

EFFECT OF SUBSTANCES IN HOMEOPATHIC DILUTIONS AND OF WEAK ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS IN VEGETABLE MODELS.

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The efficacy of homeopathy is still greatly debated (1-3) and, in spite of the several hypotheses that have been put forward (4-9), its mechanism of action has not been thoroughly explained yet and there is no commonly accepted theory. A similar situation occurs as to the biologic effects of low intensity and frequency electromagnetic fields. Such effects, depending in a complex way on the magnetic field intensity and frequency as well as on treatment duration (10), have been largely studied on man and animals and, in the last few years and to a lesser degree, on plants (11). Also in this case several hypotheses have been advanced to explain the interaction of such fields with the bio-object (12-14), but no irrefutable evidence has been given so far. In the light of the relatively recent quantum electro-dynamic physic paradigm, homeopathy and electromagnetism could be interpreted as the two sides of the same coin useful to meet, from both a theoretic and an experimental point of view, the demands of complex biological dynamics seeking their own specific recognizable identities. A better comprehension of the mechanism of action both of homeopathic medicines and of weak electromagnetic fields could be achieved thanks to *in vitro* and *in vivo* models in which the treatment/effect correlation is more direct, therefore easier to interpret (15). Among these, vegetable models offer several advantages, such as the absence of placebo effects and ethical problems, the use of cheap and almost inexhaustible biologic material, the possibility of carrying out a high number of trials in a reasonably short time and thus of having a wide-ranging data base for a statistic analysis in depth (16). The purposes of our research are: i) make an experimental contribution to the evaluation of the biologic effects of high homeopathic dilutions and of electro-magnetic treatment, by means of standard trials based on vegetable models; ii) identify a possible similarity between the biologic effects of homeopathic preparation and electromagnetic exposure.

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Titolo: Effetto di sostanze in diluizioni omeopatiche e di campi
elettromagnetici deboli in modelli vegetali
Oggetto:
Autore: LB
Parole chiave:
Commenti:
Data creazione: 15/11/2007 12.52
Numero revisione: 2
Data ultimo salvataggio: 15/11/2007 12.52
Autore ultimo salvataggio: SCUOLA MEDICINA OMEOPATICA
Tempo totale modifica 1 minuto
Data ultima stampa: 04/12/2007 18.05
Come da ultima stampa completa
Numero pagine: 1
Numero parole: 357 (circa)
Numero caratteri: 2.040 (circa)