

# Survey 2001

*An observational study of patients receiving homeopathic treatment*



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Homeopathische Nationale Beroepsvereniging  
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***PROVIDERS OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND RESEARCH***

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# 1. Summary

# 1. Summary

- 1.1 This is an observational study of 782 unselected patients receiving homeopathic treatment in Belgium from 80 general practitioners.
- 1.2 The patients suffered from a wide range of conditions affecting most organ systems. More than three quarters (78%) of those who gave ratings of their physical state prior to homeopathic treatment complained of symptoms of sufficient severity to interfere with their daily life; 15% were unable to pursue their occupation or education. Similar proportions also complained of psychological symptoms.
- 1.3 A separate study (see Appendix II) showed that there were no significant differences between the homeopathic and conventional GPs in their use of medical imaging or laboratory tests, suggesting that the patient groups being treated were not too dissimilar.
- 1.4 Following homeopathic treatment there were significant reductions in consultations with other specialists and generalists, and in the cost of treatment.
- 1.5 The largest cost savings were made by patients with the worst ratings of their physical condition prior to seeking homeopathic treatment.
- 1.6 Homeopathic consultations were significantly longer than their previous general medical consultations had been (37 minutes vs. 15 minutes). Short consultation times were a factor affecting dissatisfaction with previous treatment.
- 1.7 While 333 different remedies were prescribed, just 21 of these accounted for half of all prescriptions. More than half (59%) were prescribed only once. A third (34%) of patients received more than one remedy. A majority of doctors (68%) based their prescribing on the totality of the patients' symptoms. There were significant differences between remedies in the outcomes reported by patients for both physical and psychological symptoms, although the meaning of this finding is not clear.
- 1.8 The physicians were able to discontinue one or more conventional drug treatments in over half (52%) of the patients. The top three were CNS (including psychotropic) drugs (21%), drugs for respiratory conditions (16%) and antibiotics (16%).
- 1.9 The cost of conventional drugs prescribed by 47 of the homeopathic GPs was compared with the national picture for Belgium. On average, the homeopaths prescribed only one third the number of conventional drugs compared to their conventional general practitioner colleagues. This figure was lowest for antibiotics, which were prescribed only one fifth as often. If all GPs in Belgium showed the same prescribing profile as the homeopaths, the national drug bill would theoretically be reduced by about two thirds, or about €775,000,000.
- 1.10 Conventional drugs were prescribed to about a quarter of patients (27%), the bulk of these being antibiotics and cardiovascular medication. The antibiotics were almost exclusively (95%) used to treat respiratory infections.
- 1.11 Patients' satisfaction ratings with their homeopathic treatment were extremely high (95% fairly or very satisfied), while their ratings of their previous treatment was much lower (20%). It is possible that many had sought homeopathic treatment because of their dissatisfaction with conventional treatment.
- 1.12 The great majority (89%) said that homeopathy had improved their physical condition; 8.5% said that it had made no difference and only 2.4% that homeopathy had worsened their condition. This contrasts with their previous conventional treatment, which had improved 13% of patients, made no difference to 32%, and had worsened the condition of over half (55%).
- 1.13 A similar picture was seen in ratings of the efficacy of prior and homeopathic treatments on psychological symptoms.
- 1.14 Future studies can be improved by a better questionnaire design which allows clearer discrimination of time frames. Questions about previous treatments were answered by patients who had used homeopathy for over ten years, and the reliability of such estimates is doubtful. Nevertheless, the extremely large magnitude of differences observed between ratings of previous and homeopathic treatments makes it very unlikely that these differences are artefacts.

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## 2. Methodology

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### **Introduction**

This observational study was undertaken by members of the Unio Homoeopathica Belgica in 2001 to investigate patients' perceptions of their homeopathic treatment and the prescribing habits of their doctors.

Two questionnaires were designed (see appendix), one for completion by patients and one for their doctors. Eighty medical practitioners who were members of the Unio Homoeopathica Belgica agreed to take part. Each was asked to recruit ten consecutive patients, unselected, beginning on the Monday of a week specified by the investigators. Both questionnaires were completed and identified by a unique number, allowing the patients' responses to be linked anonymously with those of their doctors. No identification of the doctors was recorded.

Each patient completed the questionnaire without supervision on their doctor's premises before leaving, and completed questionnaires were collected and returned to the investigators by each practice. Acceptance by the patients was very high and no refusals to participate were recorded.

A total of 782 questionnaires was completed by patients; two of these did not have an accompanying questionnaire from their doctor. The target of ten patients per practice was thus largely met, although some practices returned more than ten and some fewer.

This report contains an independent analysis of the results carried out at the request of the investigators by Priority Research Ltd. of Sheffield UK.

### **Statistical analysis**

Comparisons between variables were mainly made using nonparametric statistics because the variables generally either comprised ordinal data (rating scales) or were highly skewed (such as reported costs). For normally distributed data such as age, t-tests were used for comparison of means.

The entire data set was examined for significant relationships in the following manner: Every variable with at least an ordinal trend was tested against every other variable in the data set, using the Wilcoxon test set at a high level of significance ( $p < 0.001$ ) to account for multiple comparisons. Differences discovered in this manner were investigated further, and these are described in this report.

### **Limitations to the study**

It is important to recognise that this is an observational study, not an experimental study, designed to capture a picture of doctors and patients in actual daily practice, rather than to manipulate conditions or variables.

While the patients for inclusion in the study were not selected by the practices, and the zero refusal rate eliminates this particular bias, the patients were nevertheless

## 2. Methodology

self-selected for this type of treatment (homeopathy). There is clear evidence in the data that as a group they were particularly dissatisfied with their previous medical treatment, and it is tempting to conclude that they chose homeopathy at least in part *because* of this dissatisfaction. They therefore do not comprise a random cross section of the general patient population. There is, however, no reason to suppose that the patients studied are not typical of those found in homeopathic practices, and the study remains valid as an investigation of this subset of medical patients, i.e. those found in a homeopathic setting.

### **Reliability of the data**

#### **1) Questionnaire design**

Self-completion of questionnaires can lead to undetectable errors in the data. One such source is the use of ten-point rating scales for satisfaction etc. Despite instructions to use one as a minimum and ten as a maximum, some respondents will either not read or misunderstand the instructions, and may use the scale in the reverse direction. While this will act to reduce the size of effects observed, it will not introduce systematic bias since a person making this mistake will tend to do so consistently between questions.

The information gathered on costs of treatment paid by patients is likely to be a slight underestimate since there is evidence that some, perhaps 2 or 3 percent, have recorded cost per session rather than annual cost as requested.

#### **2) Questionnaire content**

A number of questions ask for information relating to the period before the patient's recourse to homeopathy, such as costs, number of consultations, and satisfaction with conventional treatment. Since almost a third of patients had been using homeopathy for over ten years (and many of these answered these questions) the validity of such recall is questionable. It may be that their answers relate to conventional treatment received concurrently, but the questionnaire does not specifically ask about this. This lack of clarity about the time frame in question is the most serious shortcoming of the study, and should be borne in mind when considering the contents of this report.

#### **3) Data entry**

Considerations of time and cost dictated that the manual data entry procedure was single, so that some miscoding of data is inevitable. Where this miscoding is identifiable (for example recording positive values where only zero or negatives are possible) its extent is below 2%, which is generally considered acceptable in large data bases of this type.

#### **4) Inter-rater reliability**

Patients were asked how long they had suffered from their current problem, and doctors were asked the date from which the primary diagnosis applied. There was

## 2. Methodology

very little correlation between these two figures (Pearson's  $r = 0.20$ ), indicating that the two groups were not recording the same thing.

Both groups were also asked to note the number of homeopathic consultations per year. The correlation was higher at  $r = 0.54$ , but still not large. This could arise if patients consulted more than one homeopath, but again the questionnaire did not ask this. A more likely explanation is that one or both groups were estimating the numbers as informed guesses rather than accurate counts.

Both groups were asked to rate the efficacy of former and homeopathic treatment on physical and psychological problems. Correlations between patient and doctor ratings on these measures were generally low (Spearman's  $r$  between 0.2 and 0.4), but it is arguable that a correlation coefficient is not the best measure of reliability for subjective ratings such as these. When broader categories, such as a three-point rating of better/same/worse is used, the concordance between the two groups is high, being 67% across the four sets of measurements (i.e. ratings for 67% of patients overall fell into the same categories for both patients and doctors). Concordance was higher for ratings of physical symptoms than for psychological symptoms (76% vs. 58%).

