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SECTIONS

EDITORIAL

Special Dossier: "Scientific Evidence for Homeopathy".....93

GUIDELINES IN FOCUS

Asthma and occupation: Diagnosis using serial peak flow measurements.....95

POINT OF VIEW

The ORBITA trial: A point of view.....100

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Heat-not-burn and electronic cigarettes: Truths and untruths about harm reduction.....104

UPDATE ARTICLE

Yellow fever.....106

ARTICLES

ORIGINAL ARTICLES

Use of illicit drugs by adolescents and young adults of an urban settlement in Brazil.....114

Individualized threshold for tumor segmentation in ¹⁸F-FDG PET/CT imaging: The key for response evaluation of neoadjuvant chemoradiation therapy in patients with rectal cancer?.....119

Combination of topical agents and oxybutynin as a therapeutic modality for patients with both osmidrosis and hyperhidrosis.....127

Associations among body composition, inflammatory profile and disease extent in ulcerative colitis patients.....133

Impact of written information on control and adherence in type 2 diabetes.....140

Assessing cardiovascular risk in ATM heterozygotes.....148

Assessment of the prevalence of vertical hepatitis B transmission in two consecutive generations.....154

Subcutaneous emphysema, a different way to diagnose.....159

Maternal attachment and breastfeeding behaviors according to type of delivery in the immediate postpartum period.....164

Comparative study of computed tomography (CT) and pathological diagnosis toward mediastinal lymph node metastasis in esophageal carcinoma.....170

Postoperative local incision analgesia for acute pain treatment in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma.....175

Assessment of the prescription of red blood cell concentrates in the pediatric age group.....181

REVIEW ARTICLES

Nonalcoholic steatohepatitis in posttransplantation liver: Review article.....187

Pseudomyxoma peritonei in a pediatric patient: A case report and literature review.....195

Special Dossier: “Scientific Evidence for Homeopathy”

DOSSIÊ ESPECIAL: “EVIDÊNCIAS CIENTÍFICAS EM HOMEOPATIA”

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In July 2017, to demystify the fallacy – or post-truth – asserting “there are no scientific evidence for homeopathy”, the Technical Chamber for Homeopathy, Regional Medical Council of the State of São Paulo (Cremesp, Brazil) published the Dossiê Especial: “Evidências Científicas em Homeopatia”,¹ available online and in printed editions of the scientific journal of the São Paulo Homeopathic Medical Association (APH), *Revista de Homeopatia*.^{2,3}

After this publication, in view of the request of homeopathic physicians and institutions from other countries, the Technical Chamber for Homeopathy (TC-Homeopathy, Cremesp) produced an English edition of the dossier (Special Dossier: “Scientific Evidence for Homeopathy”), which is also available online at the *Revista de Homeopatia* webpage.⁴

Encompassing nine reviews on several lines of homeopathic research (and two randomized clinical trials developed by members of the TC-Homeopathy), containing hundreds of scientific articles published in various journals, this dossier highlights, to the scientific and medical class, as well as to the general public, the state of the art of homeopathic research.

CONTENT OF THE PORTUGUESE EDITION

<http://aph.org.br/revista/index.php/aph/issue/view/41/showToc>

- “Editorial: Aos que clamam pelas evidências científicas em homeopatia” (<http://aph.org.br/revista/index.php/aph/article/view/402>).
- “Homeopatia: um breve panorama desta especialidade médica” (<http://aph.org.br/revista/index.php/aph/article/view/393>).

