



Isopathy

According to Ian Watson this term derives from the Greek *isos* meaning 'equal'. In Homoeopathic terminology, Isopathy is usually taken to mean prescribing a remedy made from the supposed causative agents or products of a disease, to a patient suffering that same disease. Thus for instance a patient with tuberculosis might be given *Bacillinum*, prepared from the sputum of another TB sufferer. (GMH p.27)

Many patients are hypersensitive or allergic to certain substances or agents, and often these conditions are curable by traditional homoeopathic methods. On occasion however, a patient will respond generally to homoeopathic treatment but a specific allergy will remain uncured which may be problematic. In these cases Isopathy can be a useful adjunct. Again from this use, I could only otherwise recommend Isopathy when all else has failed. (GMH pp.27/28)

Although the use of Isopathy is not technically considered homoeopathic, many well-respected homeopaths use various aspects of this form of prescribing, usually as an intercurrent remedy during treatment. Isopathic remedies are prepared in accordance with homoeopathic principles and fall into two categories Sarcodes and Nosodes.

Sarcodes: Sarcodes are preparations from the secretions of healthy organisms, healthy animal tissues and secretions. Many of the sarcodes in common use have not been 'proved' and are therefore usually prescribed based on their clinical pictures. Sarcodes are usually used in low potency to either stimulate, normalise or inhibit the activity of the tissue, cell type or hormone from which they were derived. The intention is to improve activity without overtaxing the organs.

Nosodes: Nosodes are remedies such as Tuberculinum and Medorrhinum made from the substance involved in the cause of a disease, or products of the disease. The word nosode means "from disease". Over the last 200 years, nosodes have been made from bacteria, viruses, fungi, parasites and all manner of infectious agents as well as the tissues and body fluids affected by them. Nosodes are also manufactured from commercially produced vaccines, such as Polio vaccines and the Triple Antigen vaccine, and have also been made from things such as arthritic joints.

The nosodes used in homoeopathy may be considered a type of Isopathy. The nosodes, which are studied as miasmatic conditions, also come from diseased matter and are given in the very minimal dose. Many homeopaths suggest giving in ultra high potency. The difference between nosode and Isopathy is that the nosode remedy does not come from the individual to whom it is given. In this way, it conforms to the 'similar' principle. Thus, it is not 'exactly' from the individual's own tissue or cells, but comes from someone who had a similar illness.

Next month we will explore some **Well Child remedies**.