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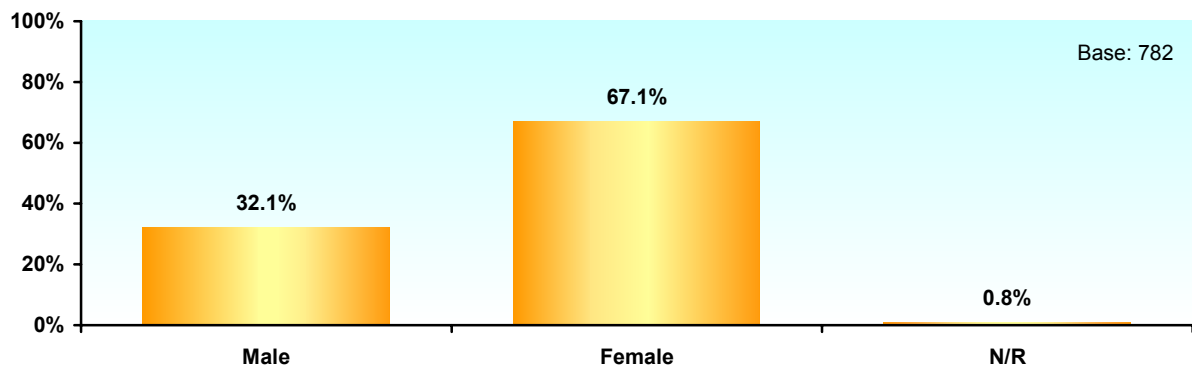
# 3. Results

# 3.1 Demographics

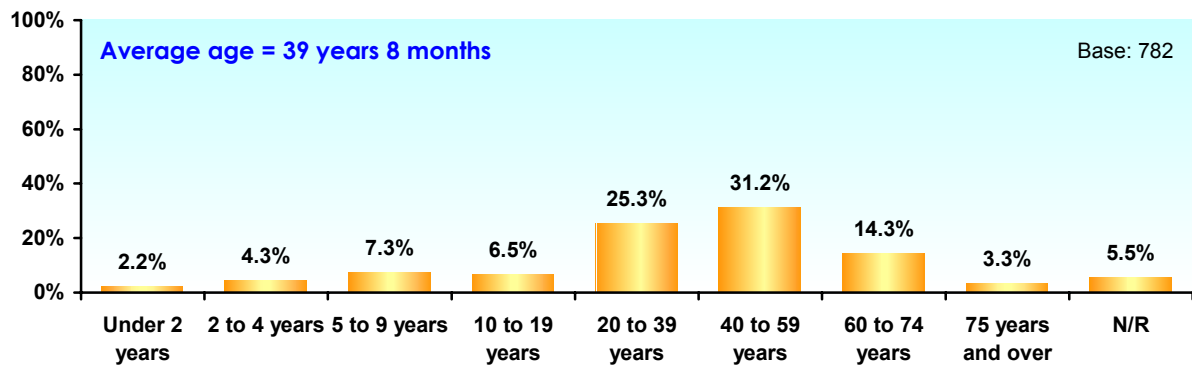
Two thirds of respondents (67%) were female; this sex ratio of two to one is usual in general medical practices.

The average age was 39 years 8 months, with the age distribution shown in 3.1.2 below. The females were significantly older than the males overall (41 years 2 months vs. 36 years 7 months respectively,  $p < .01$ , t-test). The second distribution chart 3.1.3 shows that this difference is caused by a preponderance of male children in the sample.

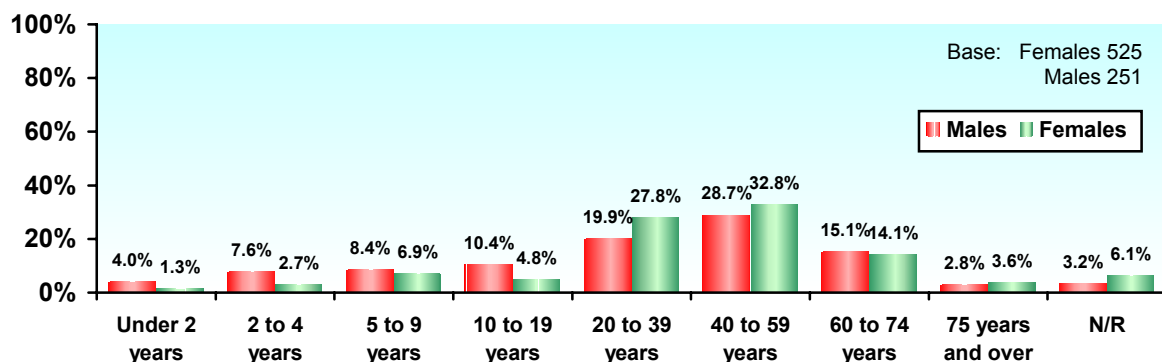
## 3.1.1 Gender



## 3.1.2 Age group overall



## 3.1.3 Age group by gender



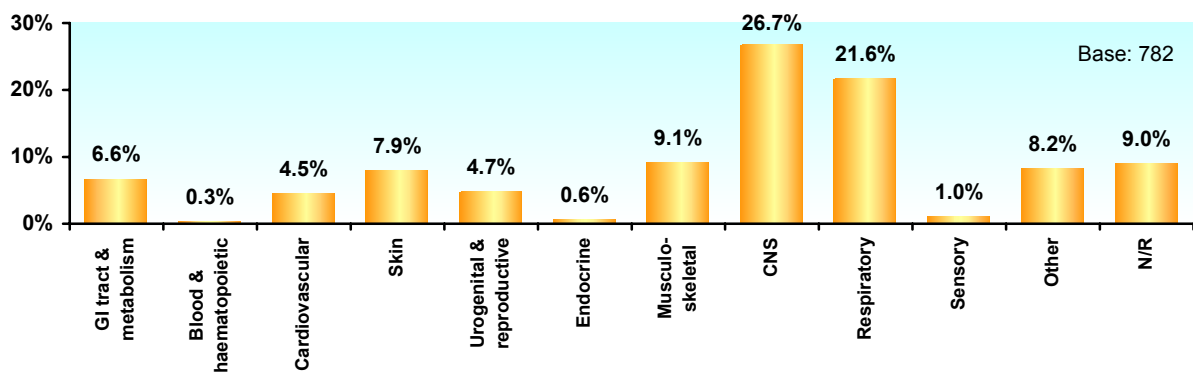
## 3.2 Diagnosis and treatment

For each patient, doctors were asked to record a primary diagnosis by organ system and up to five secondary diagnoses. Chart 3.2.1 below shows the proportions of the primary diagnoses.

Below this is a chart showing the prescription of conventional medication on the day of consultation. The majority of patients (73%) did not receive any conventional medication; the figures in this chart relate to the 208 patients who did.

The figure for antibiotics includes those for whom receipt of systemic antibiotics was recorded as part of a primary diagnosis. The great majority (95%) of those receiving antibiotics, the largest category of conventional prescription, had a respiratory infection.

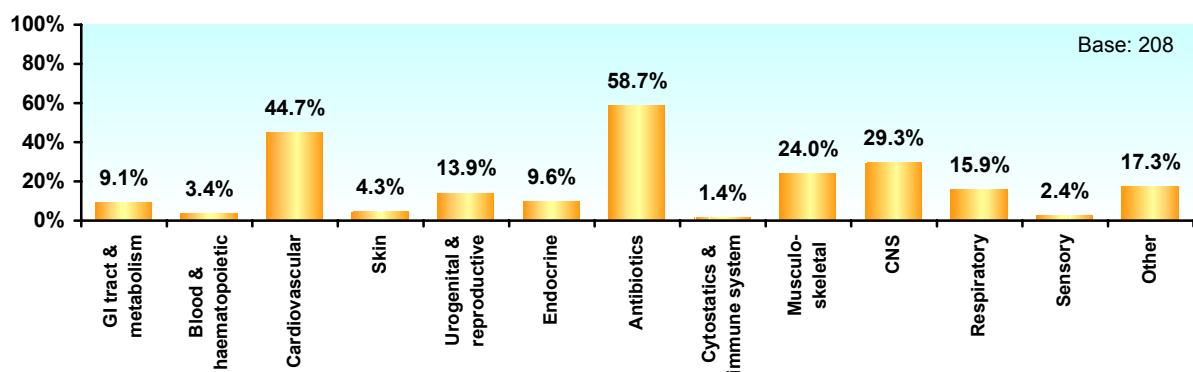
### 3.2.1 Primary diagnosis



Perhaps surprisingly, there were few significant relationships between primary diagnoses and other variables measured. The few that were significant were:

- Respiratory problems responded a little better than average to previous treatments, and accounted for 95% of current antibiotic prescriptions
- CNS (including psychological) problems showed a worse deterioration under conventional treatment than other problems
- Those with a skin problem rated their psychological state prior to homeopathic treatment as better than the average

