

Who Uses Homeopathy?

Information from the Society of Homeopaths website: www.homeopathy-soh.org

Celebrities: Paul McCartney, David Beckham, Twiggy, Caprice, Susan Hampshire, Tina Turner, Louise Jameson, Gaby Roslin, Jude Law, Sadie Frost, Nadia Sawalha, Jennifer Aniston, Jade Jagger, Roger Daltry, Annabel Croft and Meera Syal, as well as The Queen and Prince Charles, are all reported to be users of homeopathy.

Survey: Homeopathy is the most frequently used CAM (Complementary and Alternative Medicine) therapy in five out of 16 surveyed countries in Europe and among the three most frequently used in 11 out of 16 surveyed countriesⁱ.

India: In India, alternative treatments, including homeopathy, are well established and integrated into the healthcare systemⁱⁱ.

MPs: Many MPs support homeopathy. In 2007, 206 MPs signed an Early Day Motion welcoming the contribution of homeopathy to NHS healthcare.

Lords: In 2000, a House of Lords Select Committee report on Complementary and Alternative Medicine listed homeopathy as a “group one” therapy, along with osteopathy, chiropractic, acupuncture and herbal medicine. Group one therapies are recognised as having their own diagnostic approach and treatment methodsⁱⁱⁱ.

Placebo: Dr David Reilly and his team at Glasgow University have conducted four randomised double blind placebo controlled trials, over a period of 18 years, specifically designed to examine the evidence for the hypothesis that any benefits of homeopathy are due to the placebo effect. All four trials involving a total of 252 patients produced similar, positive results demonstrating that homeopathy has an effect greater than placebo and that these results are reproducible^{iv}.

Cost effectiveness: In 2005, a report commissioned by Prince Charles and carried out by economist Christopher Smallwood found that following a pilot study where patients were treated with complementary and alternative medicines there was a 30 per cent drop in the number of consultations with GPs and a saving in prescription drugs bills of 50 per cent^v. Healthcare Insurance providers, such as Simply Health will contribute 75% of the cost of homeopathic consultations for people with healthcare cash back plans – see www.simplyhealth.co.uk for more information.

Homeopaths: Professional homeopaths come from all walks of life; The Society of Homeopaths register includes members who were previously accountants, lawyers, journalists, teachers, pharmacists, nurses, bankers and chemists.

ⁱ Alternativ Medisin. Norges offentlige utredninger (NOU) 1998: 21. (Alternative Medicine. Norway’s government publications. Report published by the Norwegian Department of Health)

ⁱⁱ Global TGI Barometer, January 2008; Issue 33.

ⁱⁱⁱ House of Lords Select Committee. Complementary & Alternative Medicine, 2000.

^{iv} Reilly D. The Evidence For Homeopathy. Article version 5.5, January 2003

^v Smallwood, C. The Role of Complementary and Alternative Medicine in the NHS. Research commissioned by HRH Prince of Wales. FreshMinds, October 2005, p.56