

Introduction to Homotoxicology

Homotoxicology is a modern form of homeopathy. Homeopathy began with the theories of Samuel Hahnemann in Germany in the early 1800's. The fundamental theory was that "like cures like". For example, if a certain substance, such as Nux vomica, causes vomiting and diarrhea when taken in a large amount, then a minute dilution of that substance would stimulate an energetic response in the body to alleviate vomiting and diarrhea. These very small dilutions in distilled water, known as remedies, are thought to act on a subtle energetic level within the body with the most potent forms being the most dilute. This energetic and healing response is still not well-understood based on our current knowledge of biochemistry and physiology. However, homeopathy, like Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), is based on many years of observation and refinement. Homeopathy is widely used by holistic human and animal practitioners in the United States and Europe. A recent article in the Wall Street Journal (Friday March 10, 2006 p. B1) summarized new information about the energetic and structural properties of water which soon may lead to new and better understandings of this healing modality. Classical homeopathy relies on the single correct choice of the specific remedy to stimulate the correct healing response. Unfortunately, many of the prescribing guidelines utilize emotional symptoms which make this technique extremely difficult to apply effectively in animals.

In comparison, homotoxicology utilizes combinations of remedies to affect healing responses and the selection of remedies is based on the clinical picture of the animal and not on presumed, or ill-defined, emotional symptoms. In homotoxicology, diseases are considered to be ultimately caused by the failure to effectively eliminate toxins. Toxin exposure can result from bacterial or viral infections, chemical exposure, tissue trauma and damage, or merely by-products of normal cellular metabolism. (For example, cells throughout the body continually produce a toxin, carbon dioxide, that must be eliminated with every breath.) Disease results from the body's failed attempts to rid itself of toxins and allow healing. In this way, homotoxicology incorporates some of the concepts of TCM relating to stagnation and blockage of energy (detoxification) associated with disease.

Specific remedies are prescribed based on the patient's history and the doctor's physical examination and evaluation of the patient. Homotoxicology can be used in conjunction with other modalities such as diet and supplemental nutritional support, spinal adjustments, acupuncture, and possibly conventional medicines.