### 3.2.2 Conventional drugs prescribed, by organ system

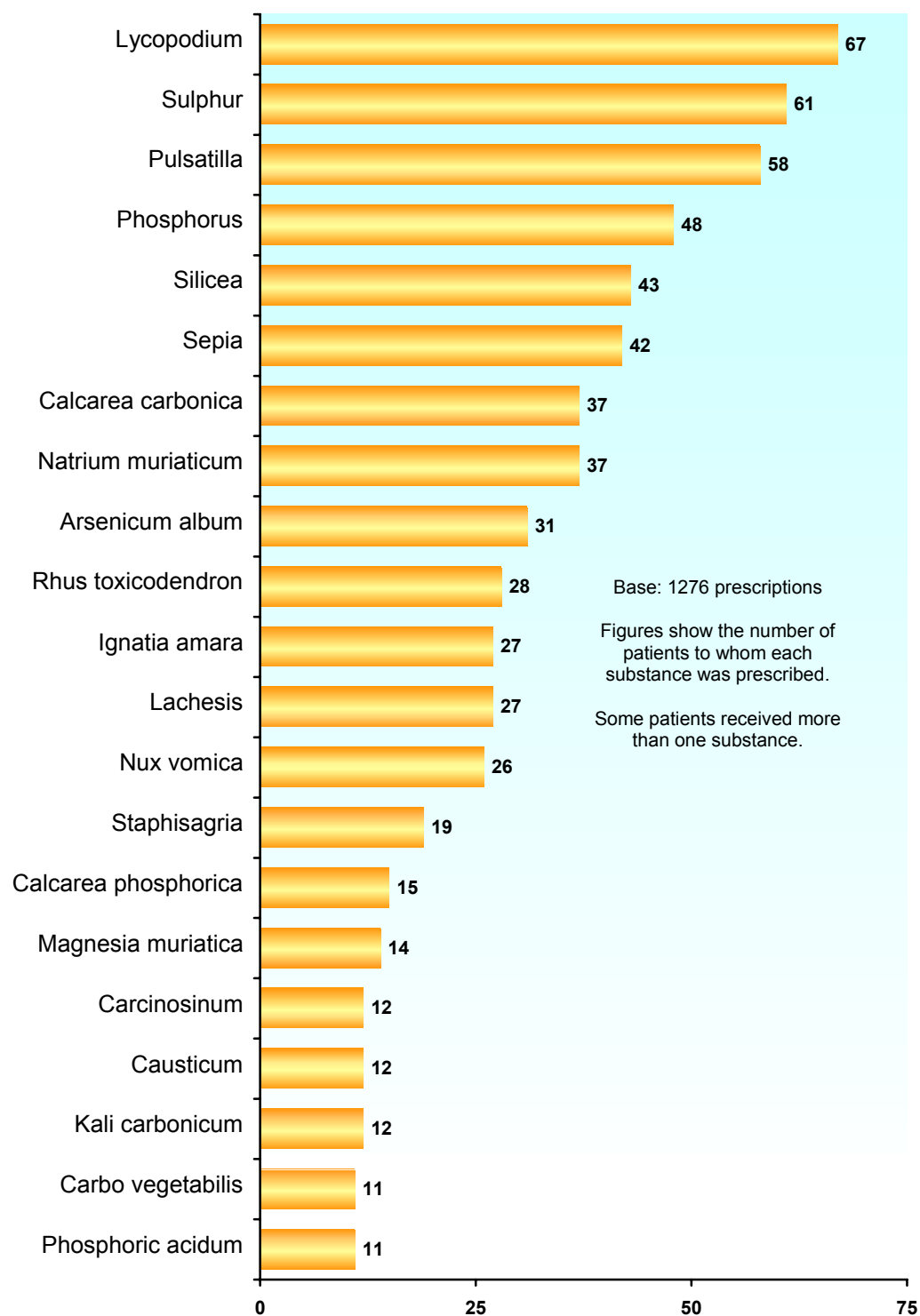


## 3.2 Diagnosis and treatment

The doctors also recorded homeopathic prescriptions by substance, potency, frequency of dosage, duration of treatment and the basis upon which the prescription was chosen.

Whilst a total of 333 different substances were prescribed, just 21 of these accounted for half of the prescriptions. More than half (197, or 59%) were prescribed on only a single occasion.

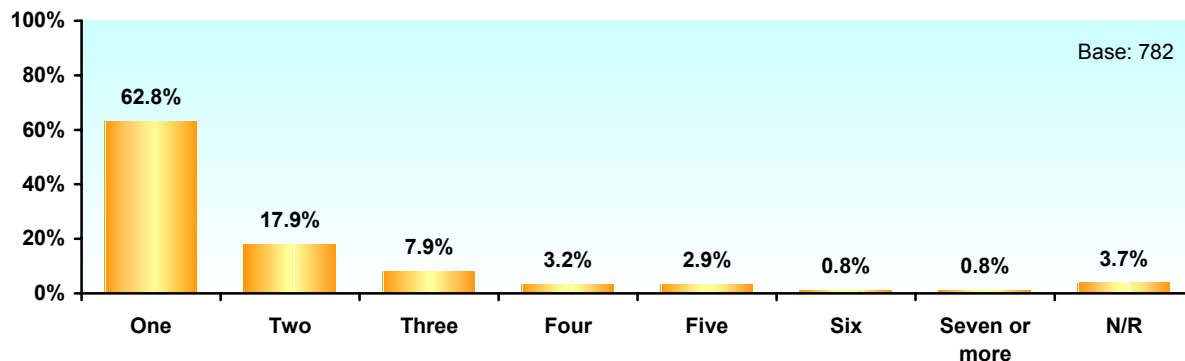
### 3.2.3 Remedies comprising 50% of prescriptions



## 3.2 Diagnosis and treatment

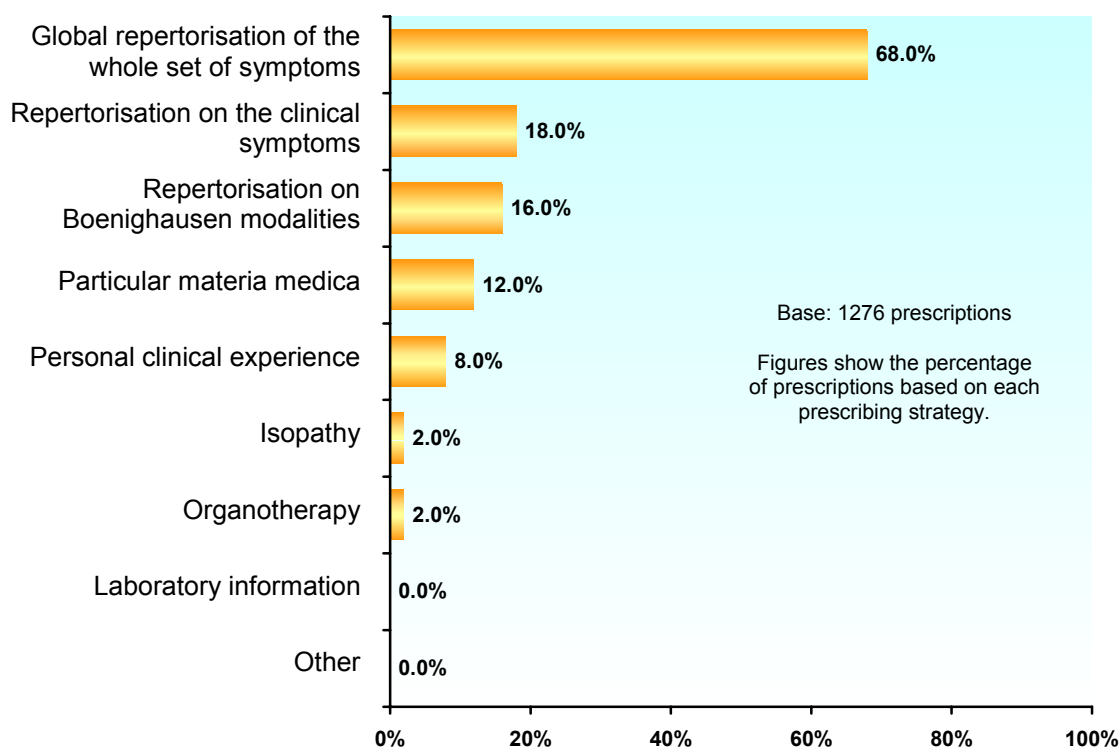
A third of patients received more than one substance. Figure 3.2.4 shows the proportion of patients who received one, two, etc. remedies.

3.2.4 Percentages of patients receiving different numbers of remedies



Most doctors based their prescriptions upon the totality of the patients' symptom picture, as shown below. Other strategies were also used, and some doctors used more than one strategy in their prescription.

3.2.5 Frequencies of prescribing strategies



## 3.2 Diagnosis and treatment

Outcome, as recorded by the patient, varied by remedy, both for physical and psychological symptoms. The pair of tables below show the average improvement rating recorded by patients on a scale from -4 to +4 (see page 24). Two ensure adequate numbers, these are shown only for the 13 remedies which were prescribed to at least 20 patients.

Ratings of physical and psychological symptoms on these 13 remedies correlated only modestly, with  $r = 0.53$

The lower pair of tables show the all the differences which are significant at  $p < 0.05$  or better on a t-test. The left hand table shows, for example, that on ratings of physical symptoms, patients receiving Lachesis score significantly higher than those receiving phosphorus at a p-value of 0.042.

These data should be interpreted with caution, since both prescription and outcome will depend on the patients' particular illnesses.

### 3.2.6 Relationships between remedy and patient's rating of outcome

Physical symptoms		Psychological symptoms	
Remedy	Average score	Remedy	Average score
Calcarea carbonica	2.71	Lachesis	2.48
Lachesis	2.38	Silicea	2.09
Arsenicum album	2.31	Arsenicum album	2.07
Natrium muriaticum	2.24	Lycopodium	1.98
Lycopodium	2.19	Sepia	1.86
Silicea	2.17	Nux vomica	1.81
Sepia	2.00	Ignatia amara	1.74
Sulphur	2.00	Calcarea carbonica	1.69
Pulsatilla	1.93	Phosphorus	1.49
Nux vomica	1.79	Sulfur	1.47
Phosphorus	1.68	Natrium muriaticum	1.46
Ignatia amara	1.67	Pulsatilla	1.27
Rhus toxicodendron	1.52	Rhus toxicodendron	1.15
Overall	2.06	Overall	1.72

	Calc	Lach	Ars	Nat M	Lyc
Sep	0.031				
Sul	0.022				
Puls	0.010				
Nux V	0.030				
Phos	0.001	0.042	0.038		
Ign	0.007				
Rhus	0.002	0.031	0.019	0.042	0.040