- “Panorama mundial da educação médica em terapêuticas não convencionais” (<http://aph.org.br/revista/index.php/aph/article/view/392>).
- “Fundamentação científica do princípio de cura homeopático na farmacologia moderna” (<http://aph.org.br/revista/index.php/aph/article/view/391>).
- “A solidez da pesquisa básica em homeopatia” (<http://aph.org.br/revista/index.php/aph/article/view/394>).
- “Efeito de ultradiluições homeopáticas em modelos *in vitro*: revisão da literatura” (<http://aph.org.br/revista/index.php/aph/article/view/396>).
- “Efeito de ultradiluições homeopáticas em plantas: revisão da literatura” (<http://aph.org.br/revista/index.php/aph/article/view/386>).
- “Pesquisa clínica em homeopatia: revisões sistemáticas e ensaios clínicos randomizados controlados” (<http://aph.org.br/revista/index.php/aph/article/view/397>).
- “Estrogênio potencializado no tratamento homeopático da dor pélvica associada à endometriose: Um estudo de 24 semanas, randomizado, duplo-cego e placebo-controlado” (<http://aph.org.br/revista/index.php/aph/article/view/390>).
- “Estudo clínico, duplo-cego, randomizado, em crianças com amigdalites recorrentes submetidas a tratamento homeopático” (<http://aph.org.br/revista/index.php/aph/article/view/398>).
- “O medicamento homeopático provoca efeitos adversos ou agravações medicamento-dependentes?” (<http://aph.org.br/revista/index.php/aph/article/view/401>).
- “O medicamento homeopático provoca sintomas em voluntários aparentemente saudáveis? A contribuição

brasileira ao debate sobre os ensaios patogenéticos homeopáticos” (<http://aph.org.br/revista/index.php/aph/article/view/404>).

CONTENT OF THE ENGLISH EDITION

<http://aph.org.br/revista/index.php/aph/issue/view/42/showToc>

- “Editorial: To those who demand scientific evidence for homeopathy” (<https://aph.org.br/revista/index.php/aph/article/view/405>).
- “Homeopathy: a brief description of this medical specialty” (<http://aph.org.br/revista/index.php/aph/article/view/406>).
- “Medical education in non-conventional therapeutics in the world (homeopathy and acupuncture)” (<http://aph.org.br/revista/index.php/aph/article/view/407>).
- “Scientific basis of the homeopathic healing principle in modern pharmacology” (<http://aph.org.br/revista/index.php/aph/article/view/408>).
- “The soundness of homeopathic fundamental research” (<http://aph.org.br/revista/index.php/aph/article/view/409>).
- “Effects of homeopathic high dilutions on *in vitro* models: literature review” (<http://aph.org.br/revista/index.php/aph/article/view/410>).
- “Effects of homeopathic high dilutions on plants: literature review” (<http://aph.org.br/revista/index.php/aph/article/view/411>).
- “Clinical research in homeopathy: systematic reviews and randomized clinical trials” (<http://aph.org.br/revista/index.php/aph/article/view/412>).
- “Potentized estrogen in homeopathic treatment of endometriosis-associated pelvic pain: A 24-week, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study” (<http://aph.org.br/revista/index.php/aph/article/view/414>).
- “Randomized, double-blind trial on the efficacy of homeopathic treatment in children with recurrent tonsillitis” (<http://aph.org.br/revista/index.php/aph/article/view/413>).
- “Do homeopathic medicines cause drug-dependent adverse effects or aggravations?” (<http://aph.org.br/revista/index.php/aph/article/view/416>).
- “Do homeopathic medicines induce symptoms in apparently healthy volunteers? The Brazilian

contribution to the debate on homeopathic pathogenetic trials” (<http://aph.org.br/revista/index.php/aph/article/view/417>).

Despite the ongoing difficulties and limitations opposing the development of research in homeopathy – partly due to methodological aspects, and partly to lack of institutional and financial support –, the experimental and clinical studies described in this dossier, which ground the homeopathic assumptions and confirm the efficacy and safety of this approach to therapeutics, provide unquestionable proof for the availability of scientific evidence for homeopathy, against the false and prejudiced opinion that is widely divulged.

With the publishing of the present dossier, prepared with the support of Technical Chamber for Homeopathy, Cremesp, we hope to dispel doubts and sensitize our colleagues as to the validity and relevance of homeopathy as adjuvant treatment complementary to all other medical specialties according to ethical and safe principles. Our overall goals are to broaden the understanding of human disease, increase the therapeutic resources, contribute to the definition and effectiveness of medicine in chronic diseases, minimize the adverse effects of modern drugs and strengthen the patient-doctor relationship, among other aspects. In this way, we will be able to work together, since “The physician’s high and only mission is to restore the sick to health, to cure, as it is termed” (Samuel Hahnemann, *Organon of medicine*, § 1).

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