

THE SUCCESS OF HOMEOPATHY DURING DEADLY EPIDEMICS

Spanish Flue – 1918

Homeopathy was very successful in dealing with the 1918-19 flu pandemic. Here is a quote from the famous historian Julian Winston:

Perhaps the most recent use of homeopathy in a major epidemic was during the **Influenza Pandemic of 1918**. *The Journal of the American Institute for Homeopathy*, May, 1921, had a long article about the use of homeopathy in the flu epidemic.

Dr. T A 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 homeopathically had a mortality rate of 1.05%. This last figure was supported by Dean W.A. Pearson of Philadelphia (Hahnemann College) who collected 26,795 cases of flu treated with homeopathy with the above result. The most common remedy used was Gelsemium, with occasional cases needing Bryonia and Eupatorium reported.

Dr. Herbert A. Roberts from Derby, CT, said that 30 physicians in Connecticut responded to his request for data. They reported 6,602 cases with 55 deaths, which is less than 1%. Dr. Roberts was working as a physician on a troop ship during WWI. He had 81 cases of flu on the way over to Europe. He reported, “All recovered and were landed. Every man received homeopathic treatment. One ship lost 31 on the way.”

<http://www.hpathy.com/papersnew/winston-homeopathy-epidemics.asp>

Homeopaths used this opportunity by making certain efforts in assembling large numbers of therapeutic outcomes. After the second and third waves of the NIP, which occurred in the fall of 1918 and winter of 1919 and were the more severe ones, American homeopathic physicians conducted several surveys among their members to obtain statistical outcomes of treatment. Dr. William Pearson, dean of the Hahnemann Medical College in Philadelphia, reported in a survey made among the members of the American Institute of Homeopathy (AIH), that 88 physicians reported having treated 26,795 patients with a loss of 273 cases, a mortality of 1.02%. 24 of these 88 physicians reported no deaths in 3,519 cases. Dr. Pearson wrote, “The object of this contribution is to present reliable data in regard to the actual mortality of the epidemic when patients were treated by homeopathic physicians. ... The original reports are on file for inspection of all interested. I am only sorry that a larger number of physicians did not report their results, but physicians are very poor correspondents. It is evident that the above data are fairly representative of the results obtained by all homeopathic physicians, and it only remains to compare the results with the colossal epidemic influenza mortality (average mortality about 30% [for the pneumonia cases]) to realize how very much better chance a patient had when treated by a homeopathic physician. Since the mortality as reported all over the country includes the much lower mortality had by homeopathic physicians, the comparison with official records becomes still more favorable for homeopathic physicians. All reports received have been tabulated and no attempt made to report only the more favorable results.”(146)

(146) William A. Pearson. Epidemic influenza treated by homeopathic physicians. *Journal of the American Institute of Homeopathy* 1919-1920; 12: 11-13.

http://homeopathy.ca/debates_2013-03-22Q1-2ns.shtml

The third way that homeoprophylaxis takes effect is through the heightened resistance to the causes of diseases in people who have already been under homeopathic care for some years prior to an epidemic. Dr. R. F. Rabe pointed out this aspect of homeoprophylaxis in his September 1919 editorial of the *Homoeopathic Recorder*, "It is an undoubted fact that patients accustomed to good homeopathic prescribing, have been more resistant to the infection of influenza, or for that matter, to the infection of any other disease. When such patients do become ill the illness is likely to be less severe and more quickly and easily overcome. For this reason homeopathic physicians are often charged with having the easy cases, when in reality they prevent them from becoming difficult. This is at the same time an advantage, as well as a disadvantage of homeopathy, for to the uninitiated it appears so ridiculously simple that to their minds there can be nothing in it."(165)

In the same editorial pages, Dr. Rabe added, "Homeopathy, being [based on] a law of nature and working in harmony with her, raises resistance by gradually restoring the physiological balance, in other words, by bringing about a state of health. *Real* homeopathy does not suppress, change or distort disease manifestations. The cure is never worse than the disease! ... The homeopathic treatment of such bacterial diseases as influenza, pneumonia, typhoid fever, erysipelas, etc., amply proves that bacteria need have no terrors for him who understands the art of homoeopathic prescribing. Such a prescriber raises the resistance of his patient to bacterial attacks, increases the phagocytic power of the leucocytes; or, in plain language, enables the sufferers to *throw off* the disease."(166) (166) R. F. Rabe. **The power of resistance. Homoeopathic Recorder 1919; 34: 427-429.**