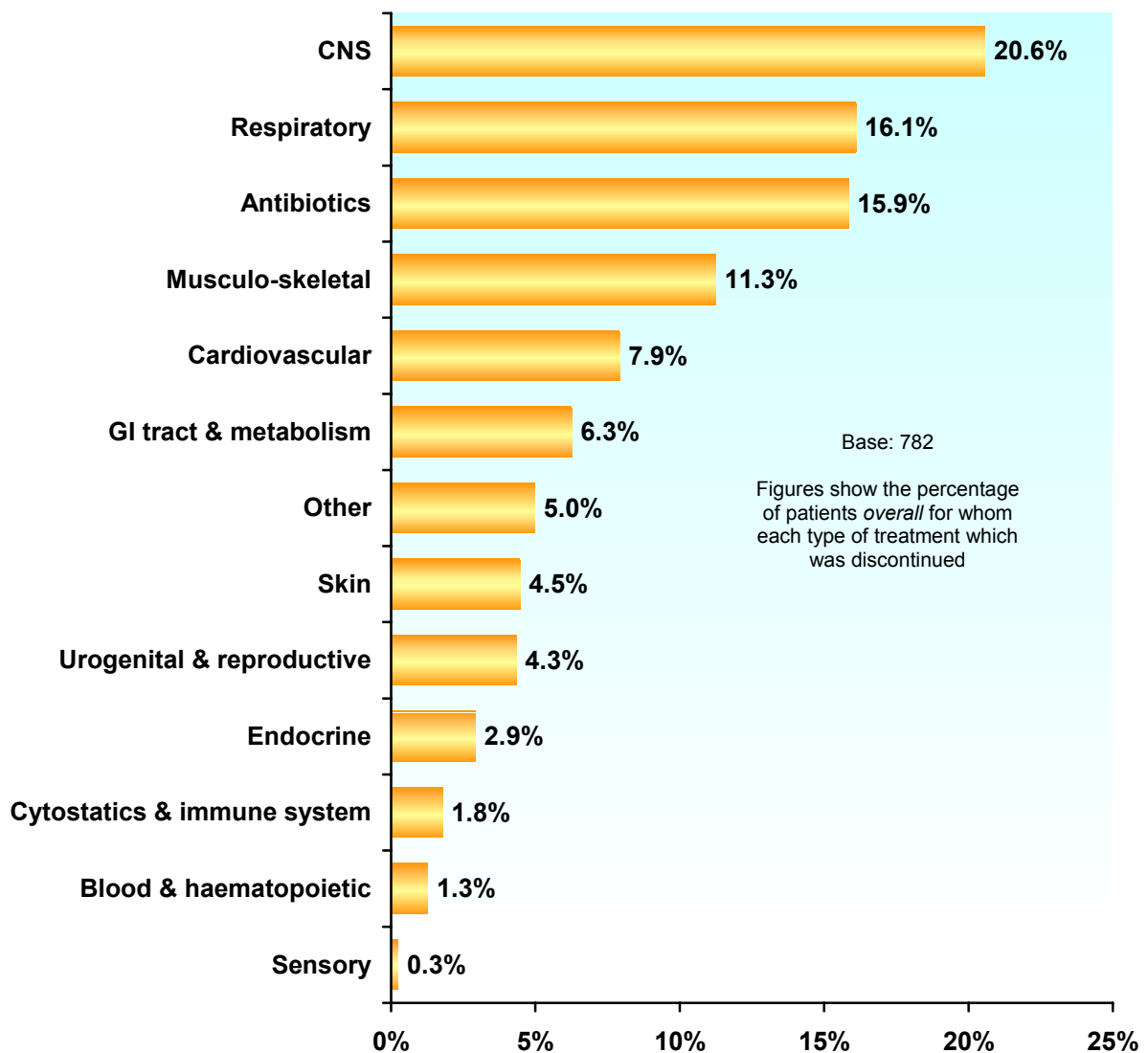
  

	Calc	Lach	Sil	Ars	Lyc
Phos	0.005				
Sul	0.008				
Nat M	0.004				
Puls	0.001	0.015	0.024	0.013	
Rhus	0.004	0.036	0.046	0.037	

## 3.2 Diagnosis and treatment

More than half of the patients (52%) were able to discontinue one or more conventional drug treatments after their recourse to homeopathy, as recorded by their doctors. The chart below shows the drug treatments which the doctors had discontinued, classified by type:

3.2.7 Percentage of patients who discontinued conventional treatments



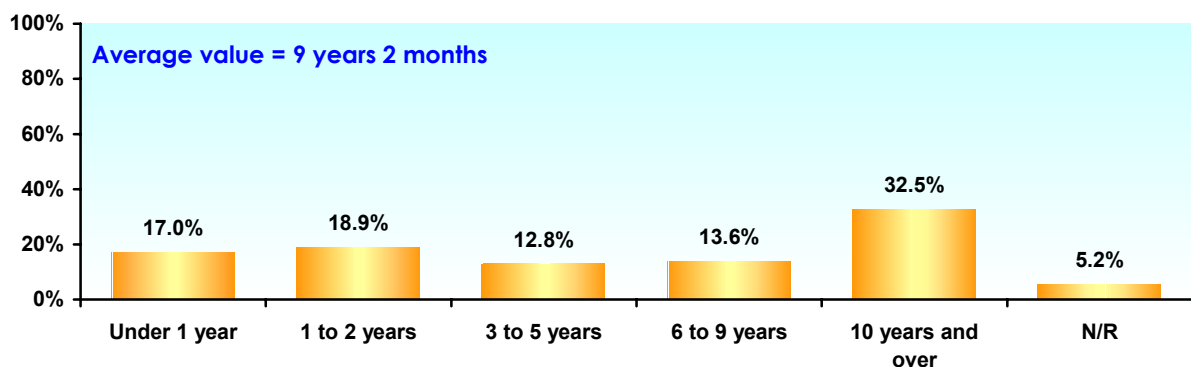
The largest decrease was in the prescription of CNS drugs, the great majority of these being psychotropic medication such as antidepressants and tranquillisers.

## 3.3 Time scales

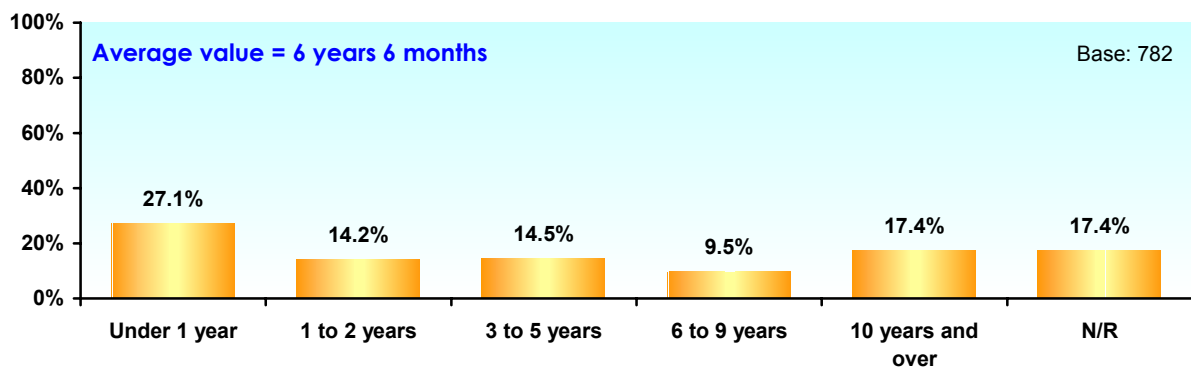
The average period for which respondents had used homeopathy was 9 years 2 months; a third of respondents said they had used homeopathy for more than ten years.

Although both patients' and doctors' overall estimates of the duration of the presenting problem were similar (averages of 6 years 6 months and 5 years 1 month respectively), there was little agreement between the two on an individual basis. The corresponding groups in charts 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 do not contain the same patients, and the correlation between the patients' and doctors' estimates of duration of presenting problem is only 0.20.

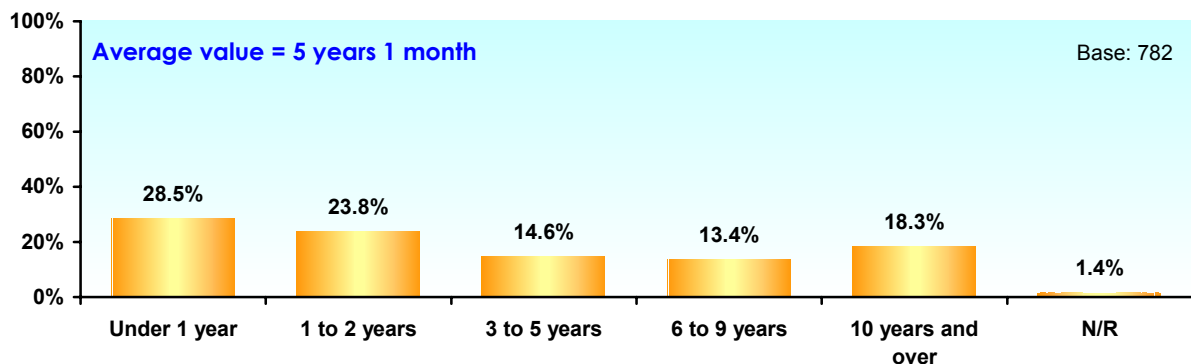
### 3.3.1 Time using homeopathy



### 3.3.2 Duration of presenting problem according to patients



### 3.3.3 Duration of presenting problem according to doctors



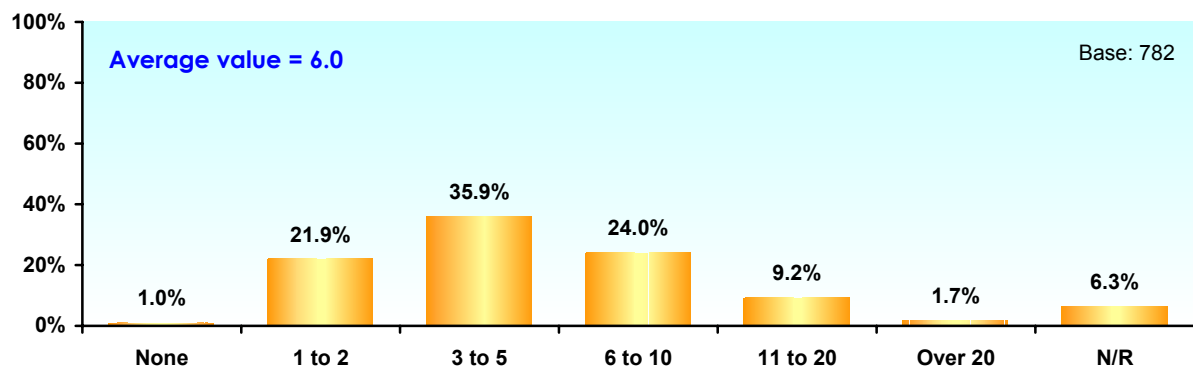
## 3.4 Consultations

The average number of homeopathic consultations per year was given as 6.0, with the distribution shown in chart 3.4.1 (patients' estimates).

