 1987, as part of the RADAR project in collaboration

with international homoeopaths [3]. Initially derived from Kent's structure, the repertory expanded to include thousands of additions from classical sources, modern provings, and clinical confirmations, making it one of the most widely used repertories in academic and clinical settings.

The digital revolution further enhanced its usability. The integration of Synthesis with software like Radar and later RadarOpus allowed homoeopaths to repertorize efficiently, analyse complex cases with precision, and access linked materia medica references instantly [4]. This evolution transformed the way homoeopaths approached case analysis, making repertorization faster, more accurate, and accessible to both beginners and experienced practitioners.

In modern clinical practice, Synthesis Repertory proves valuable across a spectrum of cases—from acute conditions like gastroenteritis, fevers, and injuries to chronic pathologies such as autoimmune diseases, migraines, and psychiatric disorders. Its hierarchical organisation of symptoms, vast rubric database, and integration of contemporary provings make it indispensable for individualised prescribing, aligning with the core principle of *similia similibus curentur*.

This article explores the historical background, structure, and unique features of the Synthesis Repertory, along with methodologies for practical application. To highlight its versatility, two clinical case examples—one chronic (migraine) and one acute (viral gastroenteritis)—are presented, demonstrating how this repertory continues to be an essential tool for evidence-based and individualised homoeopathic prescribing in the 21st century.

## 2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF SYNTHESIS REPERTORY

- Foundation in Kent's Philosophy: Rooted in the hierarchy of mental, general, and particular symptoms [3].

- Expansion: Successive editions include modern provings and clinical confirmations from global practitioners.
- Digital Evolution: Synthesis became one of the first repertoires digitised for Radar and RadarOpus, transforming clinical workflows [4].

### 3. STRUCTURE AND FEATURES OF SYNTHESIS REPERTORY

The Synthesis Repertory is considered one of the most comprehensive and meticulously organised modern repertoires, designed to support the clinician in translating symptomatology into precise remedy selection. Its foundation is built upon Kent's classical structure, but it has evolved with substantial expansions, modern research, and technological integration.

#### 3.1. Structural Organisation

- Kentian Hierarchy: The repertory preserves Kent's principle of organising symptoms according to their hierarchy—mental generals, physical generals, and particular symptoms [1].
  - Mental generalisations are prioritised, reflecting the importance of the patient's mental and emotional state.
  - Physical generals include modalities such as aggravations, ameliorations, and cravings.
  - Particulars detail location-specific symptoms such as headache types, abdominal pain, or localised skin conditions.
- Chapter Division: Synthesis is divided into over 1,800 chapters, each representing different anatomical or functional regions, ensuring an intuitive flow for repertorization.

#### 3.2. Extensive Remedy Database

- Covers over 2,300 remedies, compared to about 1,000 in Kent's original repertory [2].
- Includes rare remedies and newly proven medicines, allowing for broader and more individualised prescriptions.
- Regular updates incorporate verified clinical findings and high-quality provings, ensuring clinical relevance.

#### 3.3. Comprehensive Rubric System

- Expanded Rubrics: Includes thousands of new rubrics not present in classical repertoires, capturing modern clinical presentations.
- Sub-Rubric Detailing: Offers precise sub-classifications, enabling practitioners to fine-tune their search for characteristic symptoms.

- Synonyms and Cross-References: Helps practitioners locate rubrics more efficiently, even when terminologies vary.

#### 3.4. Integration of Modern Provings and Clinical Confirmations

- Contributions from global homoeopaths have added a wealth of validated clinical data.
- Incorporates findings from contemporary provings, thus covering emerging remedies like *Hydrogen*, *Falco peregrinus*, and other less traditional medicines.

#### 3.5. Grading System

- Four-degree grading is retained from Kent's original system:
  - 1st degree – Remedies observed occasionally.
  - 2nd degree – Remedies confirmed clinically but are less frequent.
  - 3rd degree – Remedies strongly confirmed.
  - 4th degree – Keynote remedies with deep clinical verification.
- This hierarchy assists practitioners in differentiating remedies during analysis.

#### 3.6. Digital Integration (Radar and RadarOpus)

The integration of Synthesis Repertory with Radar and RadarOpus software revolutionised repertorization by providing:

- Quick Search: Instant access to rubrics via keyword search.
- Symptom Analysis: Automated repertorization tables displaying remedies by coverage and intensity.
- Materia Medica Links: Direct navigation between rubrics and materia medica references for verification.
- Patient File Management: Allows case tracking, follow-ups, and comparisons across visits.
- Customisation: Users can create personal additions or clinical notes for future use.

#### 3.7. Evidence-Based Repertory Development

- Synthesis is continuously updated, integrating data from peer-reviewed clinical outcomes, provings, and practitioner feedback.
- The "Synthesis Treasure Edition" represents one of the most refined versions, incorporating decades of collective clinical experience [3].

