

HOMEOPATHY TODAY

Gerasko Yu. V., Mishyna I. Yu., Shcherba I. S.

College of National University of Pharmacy, Kharkiv, Ukraine

gerasjko@meta.ua

Introduction. Homeopathy (from the Greek “homoio” – like, similar, of the same kind; and “pathos” – suffering) is the method of treating disease by drugs, given in minute doses, that would produce in a healthy person symptoms similar to those of the disease. Homeopathy was founded by German doctor S. Hahnemann in the early 19th century.

Aim. The aim of this research is to explore homeopathy as a science. Study all of its statements, principles, characteristics, properties, followed by application in practice.

Materials and methods. To complete the research the method of comparative analysis has been used. Having studied literature, the following principles of homeopathy were taken for the basis of study.

1. The principle of similarity.
2. The principle of use of small doses.
3. Population principle (that is individualization of treatment).
4. The principle of dynamism (potentiation) of drugs.

These principles are equal, and none is more important than another.

According to Hahnemann the first principle is: *similia similibus curentur*, which is translated from Latin as "like cures like". Hahnemann came to the conclusion that all medicines tend to produce disease state in a healthy person and at the same time, eliminate a similar condition in a patient.

The next principle of homeopathy is a reduction of the dose of the drug. The difference between homeopathy and conventional treatments is that if you pick up medicines on the basis of similarity, the dose of medication can be reduced to minimum and it will still work, but we'll forget the side effects forever.

The third principle proclaims the need to individualize treatment.

A lot of related conditions, up to the traits of the patient, influence the choice of drugs. Homeopathist should spend a lot of time learning these nuances. Of course, it is difficult compared with the choice of drugs depending on the diagnosis of the disease, but the advantages are a better result and the absence of harmful side effects.

Results and discussion. The influence of several homeopathic remedies on a healthy person and their effect on the disease in small doses was studied.

Apis or bee venom

In homeopathy apis based medications are recommended for various acute swellings, including genitals, throat, tongue and lips. They are also good at treating angina, when the swelling bites resemble bees in different places. They heal skin and hive.

Tabacum

In homeopathy tabacum is used mainly for treating dizziness, a symptom of which is pallor and vomiting caused by pregnancy. The drug helps in case of seasickness, which is also accompanied by vomiting and headache.

As a result of studies conducted on the basis of homeopathic pharmacy in Kharkiv in October 2015 the main segment of patients who buy homeopathic medicinal preparations was identified. The following signs of segmentation of consumers were selected: sex, age, education, social status, income level and nature of the disease, the treatment of which homeopathic medicine is bought for.

Most of the consumers of homeopathic medicines is made up of patients aged 21 - 30 years (over 30%). Consumers aged 60 and 20 years are to a lesser extent. More than 60% of purchases are carried by employees and workers with the average monthly income. About 25% of consumers belong to an indigent category of the population: pensioners and students, and the unemployed.

Comparison of the segmentation data suggested that consumer education has a significant impact on consumption of homeopathic medicines, as only 3.7% of customers have secondary education. The rest have higher, incomplete higher and specialized secondary.

Conclusions. Homeopathy differs from classical medical science the absence of ready-made solutions. Only a talented and skillful doctor may prescribe ideally suiting to the patient medicines that will cure all diseases.

There is no need to think that homeopathy is no more than self-hypnosis. That is wrong. Means and methods of science (which is really a science with its own rules and laws) are effective in any case. Only faithful adherence to treatment regimens is needed from a patient.