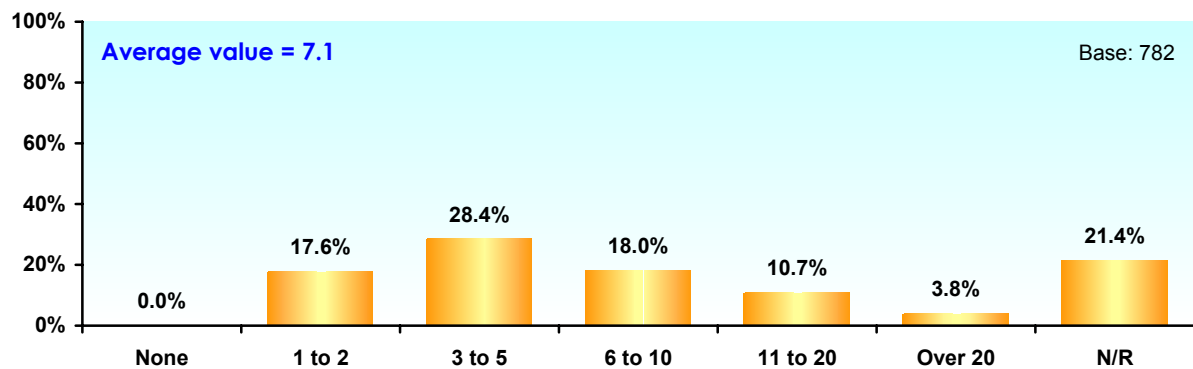
Male patients had fewer consultations per annum than female patients (5.1 vs. 6.4,  $p < .001$ , Wilcoxon test used rather than t-test because of large skew in data)

There was a marked decrease in the number of consultations with general practitioners other than the homeopath following recourse to homeopathy (7.1 per year vs. 1.3,  $p < 10^{-10}$ , Wilcoxon)

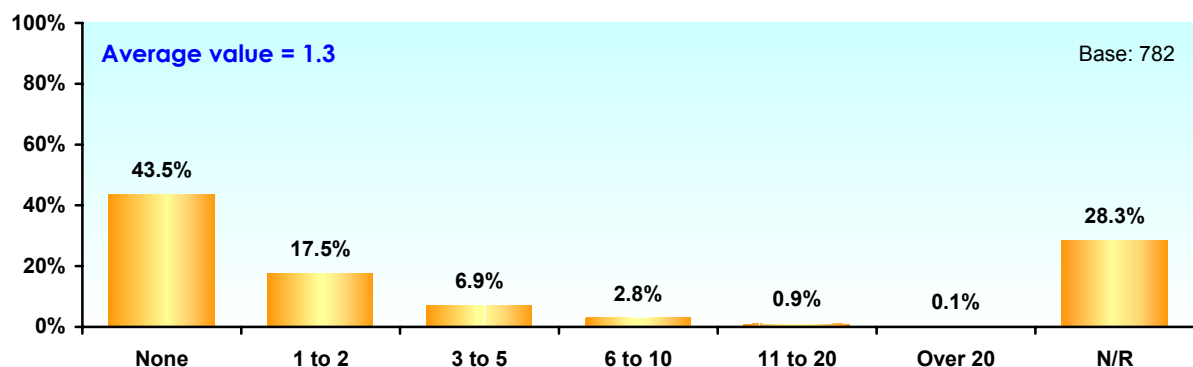
### 3.4.1 Annual number of homeopathic consultations on average



### 3.4.2 GP consultations before use of homeopathy



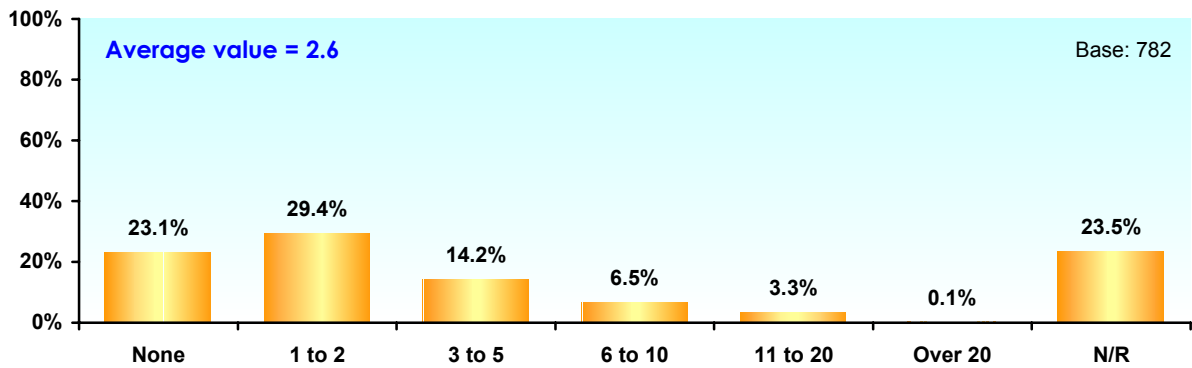
### 3.4.3 GP consultations after use of homeopathy



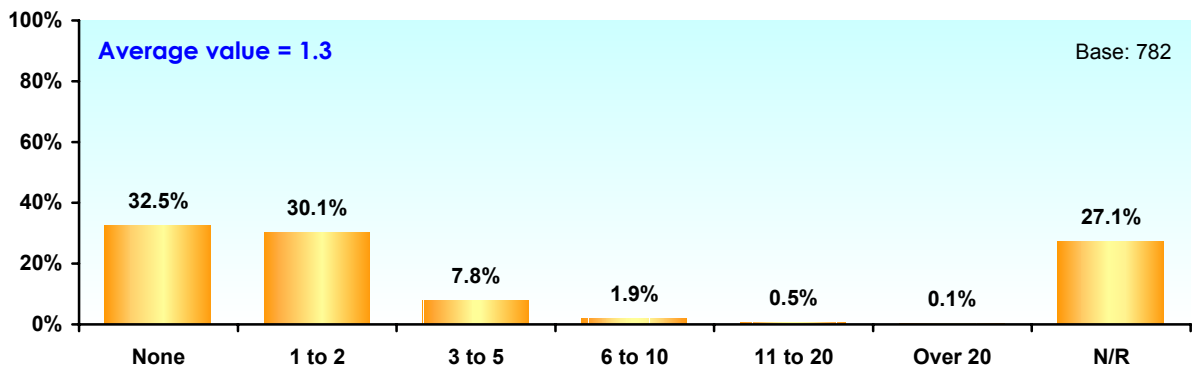
# 3.4 Consultations

Consultations with specialists also reduced considerably, halving from an average of 2.6 per year before recourse to homeopathy to 1.3 afterwards ( $p < 10^{-10}$ , t-test).

## 3.4.4 Specialist consultations before use of homeopathy



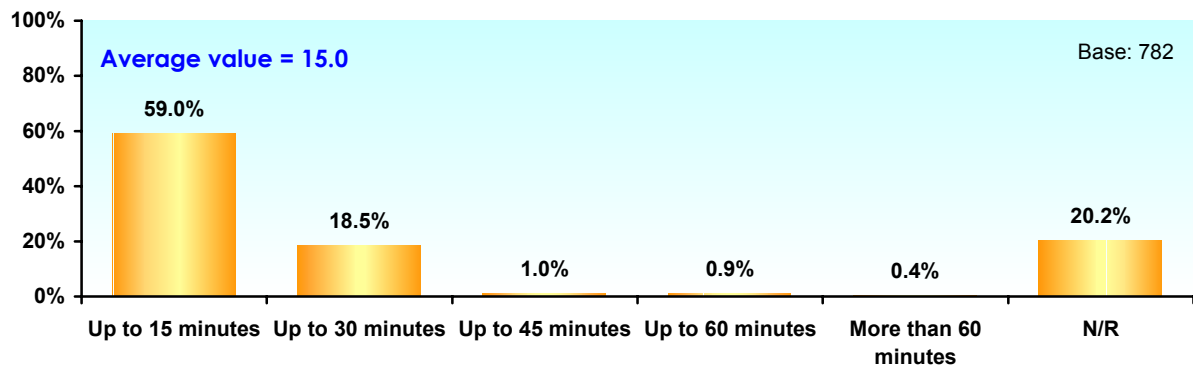
## 3.4.5 Specialist consultations after use of homeopathy



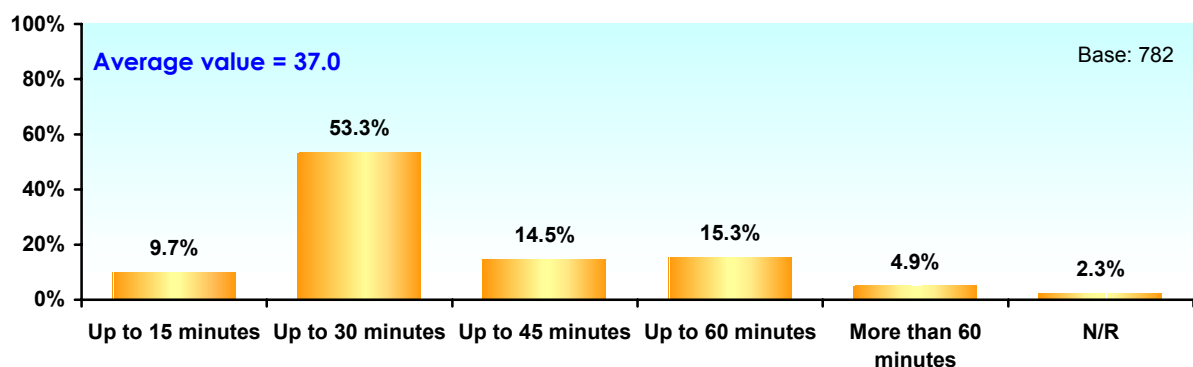
# 3.4 Consultations

By the patients' estimates, homeopathic consultations were considerably longer than those with non-homeopathic generalists, at an average of 37.0 minutes compared with 15.0 (very highly significant,  $p < 10^{-10}$ , t-test)

## 3.4.6 Average length of GP consultation



## 3.4.7 Average length of homeopathy consultation



Several factors influenced the length of the homeopathic consultation. It was shorter where the primary diagnosis was a respiratory problem (31.5 minutes,  $p < .0002$ , t-test), and longer where this was a CNS condition (including psychological problems) (40.4 minutes,  $p < .007$ , t-test). The consultation was also longer the more severe the patient rated his/her symptoms to be:

	Up to 15 mins	Up to 30 mins	Up to 45 mins	Up to 60 mins	Over 60 mins
Severity 0 or -1	8.5	57.9	15.2	13.7	4.7
Severity -2 or -3	4.3	48.5	18.4	20.9	8.0

Figures in the table show the percentage of respondents in each time category divided according to whether they rated their psychological symptoms as absent or mild (0 or -1), or more severe (-2 or -3). The difference between the two severity groups is significant at  $p < .001$ , Wilcoxon test.

