

### **Allopathic medicine:**

According to the Meriem Webster Dictionary Allopathy refers to a system of medical practice that aims to combat disease by use of remedies (as drugs or surgery) producing effects different from or incompatible with those produced by the disease being treated.

The term was first used by Dr. Samuel Hahnemann to differentiate conventional medicine from Homeopathy, the system of medicine he developed. The word Allopathy means different suffering – meaning that suffering or pathology is attended to with a treatment that does not elicit similar or opposing symptoms. The term is used to describe modern pharmaceutical and surgical medicine.

### **Homeopathic Medicine**

The term homeopathy means similar suffering. The main tenet of homeopathy is like cures like, meaning that a substance that causes a set of symptoms in a healthy person can be used to treat similar symptoms in a sick person. Homeopathy uses minute substances to stimulate the immune system and innate healing capacity of the body.

Homeopathy is a widely available, affordable, nontoxic form of medicine that is regulated and recognized by law in many countries including: The United States, Canada, Cuba, Argentina, and India. Homeopathy is backed by [thousands of research studies, papers and clinical trials](#).

Homeopathy is practiced by nearly 250,000 physicians and used by over 500 million people worldwide, making homeopathy one of the most widely practiced forms of integrative medicine.

Homeopathy can address a wide range of conditions with an unmatched safety record. It is remarkably affordable, relatively easy to produce and easy to transport, making it an important health care option for many. It has been proven to decrease overuse of antibiotics, reduce reliance on opioids, promote healthy immune response, and save health care systems money.

### **Some of Homeopathy's Contributions**

- ❖ **Reducing the overuse of antibiotics.**
- ❖ **Providing an alternative to NSAIDS and opioids for pain management.**
- ❖ **Facilitating withdrawal from addictive substances.** Homeopathic treatment can assist in the process of withdrawal from substance abuse and reduce symptoms of withdrawal.
- ❖ **Assisting in addressing epidemic infectious conditions.** Homeopathy has been used as part of programs to fight and prevent epidemic infectious conditions in Cuba<sup>1</sup>, India, Brazil and Africa. In the current pandemic, homeopathy practitioners across the world are addressing COVID-19 as they would any other illness—by evaluating a person's full range of symptoms and individualizing care using the particular medicine that's right for each patient. This means that patients get care that is optimized for the severity and the particular configuration of their symptoms. That's important for an illness that manifests itself in so many different ways.

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1 <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/20674839/>

- ❖ **Health care costs. Homeopathy can be more cost-effective than conventional medicine since relapse rates tend to be lower, patient satisfaction rates are higher, and the direct cost of homeopathic medicines is much less than pharmaceuticals.**

### **The Evidence Base**

According to the Homeopathic Research Institute, by the end of 2019, 221 randomized controlled trials of homeopathic treatment for 115 medical conditions had been published in peer-reviewed journals and were eligible for review.<sup>2</sup>

Of these, 129 were placebo-controlled trials, covering 77 different medical conditions:1:

45% were positive (58 trials) – finding that homeopathy was effective  
4% were negative (5 trials) – finding that homeopathy was ineffective  
51% were inconclusive (66 trials)

An analysis of 1128 systematic reviews of RCTs of conventional medicine had strikingly similar findings.<sup>3</sup>

45% were positive – the treatments were likely to be beneficial  
10% were negative – the treatments were likely to be harmful  
45% were inconclusive – the evidence did not support either benefit or harm.

4 of 5 homeopathic meta-analyses done to date show positive outcomes for homeopathy. The most robust of these studies is a 2014 meta-analysis of placebo-controlled double-blind randomized controlled trials by Dr. Robert Mathie, found that homeopathic medicines, when prescribed during individualized treatment, are 1.5- to 2.0-times more likely to have a beneficial effect than placebo.<sup>4</sup>

The most current overview of clinical trials – the Australian NHMRC report – was published in 2015, and came to the conclusion that there is no evidence that homeopathy works for any conditions. This study includes individual clinical trials up to 2010 and separates the data by medical condition. The NHMRC report has attracted international criticism for its unprecedented and unscientific methodology, as well as obfuscation of a previous commissioned study<sup>5</sup> that had very different results. NHMRC is currently under investigation by the Commonwealth Ombudsman to answer charges of scientific misconduct in relation to this report.

Outside of clinical trials there are thousands of in vitro and basic science studies involving chemistry, nano-particles, and physics, that demonstrate effectiveness and possible mechanisms of action for homeopathy.<sup>6</sup>

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2 <https://www.hri-research.org/resources/homeopathy-faqs/there-is-no-scientific-evidence-homeopathy-works/placebo-controlled-trials-of-homeopathic-treatment/>

3 <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/22747638/>

4 <https://systematicreviewsjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/2046-4053-3-142>

5 <https://releasethefirstreport.com/>

6 <https://magicpillsmovie.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/HomeopathicResearchReferencesOCT2018.pdf>

## References:

*Why Homeopathy Matters in America: Compendium of Homeopathic Research*

<https://homeopathychoice.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/AFHC-Research-Compendium-Submitted-to-FDA-1.pdf>

*Homeopathic Research Institute* <https://www.hri-research.org/>

*Magic Pills: Promise or Placebo Documentary Film by Ananda More*

<https://watch.magicpillsmovie.com>

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The Best Studies Show Individualised Homeopathic Treatment has Beneficial Effects Beyond Placebo  
Rachel Roberts and Dr Alexander Tournier

[https://www.hri-research.org/wp-](https://www.hri-research.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/HRI_ResearchArticle_29_RobertsTournier_IndividualisedHomeopathyReview.pdf)

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