#### 3.8. Accessibility and Multilingual Support

- Available in multiple languages, making it accessible to practitioners worldwide.
- Supports both print and digital formats, ensuring flexibility for traditional and tech-oriented homoeopaths alike.

### 3.9. Educational Value

- Due to its organised and user-friendly structure, Synthesis is extensively used in homoeopathic colleges and research institutions.
- Its broad range of rubrics makes it ideal for teaching repertorization techniques to students and beginners.

### 4. METHODOLOGY OF USING SYNTHESIS REPERTORY IN DAILY PRACTICE

1. Case Taking – Collect complete symptomatology.
2. Symptom Evaluation – Prioritise mental generals, physical generals, and characteristic particulars.
3. Rubric Selection – Choose rubrics accurately reflecting individualising symptoms.
4. Repertorization – Analyse remedies based on coverage and intensity.
5. Materia Medica Correlation – Verify remedy indications.
6. Prescription and Follow-Up – Assess progress and adjust as needed.

### 5. CLINICAL APPLICATIONS IN DAILY PRACTICE

- Acute Diseases: Enables quick, precise prescriptions for fever, gastroenteritis, or injuries.
- Chronic Diseases: Supports systematic analysis for deep-seated pathologies like migraines, allergies, and autoimmune disorders.
- Research and Teaching: Serves as a comprehensive tool for training students and conducting clinical studies [7].

### 6. ADVANTAGES OF SYNTHESIS REPERTORY

- Comprehensive and updated coverage.
- Streamlined cross-referencing.
- Easy digital integration for accuracy and speed.
- Valuable for both beginner and advanced practitioners.

### 7. LIMITATIONS

- Steep learning curve for beginners.
- Over-dependence on software may reduce manual skills.
- Requires strong materia medica knowledge to avoid mechanical prescribing.

### 8. CASE EXAMPLE: CHRONIC CASE – MIGRAINE

A 32-year-old female presented with migraine headaches recurring for the last 3 years. Attacks

were preceded by visual disturbances (aura), associated with nausea, and were aggravated by exposure to sunlight. She reported marked irritability during attacks and a craving for cold drinks. Sleep was disturbed due to excessive thoughts.

History: No major illness.  
Family history: Mother had hypertension.  
Mental state: Health anxiety, oversensitive to criticism.

Rubric Selection from Synthesis Repertory (RadarOpus edition)

Based on the totality of characteristic symptoms, the following rubrics were chosen:

1. Mind – Irritability – headache, during
2. Mind – Thoughts – persistent, intruding, preventing sleep
3. Head – Pain – Sun, exposure to, aggravates
4. Head – Pain – Visual disturbance, with (Aura)
5. Stomach – Nausea – headache, during
6. Desires – Cold drinks

Repertorization analysis

Repertorization was performed using Synthesis Repertory (RadarOpus). The top remedies covering most rubrics included:

| Remedy            | Coverage (No. of Rubrics) | Degree Total |
|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Natrum muriaticum | 6/6                       | High         |
| Lachesis mutus    | 5/6                       | High         |
| Sepia officinalis | 4/6                       | Moderate     |
| Iris versicolor   | 4/6                       | Moderate     |

Materia Medica Verification

- Natrum muriaticum: Migraine with aura, headache from sun exposure, irritability, craving for cold drinks, sleep disturbed by thoughts.
- Lachesis: Sun-aggravated headaches, talkativeness, left-sided predominance, but craving for cold drinks not marked.
- Sepia: Headaches with hormonal link, indifference, but aura and sun-aggravation less prominent.
- Iris versicolor: Headache with visual disturbance and nausea, but mental symptoms are less prominent.

Prescription

- Natrum muriaticum 200C, one dose, was prescribed.
- Advised to report after 4 weeks.

Follow-Up

- 4 weeks later: Significant reduction in frequency and intensity of headaches, improved sleep, and less irritability.
- 3 months: Attacks became rare, with only mild headache on excessive sun exposure.

#### Clinical Insight from the Case

This case demonstrates how Synthesis Repertory helps in daily practice by:

- Providing extensive rubrics for both mental and physical symptoms.
- Allowing integration of characteristic modalities (e.g., sun aggravation, desire for cold drinks).
- Offering differential analysis among polycryst remedies.
- Ensuring accuracy through materia medica confirmation.

