

Material and methods: The study was performed during 2010 and 2011 throughout an online questionnaire applied on a sample of 3,344 people over 18 years old coming from all of the Spanish Regions.

Results: Homeopathy has shown to be a more and more demanded therapeutic alternative; thus, one out of three Spanish people (33%) have already used it to relieve or treat several health problems, and 27% use it on an occasional or regular basis. Navarra, Aragón, Cataluña, Murcia and País Vasco stand out as the Autonomies with a higher percentage of occasional and regular users. According to the collected data, the word Homeopathy is recognized by almost all the sample and 75% of it spontaneously identify the homeopathic treatments as a natural medical therapy. Women stand out for a better knowledge on this therapy than men, and the main female users of Homeopathy are between 30 and 50 year old. The lack of adverse events and effectiveness are the main reasons for the Spanish users to start using homeopathic medicines. Flu, cold, cough, sore throat (52%), bronchitis and ear infection (12%) are the most frequently homeopathy treated pathologies.

Conclusions: Eight out of ten (82%) people using homeopathy are satisfied or very satisfied with the outcome of their treatments, and this figure grows up to 99% in regular patients. In addition, if we take into account that 87% of the users would recommend it to relatives and friends, future can't be any brighter.

Keywords: Homeopathy; Healthcare survey; Demography; Patient satisfaction; Spain/epidemiology

Effects of homeopathic treatments on the cellular metabolism of wheat: validation of microarrays data by quantitative real-time PCR (qPCR)

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Plant-based models appear to be an useful approach for basic research in homeopathy in order to fill gaps concerning theoretical models and scientific basis. Such models make it possible to overcome some of the inconveniences of clinical trials for instance placebo effect, ethical issues, duration and high costs; moreover they constitute a vast and cheap source of biological material, essential to perform a large number of experimental repetition.

The main objective of the research was to give novel insights on the not yet clarified mode of action of homeopathic treatments and to provide reliable information on their efficacy.

The plant-based model considered was the "wheat growth model". A total of 560 common wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) seeds were used to carry out the study; part of the seeds were stressed with As₂O₃ 0.1% to reduce germination and amplify the effect of homeopathic treatment. The seeds were been equally subdivided into four experimental groups: control (non-stressed seeds grown in distilled water); treated control (non-stressed seeds grown in As₂O₃ 45x); poisoned (stressed seeds grown in distilled water); poisoned-treated (stressed seeds grown in As₂O₃ 45x). After 7 days of incubation seedlings were collected for molecular analysis. Total RNA isolated from seedling samples were used for microarray analysis in order to study changes in gene expression over different treatments. Subsequently, statistical and bioinformatic analyses were performed to classify genes in "induced" or "repressed" and to assign them a supposed function. Comparative analyses highlighted the particular effect of As₂O₃ 45x in stressed seeds. Real time PCR was performed to validate gene expression profiles: data obtained with microarray and real time PCR were found to be well correlated.

This research provided novel insights on the mode of action of homeopathic potencies and constitute an important breakthrough in the study of the molecular responses triggered in wheat by ultra-high diluted treatments.

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Sensitivity and likelihood ratio of symptoms in patients with good therapeutic response to Lycopodium, compared to patients with good response to treatment with other homeopathic medicines. Retrospective study

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Background and aims: Availability of reliable guiding symptoms in order to accurately prescribe homeopathic medicines is a matter of critical importance. Recent published work has highlighted the likelihood ratio (LR) of