

Homeopathic Medicine For Epidemics

Homeopathic medicine is the main wholistic medicine available today. **Whatever the condition**, the homeopath approaches the care and treatment in the same way. That is by taking into account the symptoms of each patient. In acute epidemic situations such as the SARS outbreak, the approach taken by all homeopaths around the world is to take into account the site of illness, in this case the lungs, the severity and suddenness of the illness and the pace of it, as well as the existence of a fever. There may be some commonality from individual to individual such as the fever but in general there will be a range of remedies each with slightly different illness characteristics.

The beauty of homeopathy for the treatment of these kinds of illnesses is that it **doesn't need to target the germ, the virus or the bacteria directly**. Nor does it need to develop some new medicine or remedy according to each new disease. This is because it is symptom - based, not "offender" based. Homeopathy is at its best in treating epidemic illnesses and has done so admirably over the last 200 years of European history. In the case of the SARS outbreak, remedies known to treat acute and sudden respiratory insults with a fever in the picture and with pneumonia-like congestion will be chosen.

The task of the homeopath in acute as well as chronic illness is to identify the picture of the case by using symptoms, choose the remedy which has been known clinically to treat that group of symptoms (not that name of disease) and to identify the closest picture of symptoms covered by a particular remedy. **In homeopathy, there**

is no one medicine for any illness. In addition, age and vitality is a factor. The very weak elderly will be treated differently in the sense of dosage and potency chosen than a younger more vital individual. Then it is advisable that when the patient is recovered, a more chronic case-taking is necessary to treat the basic constitution so that the body is not as susceptible to such acute illnesses. Whenever a patient is treated successfully by a homeopath, the immune system is re-energized, the physical problems diminish greatly, the general mental and emotional state is vastly improved and therefore the outlook on life is much better. Moreover, the body is more able to fight off the illnesses to which we are prone.

Knowledge of the patient's family history, past illnesses and operations and health conditions are needed to complete the picture. The joy felt by the homeopath and the patient when they report that they are so much improved, is the ultimate reward and the reason we as homeopaths continue our dedication to this form of treatment.