

6. Cost Effectiveness Of Homeopathic Medicinal System

6.1. An observational study of patients receiving homeopathic treatment: In Belgium(2004) - Unio Homoeopathica Belgica, Brussels, Belgium.

Link:

Van Wassenhoven M, Ives G., "An observational study of patients receiving homeopathic treatment", *Homeopathy*, 2004 Jan;93(1):3-11.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/14960096>

Method:

"A total of 782 patients presented with diseases of all major organ systems which were of sufficient severity to interfere with daily living in 78% of cases. Compared to previous conventional treatment, patients reported that consultations were much longer but costed less. One or more conventional drug treatments were discontinued in over half (52%) of the patients: CNS (including psychotropic) drugs (21%), drugs for respiratory conditions (16%) and antibiotics (16% ..*Patients' satisfaction with their homeopathic treatment was very high (95% fairly or very satisfied)* Patients were very satisfied with their homeopathic treatment, both they and their physicians recorded significant improvement. Costs of homeopathic treatment were significantly lower than conventional treatment, and many previously prescribed drugs were discontinued"

Conclusion:

"Patients were very satisfied with their homeopathic treatment, both they and their physicians recorded significant improvement. *Costs of homeopathic treatment were significantly lower* than conventional treatment, and many previously prescribed drugs were discontinued."

6.2. Cost-benefit evaluation of homeopathic versus conventional therapy in respiratory diseases -
Homeopathic Clinic, Campo di Marte Hospital, Lucca, Homeopathic Reference Centre Region of
Tuscany, Italy

Link:

Rossi E, Crudeli L, Endrizzi C, Garibaldi D., "Cost-benefit evaluation of homeopathic versus conventional therapy in respiratory diseases", *Homeopathy*. 2009 Jan;98(1):2-10.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19135953>

Method:

"A retrospective observational study was conducted on 105 out of 233 patients suffering from chronic respiratory disease attending the Homeopathic Clinic of the Campo di Marte Hospital in Lucca (Tuscany, Italy) between October 1998 and May 2003. We assessed the cost of conventional medicinal products using Anatomic Therapeutic Chemical (ATC) classification, specific for the pathology in question, and the general costs in the year preceding the first appointment at the Homeopathic Clinic vs. the first and second year subsequent to homeopathic treatment. The costs of conventional drugs for a group of patients affected by asthma (8 patients) and recurrent respiratory infections (16 patients) with long term use of conventional medicine treated by homeopathy were compared with the expenses of conventional drugs of a matched group of 16 and 32 patients, respectively".

Results:

"Costs for patients affected by *chronic asthma* showed a reduction in expenses of 71.1% for specific medicines relative to the group in homeopathic treatment... Homeopathic treatment for respiratory diseases (asthma, allergic complaints, Acute Recurrent Respiratory Infections) was associated with a significant reduction in the use and costs of conventional drugs. Costs for homeopathic therapy are significantly lower than those for conventional pharmacological therapy."

6.3. Economic evaluation of Sinfrontal (a homeopathic complex) in the treatment of acute maxillary sinusitis in adults - University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany

Link:

Kneis KC, Gandjour A., "Economic evaluation of Sinfrontal in the treatment of acute maxillary sinusitis in adults", *Appl Health Econ Health Policy*. 2009;7(3):181-91.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19799472>

Method:

"Sinfrontal, a complex homeopathic medication, is popular in Germany for the treatment of ear, nose and throat and respiratory tract infections. Unlike many other homeopathic or herbal medications, the efficacy and safety of Sinfrontal has been demonstrated in a number of clinical studies of patients with sinusitis. To assess the cost effectiveness of Sinfrontal versus placebo in the treatment of adults with acute maxillary sinusitis (AMS) in Germany. A secondary objective was to assess the cost effectiveness of Sinfrontal versus standard treatment with antibacterials. Sinfrontal was compared with placebo in a cost-utility analysis based on data from a randomized controlled clinical trial over 3 weeks (Sinfrontal group: n = 57; placebo group: n = 56). Trial data were analysed from a societal perspective; resource use was valued with German unit costs for 2005. In a secondary analysis, the longer-term cost utility of Sinfrontal versus placebo was estimated over a total of 11 weeks based on an 8-week post-treatment observational phase. In addition, the cost effectiveness of Sinfrontal versus antibacterials was determined based on an indirect comparison of placebo-controlled trials".

