

McKenzie's Food for Thought

Informed insight on the latest medical & health news & what it means for you

Placebo?

After 17 years in practice I should cease to be surprised by the number of attacks that homoeopathy is subjected to but Daisy Goodwin's scathing article in the Times late last year has spurred me into rebutting her stance by emphasising some outstanding recorded successes of homoeopathy in treatment of large numbers of people. Sugar pills and delusions did she say??

One of the best uses of homoeopathy is in epidemics and was first used in a scarlet fever epidemic in Germany in 1799. Subsequently homoeopaths impressed the medical establishment with their results:

"In epidemics the mortality per 100 patients is ½ to 1/8th in homoeopathic hospitals compared to allopathic hospitals. (Dr. Thomas Bradfords "The Logic of Figures" (1900))

"Homoeopathy had become very popular in North America during its early years due to its amazing successes obtained by the "old guard" during the epidemics... of diphtheria, scarlet fever, cholera, malaria, yellow fever – especially yellow fever; the **death rate for that was 55% when allopathic treatment was used, but less than 5% in cases with homoeopathic treatment**; and it was the same for cholera" Andre Saine, 1994.

Spanish influenza: "in 1918 flu pandemic homoeopaths reported around 1% mortality in their cases, while conventional doctors were losing 30% of their patients." (www.life.us/flu)

"Dr TA McCann from Dayton, Ohio reported that 24,000 cases of flu treated allopathically had a mortality rate of 28.2% while 26,000 cases of flu treated homoeopathically had a mortality rate of 1.05%....[another] reported 6,602 cases with 55 deaths which is less than 1% (The Journal of the American Institute for Homoeopathy May 1921)

"The most severe epidemic of all time was the Great Influenza Pandemic of 1918....during this epidemic homoeopathic medicine was used widely both for treatment and as prophylaxis. **The average mortality under standard treatment ran from 2.5 – 10% while 1% of fewer patients died under homoeopathic treatment** (Homeoprophylaxis Fact or Fiction – Todd Hoover MD)

These are clearly impressive figures, I suspect that homoeopathy needs to come up with similar significant results today in order to spread a wider acceptance of this remarkable form of medicine. Drugs companies have invested much to prevent the widespread acceptance of homoeopathy. Homoeopathic remedies are cheap and produce no or few side effects and certainly don't require life long prescriptions to counter the side effect of the initial drug! Why are the drugs companies so opposed? Need I say more?

And a couple of clear case histories:

J is a six year old orphan boy, tested HIV positive in May 2008, put on ARVs last CD4 count in September measured 110 units. Weight 21 kgs. Suffers from skin eruptions that get infected, has had malaria or angina

many times. Lack of appetite, headache and pains all over the body.

Selected remedy: 5 drops once daily.

Follow up 4 weeks later: now 22kgs. Angina, bronchitis and fever gone, no more malaria.

3 weeks later: CD4 up to 175 units and his Karnofski score has gone up from 40 (disabled, special care needed) to 90 (normal, minor symptoms).

2 weeks later: all symptoms now disappeared. He is a normal child.

Case of Gonorrhoea:

JK, 36 year old female, scheduled for operation in 2 weeks. For three months she has been suffering from intense pains in the womb and continuous bloody discharge. It disables her considerably and she can't work. An ultrasound showed cysts in the womb. 2 months before it all started she had an infection. Based on symptoms and prevalence of the disease it was assumed to be gonorrhoea.

Prescription: relevant remedy once daily 5 drops. Follow up after 8 days: after the first dose she discharged great lumps of blood that looked like meat. The next day the pains were practically gone and she went back to work. Four days later she was beaming and cancelled the operation. Pain and discharge had completely stopped. On a new ultrasound the uterus appears completely normal now.

Although I have used this parting thought before I thought it worth reiterating, especially after Copenhagen. Jane Goodall says we can help initiate change in small, every day choices we make – for example where does the food come from that you buy from, do you buy loo paper made from recycled paper or pristine forests? Decide to be a force for good this decade.

You can't live through a day without making an impact on the world. And we all have a choice about what sort of impact we will make"

Dr. Jane Goodall.

PARTING THOUGHTS.