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## Know The Facts?

**Homeopathy has been available on the NHS since 1948  
So why don't you know about homeopathic medicine?**

Did you know that.....

- ◆ Celebrities such as Paul McCartney, David Beckham, Roger Daltrey, Jennifer Aniston, Nadia Sawalha, Jade Jagger, Annabel Croft, Cindy Crawford, Twiggy, Caprice, Jude Law, Meera Sayal as well as Prince Charles and The Queen are all users of homeopathy.
- ◆ Homeopathic medicines are not tested on animals, but on healthy human volunteers.
- ◆ Homeopathy takes a holistic approach, seeking to treat the whole person and patients receive unique treatment and individualised prescriptions.
- ◆ Up to date research evidence shows that of the 134 randomised controlled trials (RCTs) of homeopathy published in peer-reviewed journals, 59 are positive (that is, demonstrating that homeopathy has an effect beyond placebo), eight trials are negative, and the remaining 67 are inconclusive. This is despite the fact that researchers in the field suggest RCTs are not the best research tool to test homeopathy or any other individualised treatment. New research models are being developed to better reflect homeopathic clinical practice.
- ◆ In 2005 the largest service evaluation of homeopathic treatment reported that 70 per cent of 6,500 follow-up patients experienced improvement in their health. Eczema, asthma, migraine, irritable bowel syndrome, arthritis, depression and chronic fatigue improved.
- ◆ Dr David Reilly and his team at Glasgow University have conducted four double blind placebo controlled trials, carried out over a period of 18 years, specifically designed to examine the evidence for the hypothesis that any benefits of homeopathy are due to the placebo effect. All four trials involving a total of 252 patients have produced similar, positive results demonstrating that homeopathy has an effect greater than placebo.

### More interesting facts...

- ◆ Homeopathy is the most frequently used complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) therapy in five out of 16 surveyed countries in Europe and among the three most frequently used in 11 out of the 16 surveyed countries.
- ◆ In India, alternative treatments, including homeopathy, are well established and integrated into the healthcare system, with 94 per cent of people saying they have faith in alternative remedies and 62 per cent trusting homeopathy.
- ◆ Modern homeopathy was created 200 years ago by a German chemist and medical doctor, Samuel Hahnemann, and the roots of homeopathy go back to Hippocrates.
- ◆ There are 4 NHS funded homeopathic hospitals in the UK (Bristol, Glasgow, Liverpool and London). The largest, the Royal London Homeopathic Hospital successfully treats around 2,000 patients per week.
- ◆ In 2005, a report commissioned by Prince Charles and carried out by economist Christopher Smallwood found that following a pilot study where patients were treated with complementary medicines there was a 30 per cent drop in the number of consultations with GPs and a saving in prescription bills of 50 per cent.
- ◆ In a 2009 survey conducted by One Poll, 78 per cent said they would like to access both conventional and complementary treatment on the NHS.

### Professional Homeopaths...

- ◆ Homeopaths come from all walks of life and in the main have re-trained after learning about the benefits of homeopathy following an illness suffered by themselves or close family members.
- ◆ The Society of Homeopaths is the largest organisation representing professional homeopaths in the UK and its register includes members who were previously nurses, bankers, accountants, lawyers, pharmacists, chemists, teachers and bankers.

For reference details please see The Society of Homeopaths website page:  
<http://www.homeopathy-soh.org/whats-new/fact.aspx>