

## **Inter-rater reliability in homeopathic repertorisation and remedy selection – a follow up study**

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### ***Background***

Repertorisation, i.e. the technique of finding a suitable homeopathic remedy, starts with observing a patient's symptoms. These symptoms are then compared with existing databases which were compiled by testing a remedy for its effects on healthy subjects (remedy proving). By matching the symptoms of their patient with the symptoms reported to have been provoked in healthy subjects, homeopaths are able to narrow down the number of candidate remedies a) to a few or, in the ideal case, b) to the one best fitting remedy (simillimum). In a study by Lothaller et al. 2009<sup>1</sup>, 8 homeopathy students in an early stage of training each studied 5 video-documented case-takings. A) In repertorisation, the first-ranking remedy was selected on average by 70% of the students, the second by 57%, 3: 45%, 4: 31%, 5: 28%, 6: 22%, 7: 22%, 8: 19%, 9: 15%, 10: 13% (selection of more than one remedy was permitted). B) When a single remedy for each of the 5 cases had to be selected, the first-ranking remedy was selected by 48%, 2: 35%, 3ff: 16% (only one remedy permitted).

### ***Objective***

To test whether different students of homeopathy performing a repertorisation and selecting a remedy for one and the same patient would come to analogous conclusions, and whether there are differences between homeopathy students at an early stage of training and advanced students.

### ***Methods***

In our study 2011/12, 20 video-documented case-takings were studied by 9 advanced students of homeopathy. Each student independently a) performed his or her own repertorisation to narrow down the number of candidate remedies and b) finally selected one single remedy. Frequencies were calculated, further statistical evaluation is in progress.

### ***Results***

A) In each of the 20 cases a list of highest-ranking remedies was generated from the students' repertorisations. The first-ranking remedy was selected on average by 97% of the students, the second by 77%, 3: 61%, 4: 48%, 5: 34%, 6: 23%, 7: 12%, 8: 4% .

B) When students were asked to select a single remedy for each of the 20 cases the first-ranking remedy was selected by 72%, 2: 19%, 3ff: 9%.

### ***Conclusion***

Different students of homeopathy performing a repertorisation and selecting a remedy for one and the same patient do, to a certain amount, come to analogous conclusions, but there are differences between homeopathy students at an early stage of training and advanced students. The experimental design presented here should be further investigated by experienced homeopaths.

### ***Reference***

1 Lothaller H., Endler P.C., Balzersen S., Hofmeister B., Pröller S., Schäfer A., Trütschl M., Uhl B. Inter-rater reliability in homeopathic repertorisation and remedy selection. EJIM 2009; 1: 245-246