Consultations were also shorter if the duration of the presenting problem was less than one year (32.5 minutes,  $p < .0001$ , t-test).

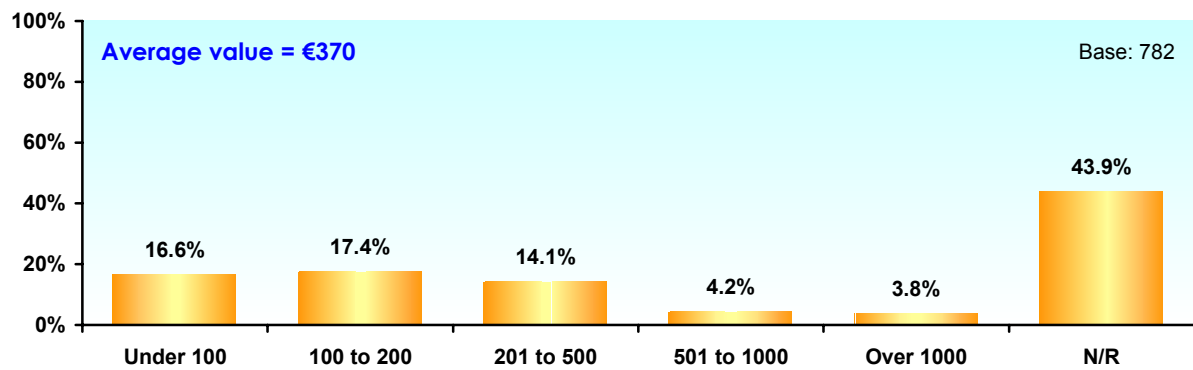
# 3.5 Costs of treatment to patients

Patients estimated their average annual expenditure on consultations before their recourse to homeopathy to be €370, compared with €287 afterwards ( $p < 0.05$ , Wilcoxon). These are average figures, and some patients saw their costs increase, as shown in chart 3.5.3.

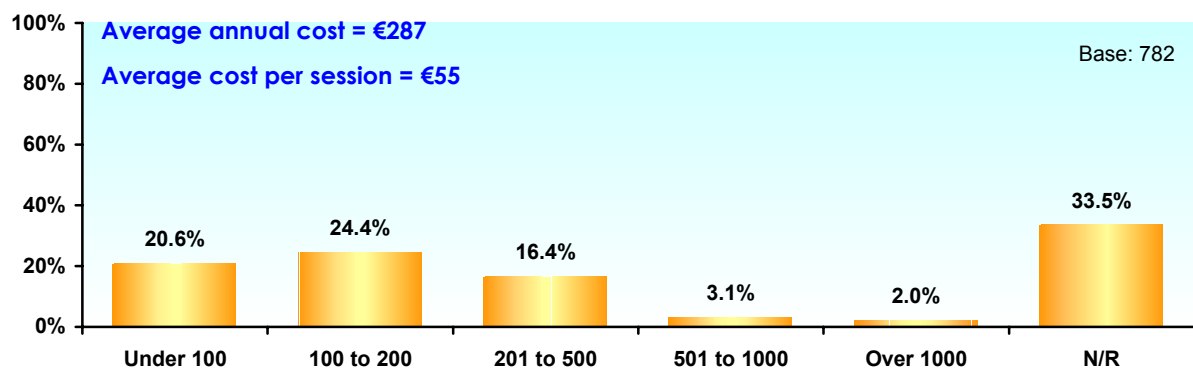
The data showed the obvious correlations which would be expected, with worse conditions (both physical and psychological) and longer durations of illness attracting higher costs. Patients with worse ratings for physical health prior to homeopathy made higher savings (€61 less p.a. vs. €137 less, comparing those rating their physical health 0 or -1 with those rating this -2 or -3,  $p < .03$ , Wilcoxon)

Female patients' costs were greater than those of males because of their greater number of annual consultations, as noted previously.

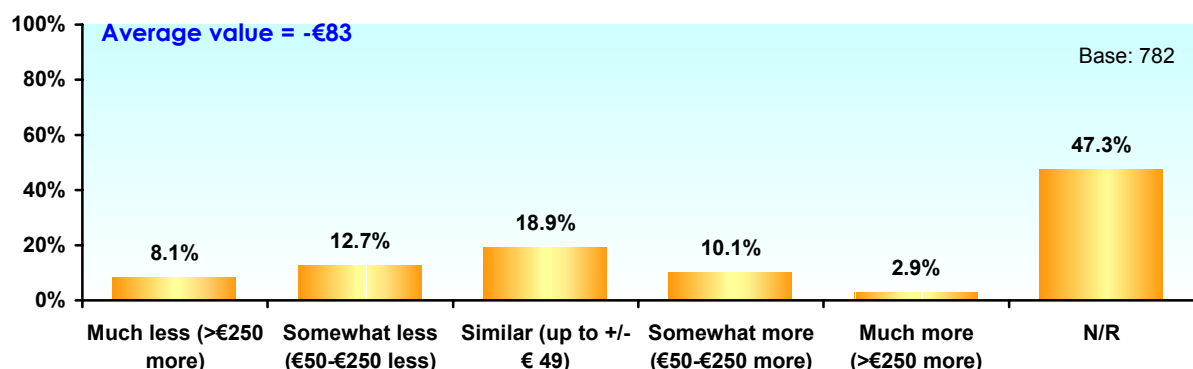
## 3.5.1 Annual costs pre-homeopathy (Euros)



## 3.5.2 Annual costs of homeopathy (Euros)



## 3.5.3 Difference between former & homeopathy cost



## 3.5 Costs of treatment to the healthcare system

An attempt was made to quantify the differences in costs of conventional treatment between the homeopaths in the study and their conventional colleagues.

A subset of 47 homeopaths supplied detailed data about the conventional drugs they prescribed during 1999, which were classified by drug type and organ system. The same data were obtained from national statistics, which gave the total drug expenditure for doctors in Belgium (2000 figures) and the proportion of this in each drug category (1999 figures); in each case, these are the latest figures available. Antiparasitics have been omitted because their use was negligible by both groups.

Approximate expenditure per doctor was calculated on the basis that the national statistics represent about 14,000 registered general practitioners.

The results show that expenditure on conventional drugs by the 47 homeopathic doctors was only about a third that of their conventional colleagues. Their use of antibiotics was only one fifth.

As a comparison, figures are shown for the theoretical savings if all 14,000 doctors were to prescribe in the same way as their homeopathic colleagues. The (purely theoretical) implication is a saving for Belgium of about 775 million Euros annually, about two thirds of the national drug budget. This should also be seen in the context of good clinical outcomes noted elsewhere in this report.

Total Belgian drugs budget for 2000 : €1,177,487,500	Percentage of the Belgian drugs budget in each category (1999)	Annual cost in Euros in each category	Average annual cost in Euros per doctor	Average annual cost in Euros per homeopath	Homeopaths' expenditure as % of other doctors	Prorated cost if all doctors prescribed like homeopaths
GI tract & metabolism	11.2	131,878,600	9,420	3,149	33.4	44,086,000
Blood & haematopoietic	2.8	32,969,650	2,355	723	30.7	10,115,350
Cardiovascular	33.1	389,748,363	27,839	10,803	38.8	151,237,100
Skin	1.4	16,484,825	1,177	412	35.0	5,768,350
Urogenital & reproductive	3.5	41,212,063	2,944	1,248	42.4	17,465,000
Endocrine	2.2	25,904,725	1,850	733	39.6	10,256,400
Antibiotics	14.2	167,203,225	11,943	2,444	20.5	34,214,250
Cytostatics & immune system	3.2	37,679,600	2,691	1,256	46.7	17,579,800
Musculo-skeletal	5.8	68,294,275	4,878	1,621	33.2	22,699,600
CNS	12.7	149,540,913	10,681	3,644	34.1	51,009,700
Respiratory	9.3	109,506,338	7,822	2,550	32.6	35,705,950
Sensory	0.5	5,887,438	421	116	27.5	1,619,100
Other	0.1	1,177,488	84	0		0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,177,487,500</b>	<b>84,106</b>	<b>28,697</b>	<b>34.1</b>	<b>401,756,600</b>

## 3.6 Perceived effects of treatment

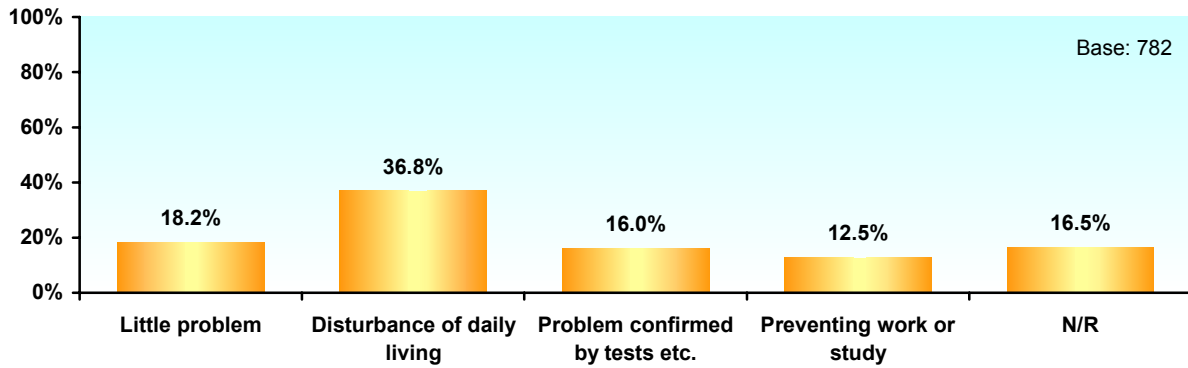
Patients were asked to rate their physical and psychological state before and after recourse to homeopathy on a four-point scale:

