

LETTERS

ADVICE ON HOMOEOPATHIC PRODUCTS

What about the evidence base for homoeopathy?

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Bewley and colleagues attack the UK Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency for advertising for new members for its Advisory Board on Registration of Homeopathic Products and imply that anyone who practises or researches homoeopathy

is a quack or pseudoscientist.¹ This is based on their unreferenced claim: "Homeopathy has definitively and repeatedly been proved to work no better than placebo or nocebo."¹

This claim is not based on evidence. On the contrary, evidence from meta-analyses and systematic reviews consistently shows that homoeopathy is effective in certain conditions, such as seasonal allergic rhinitis and upper respiratory tract infections.²⁻⁵ Another systematic review reports that several in vitro studies show effects attributable to very highly diluted substances.⁶

The evidence around homoeopathy is challenging. The medical and scientific community should at last rise to the challenge instead of sinking to unfounded ad hominem insults.

Competing interests: None declared.

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