

## INFLUENCE of HOMEOPATHIC DRUG PREPARATIONS on the PHAGOCYTOSIS CAPABILITY of GRANULOCYTES

### IN-VITRO TESTS and CONTROLLED SINGLE-BLIND STUDIES

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Homeopathic plant preparation, immunostimulatory activity, *in vitro* tests, phagocytosis.

Four homeopathic combined preparations with extract attenuations between 1X and 30X (expression for homeopathic level of attenuation) and some additives (minerals and animal toxins) were investigated using two *in vitro* and one *in vivo* phagocytosis models. All preparations led to a significant increase in phagocytosis activity in all three immune models. Two preparations (C and D) and a placebo were administered i.v. on 5 successive days to 12 and 14 preparation group and 13 placebo group male subjects respectively. The phagocytosis indices of granulocytes were determined over an 11-day period using the microscopic smear test in both controlled single-blind studies; a clear increase of phagocytosis activity was observed even after the first injection and maximum activity was reached between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> injection days. After the 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> (next to last or last) injection, a rapid decrease of activity occurred which reached normal values on the 11<sup>th</sup> day. Other laboratory parameters investigated were not influenced.



GP, INT, Immu.

## HOMEOPATHY and CONVENTIONAL MEDICINE: AN OUTCOMES STUDY COMPARING EFFECTIVENESS in a PRIMARY CARE SETTING

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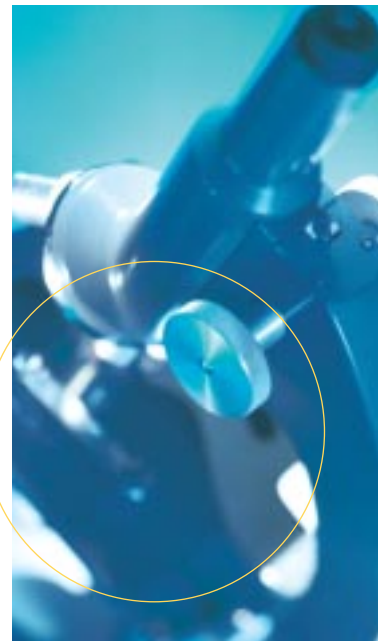
**Background:** Recent meta-analyses of randomized controlled trials in homeopathy have suggested that homeopathy is more than a placebo response.

**Objective:** Comparison of the effectiveness of homeopathy in primary care with conventional medicine in primary care for three commonly encountered clinical conditions.

**Design:** An international multicenter, prospective, observational study in a real world medical setting comparing the effectiveness of homeopathy with conventional medicine.

**Participants:** Thirty (30) investigators with conventional medical licenses at six clinical sites in four countries enrolled 500 consecutive patients with at least one of the following three complaints:

- 1) upper respiratory tract complaints including allergies;
- 2) lower respiratory tract complaints including allergies; or
- 3) ear complaints.



**Main Outcome Measures:** The primary outcomes criterion was the response to treatment, defined as cured or major improvement after 14 days of treatment. Secondary outcomes criteria were:

- 1) rate of recovery;
- 2) occurrence of adverse events;
- 3) patient satisfaction; and
- 4) length of consultation.

**Results:** Four hundred and fifty-six (456) patient visits were compared: 281 received homeopathy, 175 received conventional medicine. The response to treatment as measured by the primary outcomes criterion for patients receiving homeopathy was 82.6%, for conventional medicine it was 68%. Improvement in less than 1 day and in 1 to 3 days was noted in 67.3% of the group receiving homeopathy and in 56.6% of those receiving conventional medicine. The adverse events for those treated with conventional medicine was 22.3% versus 7.8% for those treated with homeopathy. Seventy-nine percent (79.0%) of patients treated with homeopathy were very satisfied and 65.1% of patients treated with conventional medicine were very satisfied. In both treatment groups 60% of cases had consultations lasting between 5 and 15 minutes.

**Conclusions:** Homeopathy appeared to be at least as effective as conventional medical care in treatment of patients with the three conditions studied.



GP



## ANTI-VIRAL ACTIVITY OF EUPHORBIVM COMP. AND ITS COMPONENTS

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**Introduction:** Euphorbium compositum SN (Biologische Heilmittel Heel GmbH, Baden-Baden, Germany), a homeopathic combination preparation, is prescribed for inflammation of the mucosa of the nose and sinuses. Infections in these areas are primarily of viral origin although bacterial superinfections are also common.

**Objective:** The main question was whether or not this homeopathic remedy shows an activity against viruses responsible for infections of the respiratory tract.

**Methods:** This *in vitro* study using virus plaque reduction assays examined the effect of Euphorbium compositum SN against pathogens causing various viral infections: influenza A virus, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), human rhinovirus (HRV) and herpes simplex virus type 1 (HSV-1).

**Results:** Analysis of virus production after treatment of the infected cells with the remedy showed an antiviral activity of Euphorbium compositum SN against RSV and HSV-1. Analyses of the plant-derived components of Euphorbium compositum SN, e.g. Euphorbium resinifera, Pulsatilla pratensis and Luffa operculata for their antiviral activity revealed a clear activity of Euphorbium resinifera and Pulsatilla pratensis against RSV. **Conclusions:** Euphorbium resinifera and Pulsatilla pratensis as components of Euphorbium compositum SN are responsible for its antiviral activity.



ENT, GP, DERM.

Antiviral activity, Euphorbium compositum SN,  
Euphorbium resinifera, Pulsatilla pratensis,  
Luffa operculata, plant extract