

SUMMARY

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

Student: Vykydalová, K.

Tutor: Marešová, H.

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

Background: The degree work developed as a continuation of Mr. Machotka's study who has studied this topic in other parts of the Czech Republic. The impulse to develop this study was the try to explain why there are more and more people to believe and apply homeopathy although it is frequently questioned in the Czech Republic.

Aim: The work aim was to find out the patient's reasons which lead them to cure themselves through homeopathy and visit homeopathic surgeries. The work also deals with closer characterization of homeopathic patients, their attitude to homeopathic treatment and comparison of homeopathic patients to standard medicine ones. The final discussion compares the obtained results with the results of the Mr. Machotka's research and other similarly aimed studies round Europe.

Methods: Aimed research of patients of homeopathic surgeries in South Moravia by the questionnaire method. The research took place in four homeopathic surgeries or surgeries of lady doctors who deal with homeopathy. The patients were chosen at random. The questionnaire was filled in by 83 respondents out of whom 81 were interpreted. The acquired array underwent frequency analysis, dependence analysis between qualitative signs and interval of reliability calculation.

Results: From the analysis it emerges that at 52 % of patients the reason for applying homeopathy is their own decision while at 42 % it is dissatisfaction with results reached by standard medicine cure. Mr. Machotka found out similar results.

In both studies respondents were satisfied with homeopathic treatment results in about 90 %.

Less than 1 year homeopathy has been used by 27 % of respondents. 66 % of the questioned said that also their children, parents and partners applied homeopathy.

Characterization of respondents: At about 80 % homeopathy is used by women more than men, respondents are mostly secondary or university graduates and work mainly as non-medical personnel (about 70 %). 48 % of respondents use homeopathics as self-treatment at the beginning of illness. 26 % combines homeopathics with aopathics from the very beginning of the treatment. This answer was less frequent in Mr.Machotka's research work.

For 51 % of respondents expenses on homeopathy are higher than on standard medicine cure. For the same percentage the treatment duration by homeopathics and aopathics was the same. For 53 % the recovery time was shorter. In these questions the answers of respondents were the same in both diploma works being compared.

Conclusions: The analysis has showed some interesting facts about motivation to treat and self-treat with homeopathics, characterization of respondents and about connections among answers to some questions. Because of the limited use of methodology, meanwhile, I consider my results and their interpretation as only illustrative. I suggest that the research of this topic continues.