Results:

"Sinfrontal led to incremental savings of euro 275 (95% CI 433, 103) per patient compared with placebo over 22 days, essentially due to the markedly reduced absenteeism from work (7.83 vs 12.9 workdays). Incremental utility amounted to 0.0087 QALYs (95% CI 0.0052, 0.0123), or 3.2 quality-adjusted life-days (QALDs). Bootstrapping showed that these findings were significant, with Sinfrontal being dominant in 99.9% of simulations. The results were robust to a number of sensitivity analyses. In the secondary analysis, Sinfrontal led to incremental cost savings of euro 511 and utility gains of 0.015 QALYs or 5.4 QALDs compared with placebo. Compared with antibacterials, Sinfrontal had a significantly higher cure rate (11% vs 59%; $p < 0.001$) at similar or lower costs. The results of this economic evaluation indicate that Sinfrontal may be a cost-effective treatment for AMS in adults."

6.4. PART 1 of “Immunology and Homeopathy”- Department of Scienze Morfologico-Biomediche,
University of Verona, Verona, Italy

Citation and Link:

Paolo Bellavite, Riccardo Ortolani, Francesco Pontarollo, Valeria Piasere, Giovanni Benato, and Anita Conforti, “Immunology and Homeopathy. 4. Clinical Studies—Part 1”, *Evid. Based Complement Alternat Med*, 2006 September; 3(3): 293–301.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1513149/>

Method:

“A study to compare effectiveness and costs of two treatment strategies (‘homeopathic strategy’ versus ‘antibiotic strategy’) used in routine medical practice by allopathic and homeopathic GPs in the treatment of recurrent acute rhinopharyngitis in children was recently published. Data from a large series of patients were analyzed and grouped according to type of drug prescribed, episodes of acute rhinopharyngitis, complications, adverse effects and medical costs”.

Results:

“Data from a large series of patients were analyzed and grouped according to type of drug prescribed, episodes of acute rhinopharyngitis, complications, adverse effects and medical costs. The results showed that the *‘homeopathic strategy’ yielded significantly better results* than the ‘antibiotic strategy’ *in terms of number of episodes of rhinopharyngitis, number of complications and quality of life with lower direct medical costs in favor of homeopathy.*”

6.5. Audit of outcome in 455 consecutive patients treated with homeopathic medicines - Carlisle, UK

Citation and Link:

Sevar R., "Audit of outcome in 455 consecutive patients treated with homeopathic medicines", *Homeopathy*. 2005 Oct;94(4):215-21.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed?term=16226198>

Abstract

"This paper reports an audit of clinical outcome in 455 consecutive patients (1100 consultations) presenting for private homeopathic treatment of a chronic illness in which conventional treatment had either: failed, reached a plateau in effect, or was contra-indicated by side effects, age or condition of the patient. Three hundred and four patients (66.8%) derived benefit from homeopathic treatment. One hundred and forty-eight patients (32.5%) were able to stop or maintain a substantial reduction in their conventional drugs. The 10 most frequent clinical conditions treated were eczema, anxiety, depression, osteoarthritis, asthma, back pain, chronic cough, chronic fatigue, headaches and essential hypertension. *These 195 patients constitute 43% of the total, 151 of them (77%) were improved.* The success rate of treatment is similar between age ranges. There was a difference in outcome between the sexes in adults: 296 females treated, success rate 71.3%; 159 males treated, success rate 58.5%. Two patients (0.4%) had prolonged aggravation of their presenting complaints apparently attributable to homeopathic treatment."

Audit of outcome in 829 consecutive patients treated with homeopathic medicines - Carlisle, UK

Citation and Link:

Sevar R., "Audit of outcome in 829 consecutive patients treated with homeopathic medicines", *Br Homeopath J*. 2000 Oct;89(4):178-87.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/11055775>

Abstract:

"An audit was conducted of 829 consecutive patients presenting for homeopathic treatment of a chronic illness, conventional treatment had either failed, plateaued in effect, or was contraindicated by adverse effects, age or condition of the patient. Of the 829 patients, 503 (61%) had a sustained improvement from homeopathic treatment, of these: * 357 patients (43%) had an excellent response; * 146 patients (18%) had a good response; * 6 patients (0.8%) became worse. * 233 patients (28%) were lost to follow-up."