

# Efficacy of Homeopathic Dilutions in the Form of Potency Chords

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Because potency chords are clearly superior in efficacy to single potencies, they are important to biological therapy. This article examines recent relevant studies of potency chords.

## Introduction

Potency chords are preparations containing equal parts of several different homeopathic potencies of the same basic remedy. Cahis introduced this form of homeopathic dilution in 1913.<sup>1</sup> In that same year, Cahis' experiments were reviewed by Katz.<sup>2</sup> Julian states that potency chords are "faster, deeper, and broader" in their effects and that they reduce initial aggravation.<sup>3</sup> Since that time, only a few checks and reviews of the accuracy of these statements have occurred.<sup>4-10</sup>

The results of these studies confirm what many practitioners have been experiencing in their daily work for years. However, the safety of taking potency chords is still being questioned because these preparations contain high potencies. Yet even when administered more frequently than is recommended for high potencies, potency chords do not cause the anticipated side effects.

Because the ultimate resolution of this issue is of great therapeutic importance, 65 physicians are currently participating in a prospective study of potency chords. The results are to be published soon.

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There are 4 major questions to review concerning potency chords:

- Do homeopathic dilutions work, and can the reversal principle in homeopathy be proved?
- How should the effect of single potencies in a potency chord be viewed?
- Is a potency chord an arithmetically universal potency or a "special" comprehensive one, and what is its effect?
- Is it possible to prove that initial aggravation is a real effect of homeopathic therapies, and do potency chords really reduce it?

## Studies of Homeopathic Dilutions

The effects of homeopathic dilutions and potency chords have repeatedly aroused scientific interest and are still somewhat controversial. As early as 1929, Vondracek investigated the effect of homeopathic dilutions of heavy metals on the development of tadpoles and discovered that certain potencies provoked premature metamorphosis while others proved lethal.<sup>11</sup>

In 1967, Cier and Boiron investigated the effect of alloxan, which induces diabetes mellitus in mice.<sup>12</sup> When mice were injected with highly diluted alloxan prior to being injected with the concentrated drug, diabetes was not induced, and if the highly diluted injection was administered after the concentrated injection, only a mild form of diabetes developed.

In a dissertation published in 1975, Bildet investigated the protective function of different potencies of phosphorus on liver metabolism in rats in which hepatitis had been induced by administering carbon tetrachloride.<sup>13</sup> The drug picture of phosphorus corresponds more or less to that of carbon tetrachloride (homeopathic simile). On the basis of various transami-

nase activities, Bildet was able to prove that homeopathic dilutions of phosphorus have a protective effect on the liver. In 1977, Bildet used histological sections of rat livers to confirm his earlier results.<sup>14</sup>

## Studies of Potency Chords

In 1992, Gomez set up an experiment similar to that conducted by Bildet in 1975.<sup>15</sup> The goals were to corroborate Bildet's results by using a different species of experimental animal (albino mouse) and to test the effect of phosphorus in the form of potency chords. Carbon tetrachloride (1 g/kg) was again used to induce hepatitis.

Homeopathic dilutions of either 10X, 30X, 200X, or 1000X or a potency chord consisting of equal parts of all these potencies were administered intraperitoneally every 12 hours as 1 g/kg. The control group received physiological saline solution. Monitoring examinations took place 24, 48, and 72 hours after administration of the toxin, with additional monitoring of the potency chord and control groups one week after toxin administration.

## Results

Increased transaminase concentrations due to the toxin demonstrated the following characteristics:

- 24 hours after toxin administration, only slight differences were apparent between the treated animals and the control group (Table, Figure 1).
- 48 hours after toxin administration, highly significant differences were apparent in the groups given 30X, 1000X, or the potency chord compared with the control group (Table, Figure 1).
- The picture changed after 72 hours, when the scores of all treated groups

Type of enzyme studied, with monitoring times	Average values for liver enzymes in 10 animals (in $\mu/l$ )					
	Control Group	Treatment with 10X	Treatment with 30X	Treatment with 200X	Treatment with 1000X	Treatment with potency chord
SGOT after 24 hours	9995.0	10898.0	9578.0	10714.5	10988.0	10031.7
SGOT after 48 hours	1356.3	1177.7	1013.2	1139.9	935.3	673.8
SGOT after 72 hours	850.2	810.6	612.7	437.5	581.8	425.5
SGOT after 1 week	166.4					161.9
SGPT after 24 hours	10691.1	11906.0	11713.0	11589.5	11854.0	11304.0
SGPT after 48 hours	829.9	832.0	692.0	892.5	1.079.1	740.9
SGPT after 72 hours	418.6	558.5	224.6	223.1	265.1	215.0
SGPT after 1 week	63.5					64.9

Table: Results of measuring liver enzyme levels at specific intervals in the different groups of experimental animals. SGOT=serum glutamate-oxalacetate transaminase; SGPT= serum glutamate-pyruvate transaminase.

except the 10X group were significantly better than those of the control group (Table, Figure 1).

- After one week, transaminase values normalized because of metabolization of the triggering agent (Table, Figure 2).
- Histological sections were used to confirm the above points.