0	Little problem
-1	Some disturbance of daily living
-2	Problem confirmed by tests or examination and noticeable to others
-3	Preventing work or study

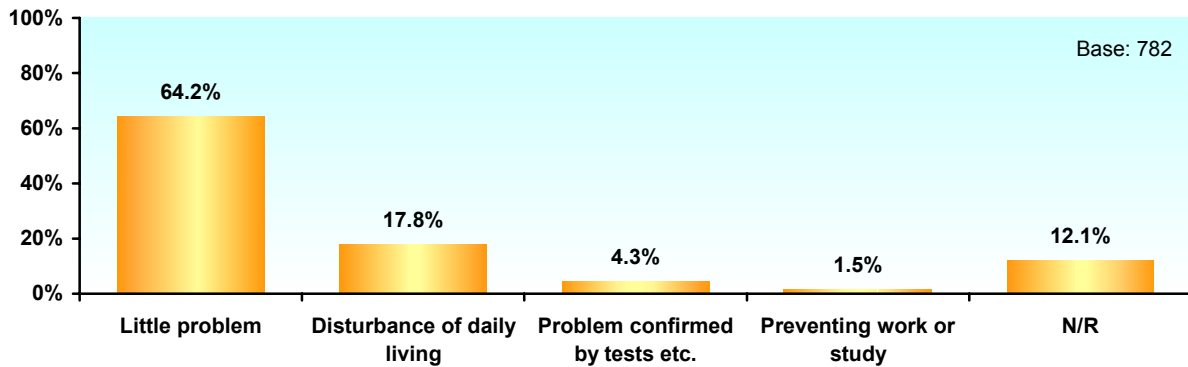
The four charts on the opposite page summarise their ratings. It is very apparent that patients report a marked improvement in both physical and psychological conditions after treatment by homeopathy. The differences are large and statistically extremely significant ( $p$  values  $< 10^{-10}$ , Wilcoxon test).

# 3.6 Perceived effects of treatment

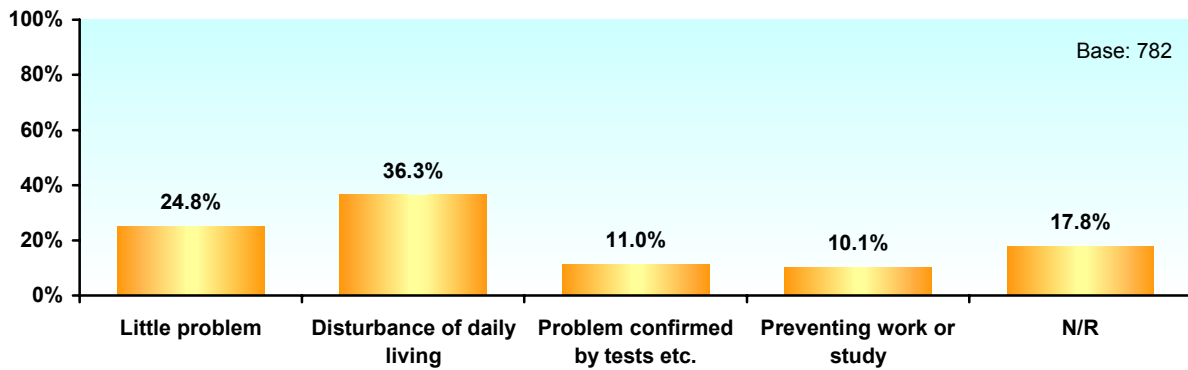
## 3.6.1 Physical state before homeopathy



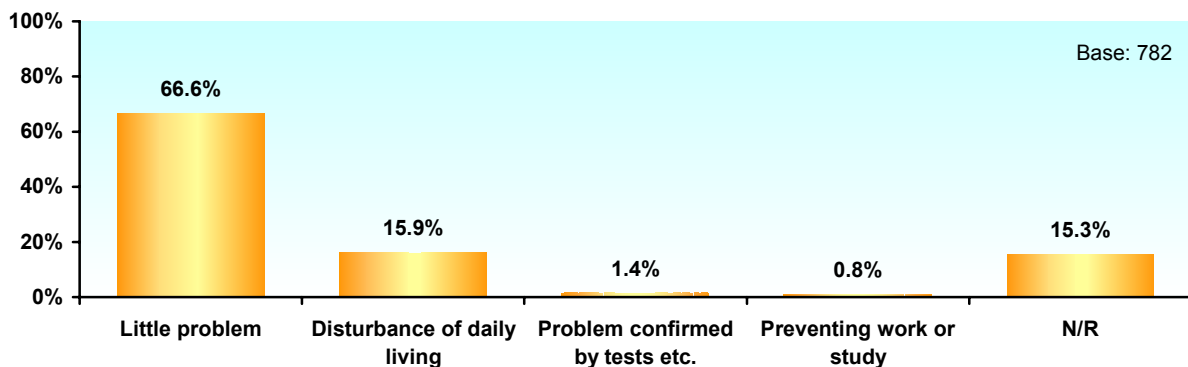
## 3.6.2 Physical state after homeopathy



## 3.6.3 Psychological state before homeopathy



## 3.6.4 Psychological state after homeopathy



## 3.6 Perceived effects of treatment

Both patients and doctors were asked to rate the effectiveness of homeopathic and previous treatment on physical and psychological symptoms. The ratings of the patients are reported here because they are more likely than their doctors to have accurate knowledge of the effects of previous treatment.

A nine-point scale was used:

-4	Dramatic deterioration	Red
-3	Major deterioration affecting work or studies	Red
-2	Deterioration confirmed by tests or medical examination	Orange
-1	Feeling worse	Orange
0	No change	Yellow
1	Feeling better	Green
2	Improvement confirmed by tests or medical examination	Green
3	Disappearance of interference with activities	Blue
4	Complete cure	Blue

The data are reported in a table showing all nine points, and in a chart which reduces the scale to five points, coloured as shown above.

As on the previous page, homeopathy is reported to be very effective, in contrast to previous treatment which is not only ineffective but in many cases produces a marked deterioration. Any reported worsening of the condition is very rare with homeopathic treatment. Again, the differences are statistically very highly significant.

# 3.6 Perceived effects of treatment

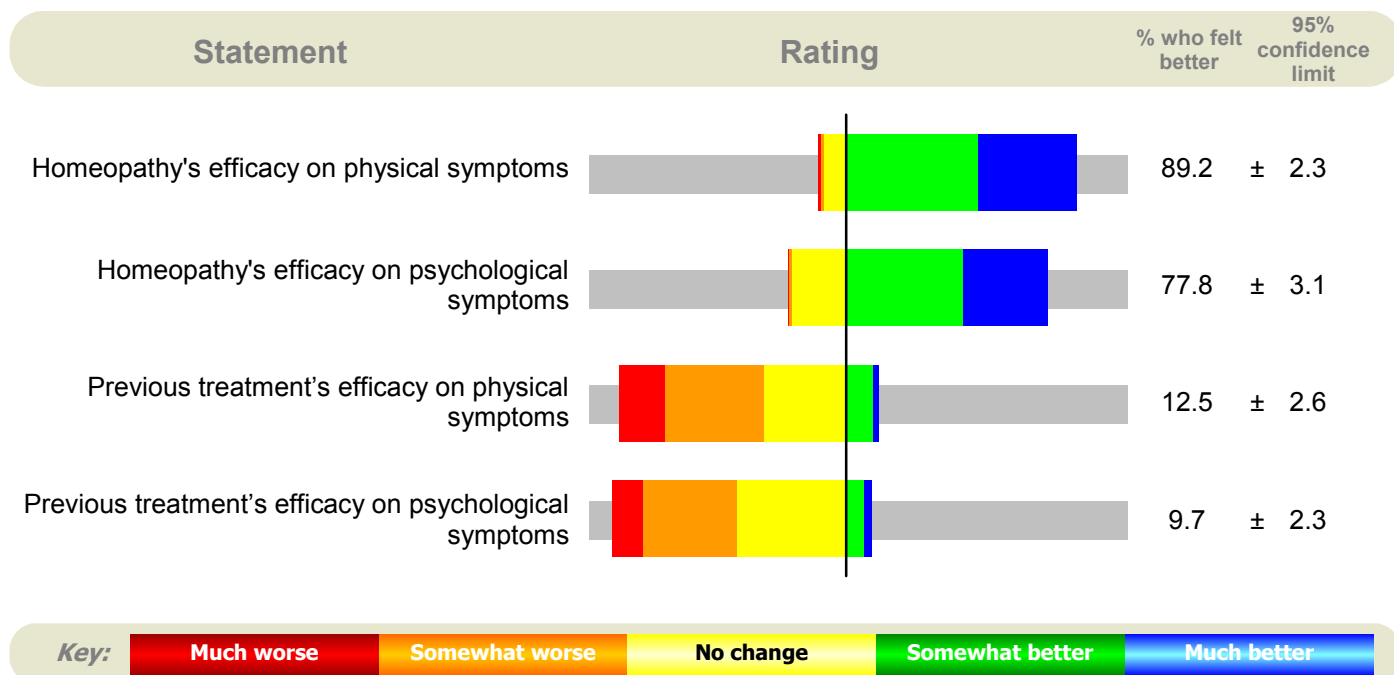
## 3.6.5 Summary of opinion

### Notes on the presentation of data

The chart below summarises the patients' perceptions of the effects of their treatment.

