

TOPICS IN MODERN HOMEOPATHY

HOMEOPATHIC MEDICINE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Mediral International Inc * toll free 877-633-4725 * 303-331-6161 * fax 303-355-4155 * www.mediral.com

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A PRIMER ON NOSODES & ISODES

There continues to be a fair degree of overlap in homeopathic vernacular concerning isodes and nosodes. In 'A Dictionary of Homeopathic Medical Terminology,' Jay Yasgur defines isode as an isopathic agent - a remedy prepared from secretions, excretions or diseased tissue taken from the ailing patient. For example, if a client has a wart or a boil, a remedy could be made from a tissue sample taken from the wart or boil, and administered back to the client as a form of 'auto-isopathic' therapy. Similarly, remedies are sometimes made from blood, plasma, urine or other substances unique to the client. A nosode, on the other hand, is a homeopathic remedy prepared from diseased tissue or a known disease causing organism or miasm, such as Staphylococcinum.

Isopathy is the use of *homeopathic* remedies made from the same material that actually causes a disease or condition. Allersodes are made from the same allergens that cause an allergic reaction; heavy metal poisoning is detoxified by homeopathic remedies made from the same metals; a client who has been on a drug (legal or otherwise) may use a homeopathic form of the same drug to detoxify his body; these are all forms of isopathy. While isopathy uses homeopathically prepared substances, it does not fall under the official rubric of homeopathy because it has not been proven on healthy subjects, and thus the full range of symptoms has not been identified.

A nosode, a term coined by Hering, is a *homeopathic* remedy made from pathogenic samples of disease-causing substances. The word 'Nosode' has its root in the Greek prefix 'Noso,' describing the idea of a disease having a morbid root (the Latin word 'Noxa' also conveys the idea of noxious or damaged). Thus the idea of using a noxious or morbid material in a remedy. For example, variolinum is a homeopathic preparation made from a sample taken from a smallpox eruption, and tuberculinum is a remedy prepared from a tubercular abscess. The important dictum to remember in using nosodes is that they only work when used on the totality of the symptoms.

Bowel nosodes are a good example of the difference between isodes and nosodes. Normal non-lactose fermenting bacteria, as part of the bacterial flora, are not normally disease causing (although they can and do become opportunistically pathogenic) and are thereby categorized as nosodes. Bowel nosodes are extensively proven and must be recommended on the totality of symptoms following strict homeopathic guidelines. If the totality of symptoms doesn't fit the nosode, it should not be used.

Conversely, if a stool sample is taken from a patient (with the accompanying milieu of bacterial soup, e. coli, etc),, made into a remedy and applied in accordance with isopathic principles, it may or

The difference between an isopathic substance and a homeopathic nosode is that the nosode has normally been proven on healthy volunteers so the symptom picture and therapeutic uses have wider application and are more completely understood.

may not be effective because the multiple 'nosodes' in the sample were not matched to the totality of the symptoms. Notice that a nosode can be an isode, but isodes are not proven on healthy individuals as required by homeopathic protocol.

Hahnemann himself was concerned about the potential blurring of lines between isopathy and homeopathy. David Little observes that many inexperienced practitioners try to combine elements of allopathic and homeopathic medicine as a 'short-cut,' ignoring the symptoms of a disorder and administering the disease-causing entity. Someone with strep throat, for example, doesn't always need a nosode of Streptococcinum, even though it may be the causative agent, and could complicate or delay correct treatment..

Of course, sometimes they do need Strep, which is part of the philosophy behind the inclusion of Streptococcinum in a combination remedy like Mediral's Sore Throat Med. Combination remedies allow for more flexibility in treatment.

Nosodes are sometimes used to detoxify the body (drainage), or even as a preventative (check your state and local regulations), although these uses do not fit the classical definition of homeopathy.

The bottom line is that an isode is a sample taken from a client, made into a homeopathic remedy and then administered back to the same client; a nosode is a homeopathic remedy made from a disease causing organism or tissue that has been well proven and has a specific set of symptoms to match.

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