

ACUTE OTITIS MEDIA IN CHILDREN: A COMPARISON OF CONVENTIONAL AND HOMEOPATHIC TREATMENT



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This prospective study compares conventional and homeopathic treatment of acute childhood otitis media in five otolaryngological practices. Group A was initially treated exclusively with homeopathic single remedies (Aconitum napellus, Apis mellifica, Belladonna, Capsicum, Chamomilla, Kalium bichromicum, Lachesis, Lycopodium, Mercurius solubilis, Okoubaka, Pulsatilla, and Silicea), while group B was treated with nose drops, antibiotics, secretolytics, and/or antipyretics. Factors compared were: otoscopic findings, fever, results of therapy, intensity and duration of pain, duration of therapy, and frequency of recurrences. The children accepted into the study ranged in age from one to eleven years. There were 103 children in Group A, 28 in Group B. The difference in number is explained by the fact that the homeopathically-oriented ENT practice involved in this study treats a great many children, whereas in conventional therapy the first physician to be consulted about a middle ear inflammation is usually a pediatrician. Median duration of pain was two days in Group A, three days in Group B. Median duration of treatment was four days in Group A and ten days in Group B. (Antibiotics are typically prescribed for 8-10 days, while homeopathics can be discontinued sooner if a cure has been effected.) In Group A, 70.7% of the patients experienced no recurrences within one year of treatment; 29.3% had a maximum of three recurrences. In Group B, 56.6% experienced no recurrences and 43.5% had a maximum of six recurrences. Of the 103 children in Group A, five were eventually prescribed antibiotics; 98 were completely cured by the homeopathic treatment. No lasting harmful effects of therapy were observed in either group.

