

4homeopathy

Press release

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Critical report on homeopathy called into question

A new website has been launched that questions the conclusions of the House of Commons Science and Technology (S&T) committee's "evidence check" report on homeopathy. For journalists and public alike www.homeopathyevidencecheck.org offers an opportunity to fully understand the nature of this controversial report and to reach a more balanced conclusion.

Published in 2010, the S&T committee's report was heavily critical of homeopathy and recommended the government end NHS funding of all homeopathic treatments and for the MHRA (Medicines and Health products Regulatory Authority) to stop licensing homeopathic products. These recommendations were rejected by the government. However, despite only three members of the S&T committee actually voting for the report, opponents of homeopathy continue to use its conclusions to attack the complementary therapy both here in the UK and abroad.

While the new website doesn't shy away from the report's findings, even providing a link so that visitors can read it in full, it also offers the criticism that the report engendered from within parliament which, viewed objectively, seriously damages the report's credibility. Many of these concerns were expressed at the time in a parliamentary Early Day Motion signed by 70 MPs. These included:

- The committee took oral evidence only from a limited number of witnesses, including known critics of homeopathy
- No evidence was heard from Primary Care Trusts that commission homeopathy or from doctors who use it in a primary care setting
- The committee failed to seek evidence from medical practitioners from countries such as France and Germany, where homeopathy is used more widely than in the UK
- 74 randomised controlled trials comparing homeopathy with placebo, of which 63 showed homeopathic treatments were effective, were ignored

As well as a link to the Early Day Motion, further links are provided to the responses to the report from Earl Baldwin of Bewdley, respected charities, patient groups and registering bodies for homeopathic practitioners.

Parliamentary committees carry out valuable work investigating important issues in order to advise government on future policy. However, they are not infallible and can be split down party lines, or even influenced by those on the committee with prejudiced views on a subject from the outset. With the launch of the new website anyone with a genuine interest in the homeopathy debate – and a belief in balanced argument – has a valuable resource from which they can garner all the facts about the S&T's committee's contentious report before forming an opinion. Visit www.homeopathyevidencecheck.org