second example of homeoprophylaxis on large segments of population has been reported in India where epidemics of Japanese encephalitis have been recurrent since 1970. From 1987 to 1989 there were 5,172 deaths among 16,871 cases of Japanese encephalitis, a mortality rate of 30 percent. In 1991, a single dose of Belladonna 200 C (the genius epidemicus) was given as a prophylaxis to 322,812 persons in 96 villages in four districts of India. Follow-ups with 39,250 persons were conducted and it was found that none reported any signs or symptoms of Japanese encephalitis. The research team also treated homeopathically 223 patients with encephalitis in remote areas who had not received any treatment, as well as 14 other patients who had been discharged from hospitals and were suffering from sequellae of encephalitis, such as convulsions (7 cases), unconsciousness (6 cases) and opisthotonos (3 cases). All the 223 patients received symptomatic relief and improvement was seen in varying degrees in almost all the symptoms in the second group of 14 patients. Four out these 14 experienced complete recoveries.(159) (159) D. P. Rastogi and V. D. Sharma. Study of homoeopathic drugs in encephalitis epidemic (1991) in Uttar Pradesh (India). *Central Council for Research Quarterly Bulletin* 1992; 14: 1-11.

Typhus Fever - 1813

One of the earliest tests of the homeopathic system was in the treatment of **Typhus Fever (spread by lice)** in an 1813 epidemic which followed the devastation of Napoleon's army marching through Germany to attack Russia, followed by their retreat. When the epidemic came through Leipzig as the army pulled back from the east, *Samuel Hahnemann, the founder of homeopathy, was able to treat 180 cases of Typhus—losing but two. This, at a time when the conventional treatments were having a mortality rate of over 30%.*

<https://www.homeopathycenter.org/treatment-epidemics-homeopathy-history>

Cholera - 1830

In 1830 as the cholera epidemic was reported coming from the east, Hahnemann was able to identify the stages of the illness, and predict what remedies would be needed for which stages.

When **Cholera** finally struck Europe in 1831 the mortality rate (under conventional treatment) was between 40% (Imperial Council of Russia) to 80% (Osler's Practice of Medicine). Out of five people who contracted Cholera, two to four of them died under regular treatment. Dr. Quin, in London, reported the mortality in the ten homeopathic hospitals in 1831-32 as 9%; Dr. Roth, physician to the king of Bavaria, reported that under homeopathic care the mortality was 7%; Admiral Mordoinow of the Imperial Russian Council reported 10% mortality under homeopathy; and Dr. Wild, Allopathic editor of Dublin Quarterly Journal, reported in Austria, the Allopathic mortality was 66% and the homeopathic mortality was 33% "**and on account of this extraordinary result, the law interdicting the practice of Homeopathy in Austria was repealed (cancelled officially)**".

<https://homeopati.dk/uploads/Artikler/artikler%20om%20hom%C3%B8opatiens%20virkning/Epidemics%20-%20Some%20history%20of%20the%20treatment%20of%20epidemics%20with%20Homeopathy%C2%A0.pdf>

Controversy during the Cholera Epidemic in London, The house of commons

Homeopathy continued to be effective in the treatment of **Epidemic Cholera**. In **1854** a Cholera Epidemic struck **London**. This was a historically important epidemic in that it was the first time the medical community was able to trace the outbreak to a source (a public water pump), and when the pump was closed, the epidemic soon ceased. The House of Commons asked for a report about the various methods of treating the epidemic. *When the report was issued, the homeopathic figures were not included. The House of Lords asked for an explanation, and it was admitted that if the homeopathic figures were to be included in the report, it would "skew the results". The suppressed report revealed that under allopathic care the mortality was 59.2% while under homeopathic care the mortality was only 9%.*

It is hard today to comprehend what kind of scourge such an epidemic was. As was seen in the later Flu Epidemic of 1918, one could be healthy in the morning and be dead by evening– it moved that rapidly. Many books were written about the Homeopathic treatment of Cholera during these times, among them: Cholera and its Homeopathic treatment, F. Humphreys (1849); Homeopathic Treatment of Cholera, B.F. Joslin (1854); Homeopathic Domestic Treatment of Cholera, Biegler (1858); Epidemic Cholera, B. F. Joslin (1885); Asiatic Cholera, Jabez Dake (1886).

The success of homeopathic treatment continued with the later **cholera epidemics**. In the Hamburg epidemic of 1892, allopathic mortality was 42%, homeopathic mortality was 15.5% During the 1850s, there were several epidemics of **Yellow Fever** in the southern states. This disease was eventually found to be transmitted by mosquito. Osler says that the allopathic mortality from Yellow Fever is between 15-85%. Holcome, a homeopath, reported in 1853 a mortality of 6.43% in Natchez, and Dr.

