

SUMMARY

ANALYSIS OF PATIENTS' MOTIVATION FOR TREATMENT AND SELF-TREATMENT WITH HOMEOPATHIC MEDICINES IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Student: Renzová, T.

Tutor: Marešová, H.

Department of Social and Clinical Pharmacy, Faculty of Pharmacy in Hradec Králové, Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic

Background: this thesis was made as a free follow up of the studies conducted by Mgr. Ondřej Machotka and Kamila Vykydalová, who monitored the above mentioned topic in different areas of Czech Republic. The main motivation for the origination of this thesis is the growing interest of the human population in the homeopathic treatment methods. However, this does not mean that homeopathy address whole population only in the positive way. It has its followers as well as its critics, in both the laic public and the professional medical community.

Aim: the thesis aims is to determine the reasons, which motivates Czech patients to choose homeopathic therapy. It also aims to provide closer characteristics of the patients who use the homeopathic treatment and to investigate their own attitudes as well as the attitudes of close family members or their practitioners towards the homeopathic treatment. The results acquired by elaborating the answers to these questions are consequently being compared with the conclusions of the research accomplished by Mgr. Ondřej Machotka and Kamila Vykydalová and with other similarly focused European or world studies.

Methods: targeted survey research of patients coming to the pharmacy in Pardubice region, attained by questionnaire investigation. The research took place in three pharmacies. Theses pharmacies were chosen at random with no pattern. 215 respondents were addressed at total, while 65 of them were nonrespondents. The questionnaire was filled in by 150 respondents, 53 of which didn't have any personal

experience with taking homeopathic supplements, while 97 respondents were using homeopathic supplements as a part of their treatment. The acquired set (either of 150 or 97 respondents) was subjected to frequency analysis and calculation of confidence interval.

Results: the analysis shows that 33 % of respondents incline to homeopathic treatment on the basis of their own decision and 65 % choose this method as being considerate to the organism. All studies report that homeopathic treatment is chosen mainly by women (c. 80 %), the respondents are predominantly high school or university educated people, mostly not of medical profession (c. 60 – 70 %).

All studies imply the satisfaction with homeopathic treatment - c. 80 % of patients. 39 % of the questioned does not use the homeopathic therapy just for self-treatment, but also for their children. 30 % applied homeopathy to help their partners.

Most of the patients (49 %) use homeopathic supplements to treat influenza, cold, sore throat or cough. These supplements were also applied as a good prevention in periods of increased incidence of virus diseases.

The patients who visited a homeopath (52 %) were very satisfied with his approach and cooperation. In comparison with a practitioner of classical medicine, the patients reported a more personal approach of the homeopath. In their opinion, homeopath makes a more profound anamnesis, looks for connections of health problems, takes interest in the psychical health (not only physical), and devote more time to the patient.

In term of finances, in comparison with the classical medicine practitioner, the patients assess the homeopath as the more expensive one (28 %).

Conclusion: several interesting facts were found during the analysis, which are connected to the motivation for treatment and self-treatment by homeopathic supplements. These facts are mainly related to the characteristics of respondents and their attitude to the homeopathic treatment. Considering the limitations of applied methodology, I regard my results and its interpretation as illustrative. I recommend a deeper and more extensive research in this field