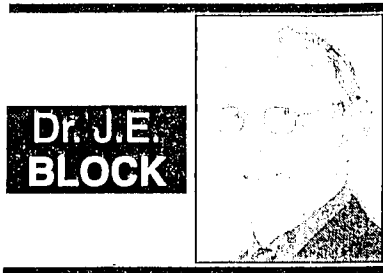


— All Things Medical —



Homeopathy

Homeopathic remedies consist of infinitesimal doses of an herb, mineral or animal product and are prepared using a technique called succussion. They usually come in the form of tiny sugar pills, liquid drops, syrups, or ointments that are diluted to various strengths and potencies. The most common potencies, available in pharmacies and natural food stores, are 6, 12, or 30, in c or x potencies. C potencies contain one part of the medicine diluted to 99 parts of water or alcohol; x strength indicates one part of the medicine diluted to 9 parts of the water or alcohol (the remedies are then further diluted 6, 12, 30 or even 1,000 times, depending upon the potency).

Another aspect of homeopathic remedies that challenges the Western scientific view is that the more extreme the dilution, the higher the potency. Potencies above 30c are

usually only dispensed by homeopathic practitioners. Remedies are usually taken for no more than two or three days though some patients require only one or two doses before they start to feel better.

Currently, Connecticut and Arizona both grant M.D.s and D.O.s homeopathic licensure, and in Nevada, following state certification, homeopaths may practice as assistants to medical doctors. In most other states, homeopathy is practiced as a medical specialty by conventional medical practitioners. Some states have, as yet, no formal regulations. In Kansas, there have been bills proposed, but never passed. In Oklahoma, there is a bill being brought forward and will have passage in the near future according to Dr. Neil Perry of Lawton, Okla., who is the dean of the local college. The National Center for Homeopathy (NCH) in Alexandria, Va., provides training to physicians and others who are interested in this therapeutic modality. In England, these are more formal courses, given only to M.D.s for special training. Homeopathic remedies are regulated by the FDA and are prepared according to the Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia of the United States.