

Repertorising the Case

Once you have 'taken the case' it's now time to review the data and decide what of it you are going to use to select the remedy. Once you have made your selection it's time to turn to your Repertory and calculate the value of medicines under consideration for repertorisation.

We should remember that the Repertory is the tool that tapers our choice of medicines, but nowhere does it actually point towards the remedy, it is the Materia Medica that helps differentiate the remedies.

Repertories are organised systematically and under each rubric the remedies are graded as either **Bold** type, *Italic* type or Plain type. The highest grade is Bold, or some repertories have an even higher grade, Bold underlined. The most attention and credence is given to the remedies that appear in bold type. These are characteristic symptoms of the remedy.

According to Miranda Castro;

1. Choose your symptoms – underline the symptoms that stand out clearly and strongly. The more vague or unclear symptoms may come in handy later when differentiating between remedies. Choose at least 3 strong symptoms; one general symptom, one mental or emotional symptom and one physical symptom. If you can add in a stress symptom, the effect of the ailment on the mental or emotional level, even better.

Organise the prescribing symptoms into a hierarchy of symptoms and describe the prescribing symptoms in the language of the repertory being careful not to change the meaning, the most common way to lose the remedy is to incorrectly interpret the data or through insufficient data.

2. Repertorise – List the chosen symptoms on a separate piece of paper then look each one up in the repertory and list the remedies that occur under each symptom, including their grade. When you have finished you will be able to see the remedies that appear most often and contain all of the symptoms on your list.

3. Differentiate – Sometimes only one remedy will contain all the symptoms however this is rare, it's more likely that you will now have several remedies to consider. To differentiate between them refer to the Materia Medica, looking for the one remedy where the essence of the case runs right through the remedy picture.

If you can't find a remedy that matches then go back to your repertorising lists and see if you have missed a remedy, the next step is to go back to the case notes and see if there is a symptom you have missed including in your repertorising or some information that you either haven't gathered or is too general and needs further definition to look at a smaller sub rubric. e.g. Headaches, there are dozens of remedies; it is the detail such as hammering in the left temple that will guide you to the correct remedy. Think back to your impressions as well; how the person is walking, sitting, talking etc as the differentiating clue may be here.

Definition

Rubric: the heading in a homoeopathic repertory that labels the symptom and the medicines that induce that symptom. In addition to symptoms, syndromes and their constituent parts are also included.

Repertories

There are several excellent repertories available most notably Kent, Murphy and Phatak. There is also a repertory in the back of Boericke and your home prescribing books can act as a repertory; when you go to the ailment the most common remedies are usually listed with their differentiating symptoms.