Improving homeopathic prescribing by applying epidemiological techniques: the role of likelihood ratio.

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Abstract

A committee of the Dutch Association of Homeopathic Physicians is trying to validate materia medica by evaluating successful cases. These
cases are presented and assessed by a group of experienced homeopathic physicians to provide indications about the prevalence of symptoms related to particular homeopathic medicines. The next logical question is whether epidemiological techniques can be applied to them. We have some ideas concerning the information these data can provide, based on epidemiological theory and limited experimental data. Theoretical investigation suggests that the epidemiological concept of likelihood ratio is well adapted to homeopathy. Researching and applying likelihood ratio will lead to more accurate materia medica and repertory. These considerations already indicate some shortcomings in the representation of rare remedies and the use of grading in the current repertories.

Keywords

likelihood ratio - homeopathy - epidemiology - materia medica - repertory.