Davis, another homeopath in Natchez, reported 5.73%. In 1878 the mortality in New Orleans was 50% under allopathic care, and 5.6% (in 1,945 cases in the same epidemic) with homeopathic care.

<https://www.homeopathycenter.org/treatment-epidemics-homeopathy-history>

Diphtheria 1862

In the records of three years of **Diphtheria** in Broome County, NY from 1862 to 1864, there was a report of an 83.6% mortality rate among the allopaths and a 16.4% mortality rate among the Homeopaths. (Bradford)

‘One physician in a Pittsburgh hospital asked a nurse if she knew anything better than what he was doing, because he was losing many cases. “Yes, Doctor, stop aspirin and go down to a homeopathic pharmacy, and get homeopathic remedies”. The Doctor replied: “But that is homeopathy.” “I know it, but the homeopathic doctors for whom I have nursed have not lost a single case.”—W. F. Edmundson, MD, Pittsburgh.’

“Homeopathy In Influenza-A Chorus Of Fifty In Harmony” by W. A. Dewey, MD (Journal of the American Institute of Homeopathy, May 1921) -

https://www.ecampnd.com/homeopathy/A_Chorus_of_Fifty_in_Harmony.pdf

Dengue 2001

In Brazil, in May 2001, a single dose of the homeopathic remedy Eupatorium Perfoliatum 30C was given to 40% of residents of the most highly affected neighbourhood. Thereafter, dengue incidence decreased by 81.5%, a highly significant decrease as compared with neighbourhoods that did not receive homeopathic prophylaxis.

Again in early 2007, facing the challenge of controlling an outbreak of dengue, the Secretary of Health of the county of Macaé, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, carried out a "Homeopathy Campaign against Dengue." 156,000 doses of homeopathic remedy were freely distributed in April and May 2007 to asymptomatic patients, according to the notion of "epidemic genus." The remedy used was a homeopathic complex against dengue containing Phosphorus 30cH, Crotalus Horridus 30cH and Eupatorium Perfoliatum 30cH. The incidence of the disease in the first 3 months of 2008 fell by 93% in comparison to the corresponding period in 2007, whereas in the rest of the state of Rio de Janeiro there was an increase of 128%. While confounding factors were not controlled for, these results suggest that Homeopathy may be an effective adjunct in dengue outbreak prevention.

Further, in 2012, a double-blind, placebo-controlled randomized trial was conducted on dengue patients using the same homeopathic complex, to evaluate the effectiveness of the homeopathic intervention in dengue epidemic. The intervention group showed improvement in most symptoms including headache, fever, and myalgia.

In Cuba, 25,000 patients who tested positive for dengue were treated with a homeopathic complex containing medicines Bryonia alba, Eupatorium perfoliatum, Gelsemium sempervirens and Dengue nosode. As a result, no severe symptoms were reported after its administration, nor did any patient

require any more intensive care from an average of 3 to 5 days of entering Intensive Care Unit. Even the stay at the hospital reduced from 7-10 days to 3-5 days.

<http://www.ijrh.org/article.asp?issn=0974-7168;year=2015;volume=9;issue=3;spage=137;epage=140;aui=Manchanda#ft9>

Malaria

In an open-double blind randomized clinical trial for malaria in Ghana following homeopathic remedies were used: Arsenicum album, china, Eupatorium perfoliatum, Natrum muriaticum, Nux vomica, Pulsatilla, Rhus toxicodendron and Sulphur. Chloroquine was used as standard drug in placebo control group. The percentage of 90.7% improvement in open study and 83.3% in double blind study has been attributed to the homeopathic treatment, during the four week study period. However, a definite conclusion can be drawn if study is extended for a longer follow-up period (minimum 6 months) to assess the number of episodes comparing the chloroquine group with homeopathic group.

<https://www.omicsonline.org/open-access/homeopathy-against-malaria-its-potential-as-a-third-millennium-drug-2327-5162-1000232.php?aid=86739>

Cuba prevents annual epidemic (leptospirosis)

Cuban medical researchers have successfully prevented the annual outbreak of Leptospirosis in Cuba among a population of 5 million people across two regions using homeopathy in both 2007 and 2008. A homeoprophylactic formulation was prepared from dilutions of four circulating strains of Leptospirosis. This formulation *was administered orally to 2.3 million persons at high risk in an epidemic in a region affected by natural disasters*. After the homeoprophylactic intervention a significant decrease of the disease incidence was observed in the intervention regions. No such modifications were observed in non-intervention regions. In the intervention region the incidence of Leptospirosis fell below the historic median. This observation was independent of rainfall.

[Homeopathy](#). 2010 Jul; 99(3):156-66. doi: 10.1016/j.homp.2010.05.009.