**Summary**

According to the results of several investigations, the effect of homeopathic di-

lutions is clearly different from that of controls.<sup>16-18</sup> With regard to the effect of potency chords, however, these researchers remained uncertain. Gomez, building on Bildet's studies, was able to definitively resolve this issue. In reviewing Gomez's results, it is clear that over the entire course of the experiment, values for the 10X group differed the least from those of the control group, while those of the potency chord group differed the most. On the basis of the individual values he obtained, Gomez was able to demonstrate that after 24 hours, somewhat higher transaminase levels were present in the groups treated

with homeopathic dilutions, but that these levels then dropped more rapidly in the treated groups than in the control group. This is clear evidence of the initial aggravation reaction known to homeopathy. The highest transaminase levels were found in the 10X and 1000X groups.

It is striking that values for the potency chord were not particularly high after 24 hours, differing only slightly from control. At 48 and 72 hours, however, the transaminase levels were clearly dropping faster in the potency chord group than in all other groups.

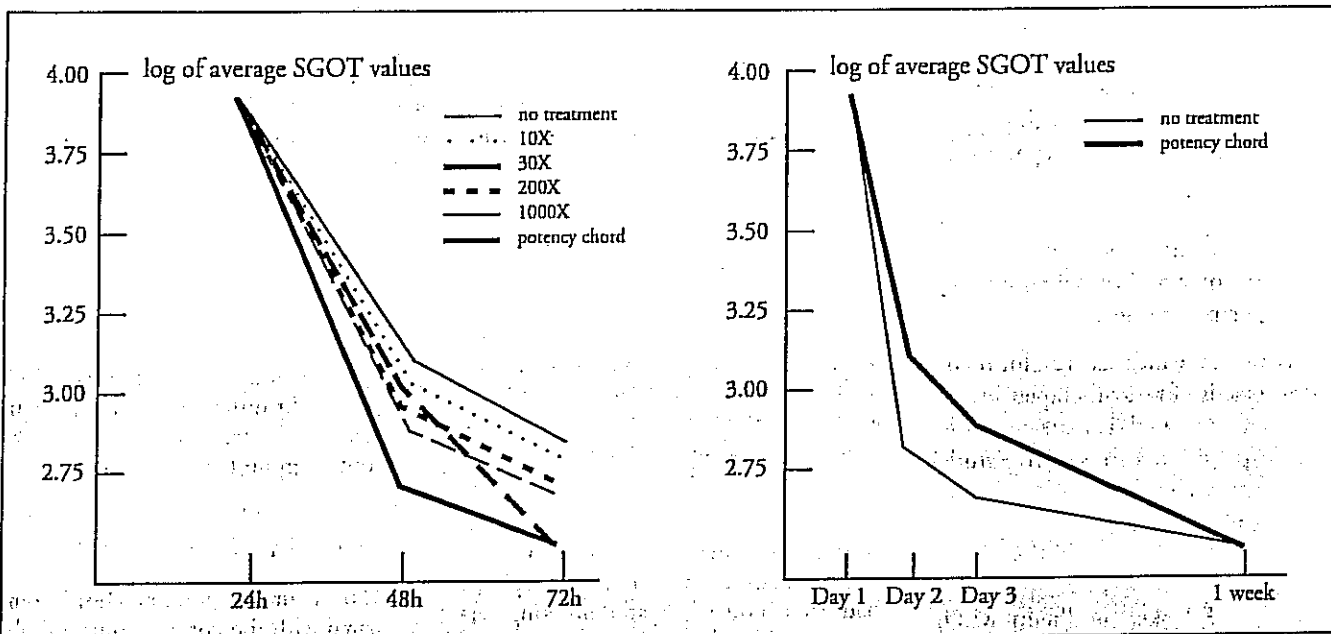


Figure 1: 3-day period after administration of the toxin tetrachloromethane. SGOT=serum glutamate-oxalacetate transaminase.

Figure 2: One week period after administration of the toxin tetrachloromethane. SGOT=serum glutamate-oxalacetate transaminase.

It is interesting to note that both the high potencies and the potency chord containing high potencies were administered at frequent intervals and that these two forms were more effective than the lower potencies. Homeopathic practitioners generally say that high potencies should be administered only infrequently to prevent adverse effects. However, it can be deduced from the results of the investigations reported here that this statement is not universally true. Although potency chords do contain high potencies, it seems that more frequent administration has no adverse effects and that initial aggravation can be lessened by the influence of the entire chord.

Of all the dilutions used in the study by Gomez, only the 10X and the potency chord (10X/30X/200X/1000X) contained the same number of molecules of the active substance. Nonetheless, the 10X dilution and the potency chord had clearly different effects (Table, Figure 1).

Thus, the following points can be emphasized with regard to potency chords:

- A potency chord has a distinct effect despite the fact that the total number of molecules of the active substance is the same in 10X and the potency chord.
- The effect of a potency chord is distinctly different from the effects of the individual dilutions it contains.
- The initial aggravation that occurs in homeopathic treatment is a quantifiable phenomenon and is clearly reduced when a potency chord is used.
- The question of whether the effect of a potency chord equals the averaged effects of its components or has a specific effect or energy of its own, i.e., an "energetically unique" potency, cannot be answered by the investigations reviewed here. In the case of high potencies, including potency chords, it is highly probable that the information is beyond the grasp of the chemi-

cal and histological systems used in these experiments. Clarifying this question would require additional investigations in the domain of (quantum) physics. However, based on the results of these investigations and on clinical and therapeutic experience, it seems highly probable that potency chords involve an "energetically unique" mixed potency.

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