### 9. ACUTE CASE EXAMPLE: VIRAL GASTROENTERITIS

#### Case Presentation

A 12-year-old boy presented with a sudden onset of vomiting and watery diarrhoea for the past 8 hours after eating street food. Complaints included:

- Severe abdominal cramping
- Extreme thirst for cold water, but vomited soon after drinking
- Restlessness, changing positions constantly
- Slight fever (99.5°F) with chilliness
- Dry tongue, sunken eyes indicating early dehydration

#### Rubric Selection from Synthesis Repertory

1. Stomach – Vomiting – after drinking water
2. Abdomen – Pain – cramping, gripping
3. Mind – Restlessness – physical
4. Thirst – Cold drinks – desires
5. Generalities – Food – street food – after eating
6. Generalities – Weakness – with vomiting and diarrhoea

#### Repertorization Analysis

Using Synthesis Repertory (RadarOpus), the top remedies obtained were:

| Remedy          | Coverage (No. of Rubrics) | Degree Total |
|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Arsenicum album | 6/6                       | High         |
| Veratrum album  | 5/6                       | High         |
| Podophyllum     | 4/6                       | Moderate     |
| Nux vomica      | 4/6                       | Moderate     |

#### Materia Medica Verification

- Arsenicum album: Sudden gastroenteritis, restlessness, thirst for cold water (but

aggravation after drinking), chilliness, and exhaustion.

- Veratrum album: Profuse diarrhoea with collapse, cold sweat, and intense thirst, but more violent purging.
- Podophyllum: Profuse, offensive watery diarrhoea but less marked restlessness.
- Nux vomica: Ineffectual urge, irritability, but absence of intense restlessness.

#### Prescription

- Arsenicum album 30C, 2 hourly for 4 doses, with oral rehydration therapy.

#### Follow-Up

- After 12 hours: Vomiting stopped, diarrhoea reduced.
- After 24 hours: Marked improvement, patient tolerated oral fluids.
- After 48 hours: Full recovery with no relapse.

Clinical Insights from the Acute and Chronic Cases  
These two cases highlight the versatility of Synthesis Repertory:

- In chronic cases, it supports in-depth individualised analysis and selection of deep-acting remedies.
- In acute conditions, it facilitates rapid, precise repertorization, ensuring prompt relief and faster recovery.

### 10. CONCLUSION

The Synthesis Repertory stands as a landmark in the evolution of homoeopathic tools, bridging classical foundations with the demands of modern clinical practice. Rooted in the philosophy of Kent yet enhanced with thousands of additions, clinical confirmations, and contemporary provings, it serves as a comprehensive, versatile, and evidence-driven repertory for practitioners across the globe. Its structured hierarchy, expansive remedy database, and seamless digital integration with RadarOpus have made repertorization more accurate, time-efficient, and user-friendly. Whether addressing acute conditions such as gastroenteritis, febrile states, or injuries, or managing complex chronic diseases like migraines, autoimmune disorders, or psychiatric conditions, Synthesis empowers the practitioner to navigate clinical complexity with precision and confidence. The clinical cases discussed in this article demonstrate their practical applicability. In the chronic migraine case, the repertory facilitated the identification of *Natrum muriaticum* through a systematic and individualised approach. In the acute gastroenteritis case, rapid repertorization and remedy confirmation led to the

timely and effective prescription of *Arsenicum album*, showcasing its reliability in urgent situations.

Moreover, Synthesis is not only a clinical tool but also a pedagogical resource, playing a pivotal role in education, research, and the training of homoeopathic students. Its multilingual accessibility and adaptability for research purposes continue to expand its utility beyond the consulting room. However, like any repertory, its effectiveness depends on the clinician's ability to integrate accurate case-taking, proper symptom evaluation, and deep materia medica understanding. Over-reliance on repertorization without clinical reasoning can lead to mechanical prescribing. Thus, Synthesis is most effective when used as a supportive guide rather than a replacement for the physician's analytical skill and intuition. As homoeopathy continues to grow and adapt in the 21st century, the Synthesis Repertory exemplifies the synergy between tradition and technology, ensuring that the core principle of individualised prescribing — “*similia similibus curentur*” — remains at the heart of patient care. Its ongoing updates, integration of artificial intelligence, and potential for further digitisation position it as a tool that will continue to evolve alongside clinical practice, strengthening homoeopathy's relevance and efficacy in modern healthcare.

#### REFERENCE

- [1] Schroyens F. *Synthesis Repertory*. 9th ed. London: Homoeopathic Book Publishers; 2001.
- [2] Schroyens F. *Synthesis Treasure Edition: RadarOpus*. Archibel; 2015.
- [3] Kent JT. *Repertory of the Homoeopathic Materia Medica*. New Delhi: B. Jain Publishers; 1990.
- [4] Riley DS. The role of computer repositories in homoeopathy. *J Altern Complement Med*. 2003;9(1):133–139.
- [5] Gaier H. *Thorsons Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Homoeopathy*. London: HarperCollins; 1991.
- [6] Van Zandvoort R. *Repertory of the Homoeopathic Materia Medica: Complete Repertory*. Haarlem: Institute for Homoeopathic Documentation; 2000.
- [7] Vithoulikas G. *The Science of Homoeopathy*. New Delhi: B. Jain Publishers; 1980.