

ECCH policy for the fight against development of resistant micro-organisms

An ECCH Policy

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Introduction

This policy has been produced by the European Council for Classical Homeopathy (ECCH), which represents the interests of professional homeopaths across Europe. ECCH works to ensure that patients across Europe have access to homeopathic treatment of a uniformly high standard.

The aim of this document is to present ECCH's policy within the area of antimicrobial resistance. It is a fact that antimicrobial resistance has become a public health problem worldwide. A significant majority of patients consulting homeopaths suffer from recurring infectious diseases that are often treated repeatedly with anti-biotics, thus contributing to the problem of the growth of anti-biotic resistant micro-organisms. Studies on homeopathic treatment of patients suffering from these diseases indicate positive results.

Reference: Viksveen P. Antibiotics and the development of resistant microorganisms. Can homeopathy be an alternative? Homeopathy (2003) 92, 99-107. Note! The article contains a number of references to homeopathy research on infectious diseases.

In the fight against development of resistant micro-organisms ECCH recommends that:

1. Use of antibiotics and other anti-microbial medicines are restricted:
 - A. Healthcare authorities should urge medical doctors and dentists to follow a restrictive antibiotics policy
 - B. Medical doctors and dentists should follow a restrictive antibiotics policy
 - C. Pharmacies should only dispense antibiotics when prescribed by a medical doctor or dentist
 - D. Patients should never use antibiotics unless prescribed by a medical doctor or dentist
2. Dissemination of information is improved:
 - A. Health care authorities, healthcare practitioners and pharmacists should improve patient information and recommend alternatives to antibiotics when possible
3. Use of antibiotics in the farming industry is reduced:
 - A. Use of antibiotics with no veterinary indication should be brought to an end
 - B. Use of antibiotics to treat sick animals should be reduced to a minimum
4. Alternatives are considered:
 - A. National and European healthcare authorities should search for other treatment options to replace antibiotics and other antimicrobial medicines in humans and animals
 - B. Homeopathy should be considered as a first choice therapy in the treatment of certain infectious diseases in humans and animals
5. Funding by National and European authorities is provided to:
 - A. Establish programmes to collect data on the treatment of infectious diseases, in particular recurring infectious diseases, by practitioners using non-conventional medicine and veterinarians using non-conventional medicine in animals
 - B. Establish research programmes to evaluate the possible benefit of homeopathic treatment, its cost-effectiveness, and safety in human patients and livestock farming, in particular in the treatment of recurring infectious diseases
6. Homeopaths are invited to participate in networks:
 - A. Organisations representing the homeopathy profession, doctors practising homeopathy and veterinarians using homeopathy should be invited to nominate representatives to participate in official committees to discuss and plan strategies to combat antimicrobial resistance