Respondents were asked to rate each aspect on a nine-point scale as described on the previous page. The bar chart shows the proportions of respondents grouped into five categories, omitting those who did not answer the question.

The column of figures at the right of the chart shows the percentage of respondents who felt somewhat or much better, followed by the 95% confidence limits of this percentage. Below this chart is a table which displays the data in more detail.



## 3.6.6 Detailed response

	Percentages									Further details			
	Dramatic deterioration	Deterioration affecting work	Worse, confirmed by tests etc.	Feeling worse	No change	Feeling better	Better, confirmed by tests etc.	Interference with work goes	Complete cure	Base	N/R	Response	Total base
Previous treatment's efficacy on physical symptoms	4.5	12.9	15.4	22.8	31.9	8.8	1.7	0.8	1.3	605	22.6	77.4	782
Homeopathy's efficacy on physical symptoms	0.3	0.6	0.1	1.3	8.5	31.2	19.9	18.7	19.4	685	12.4	87.6	782
Previous treatment's efficacy on psychological symptoms	2.9	8.9	8.5	27.8	42.2	6.0	1.0	1.0	1.7	586	25.1	74.9	782
Homeopathy's efficacy on psychological symptoms	0.0	0.2	0.0	1.2	21.0	29.7	15.0	17.1	15.9	661	15.5	84.5	782

## 3.7 Satisfaction with treatment

Patients were asked to estimate their satisfaction with the treatment they received prior to using homeopathy, and with the homeopathic treatment itself. They were instructed to use a ten-point scale, with 1 being least satisfied and 10 most. The full results are shown in the table, while the upper chart displays the satisfaction ratings graphically, compressed to a five-point scale of the kind more usually used to measure subjective phenomena.

As with other comparisons of former and current treatment, there is a very large and highly significant difference between the two. It is clear that as a group they had a very low opinion of their previous treatment, and their satisfaction scores are much lower than are usually found in surveys of this kind. This leads to the hypothesis that they sought homeopathic treatment because of the failure of previous therapies, and indeed many indicated that their conventional treatment made them worse.

Satisfaction ratings with previous treatment were higher (but still low) where patients had received longer consultations, and where the problem was less severe. They were even less satisfied where the costs of previous treatment had been high. These three comparisons are shown in the tables below.

The only variables showing a significant relation to satisfaction with homeopathic treatment were the outcome measures - the better the outcome, the more satisfied patients declared themselves to be.

<b>Satisfaction with previous treatment by patients' rating of severity of physical problems</b>					
	Very dissatisfied	Fairly dissatisfied	Neither	Fairly satisfied	Very satisfied
Severity 0 or -1	11.5%	28.5%	36.8%	18.9%	4.3%
Severity -2 or -3	30.0%	28.6%	31.5%	7.5%	2.3%
<b>Difference highly significant (<math>p &lt; 10^{-6}</math>, Wilcoxon)</b>					

<b>Satisfaction with previous treatment by length of consultation</b>					
	Very dissatisfied	Fairly dissatisfied	Neither	Fairly satisfied	Very satisfied
Under 15 minutes	23.7%	36.2%	28.8%	9.6%	1.7%
15 minutes and over	17.1%	26.1%	35.3%	18.7%	2.8%
<b>Difference significant (<math>p &lt; 0.0002</math>, Wilcoxon)</b>					

<b>Satisfaction with previous treatment by cost of that treatment</b>					
	Very dissatisfied	Fairly dissatisfied	Neither	Fairly satisfied	Very satisfied
Up to €200	15.9%	25.0%	38.1%	15.9%	5.2%
Over €200	25.0%	35.7%	29.2%	8.9%	1.2%
<b>Difference highly significant (<math>p &lt; 5 \times 10^{-5}</math>, Wilcoxon)</b>					

# 3.7 Satisfaction with treatment

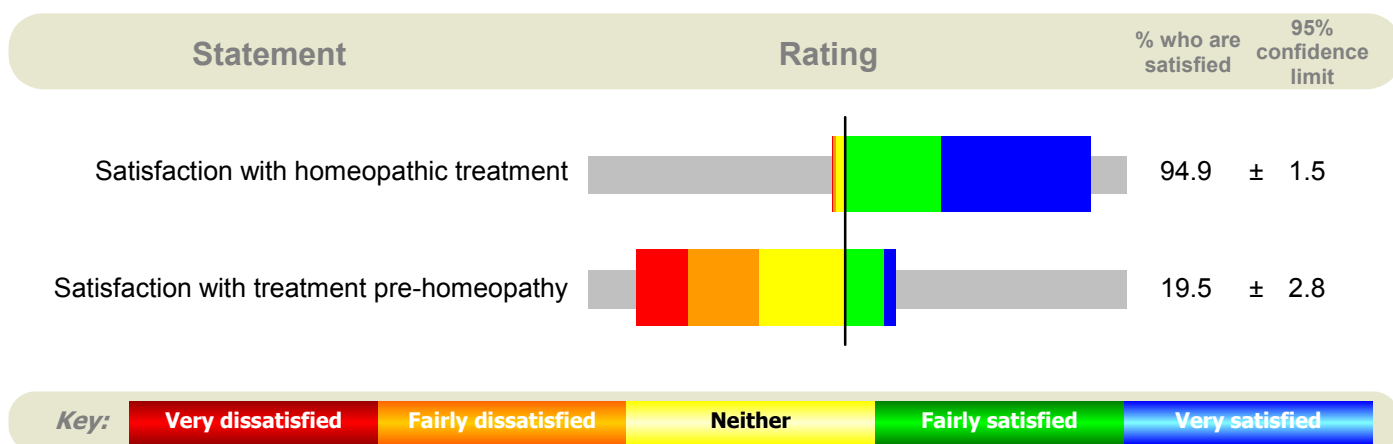
## 3.7.1 Summary of opinion

### Notes on the presentation of data

The chart below summarises the patients' satisfaction with their treatment.

Respondents were asked to rate each aspect on a ten-point scale as described on the previous page. The bar chart shows the proportions of respondents grouped into five categories, omitting those who did not answer the question.

The column of figures at the right of the chart shows the percentage of respondents who were either fairly or very satisfied, followed by the 95% confidence limits of this percentage. Below this chart is a table which displays the data in more detail.



## 3.7.2 Detailed response

	Figures show percentages in each of the ten rating categories										Further details			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Base	N/R	Response	Total base
Satisfaction with treatment pre-homeopathy	11.0	8.9	13.8	13.9	19.6	13.9	10.5	4.4	1.3	2.7	675	13.7	86.3	782
Satisfaction with homeopathic treatment	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.8	1.3	2.4	9.0	28.5	32.5	25.0	745	4.7	95.3	782

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# 4.1 Appendix I

## Questionnaires used

# QUESTIONNAIRE PATIENT

N° patient: ...

## Informations personnelles:

Sexe:

M F

Date de naissance:

Approximativement, depuis quand vous soignez-vous par homéopathie?

Nombre de consultations annuelles avant votre recours à l'homéopathie?

En médecine générale:

Chez un (des) spécialiste(s):

Nombre de consultations annuelles depuis votre recours à l'homéopathie?

En médecine homéopathique:

Chez un autre généraliste:

Chez un (des) spécialiste(s):

Depuis quand vous soignez-vous pour votre problème de santé actuel?

Coût global annuel de vos soins:

Avant votre recours à l'homéopathie:

euro

Depuis votre recours à l'homéopathie:

euro

Durée moyenne des consultations:

Chez l'homéopathe:

min

En médecine générale:

min

Degré de satisfaction des traitements:

(1=mauvais à 10=parfait): 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Avant votre recours à l'homéopathie:

Depuis votre recours à l'homéopathie:

Degré de gravité de votre état:

*faible gravité = 0*  
*perturbant ma vie de tous les jours = -1*  
*objectivé par des examens médicaux, des tests, constaté par les autres = -2*  
*empêchant les activités professionnelles ou scolaires = -3*

Aspect physique: mobilité, douleurs, état général, etc.:

Avant le traitement homéopathique:  
Depuis votre recours à l'homéopathie:

Aspect psychique: tonus, angoisses, état dépressif, etc.:

Avant le traitement homéopathique:  
Depuis votre recours à l'homéopathie:

Efficacité de vos traitements:

*aggravation dramatique = D*  
*aggravation majeure empêchant les activités professionnelles / scolaires = -3*  
*détérioration objectivée par des tests ou examens médicaux = -2*  
*sensation de détérioration = -1*  
*aucune modification = 0*  
*sensation d'amélioration = +1*  
*amélioration objectivée par des tests ou examens médicaux = +2*  
*disparition de toutes limitations d'activités = +3*  
*guérison = G*

Aspect physique: mobilité, douleurs, état général, etc.:

Avant le traitement homéopathique:  
Depuis votre recours à l'homéopathie:

Aspect psychique: tonus, angoisses, état dépressif, etc.:

Avant le traitement homéopathique:  
Depuis votre recours à l'homéopathie:

Merci pour votre collaboration à cette enquête!

# QUESTIONNAIRE MEDECIN

N° patient: ...

Date de la 1<sup>ère</sup> consultation:

Diagnostic:

Diagnostic principal: .....Date de départ:

Diagnostics secondaires:

1/ .....

2/ .....

3/ .....

4/ .....

5/ .....

Date de départ:

Date de départ:

Date de départ:

Date de départ:

Date de départ:

Degré de gravité de l'état du malade:

*faible gravité = 0*

*perturbant ma vie de tous les jours = -1*

*objectivé par des examens médicaux, des tests, constaté par les autres = -2*

*empêchant les activités professionnelles ou scolaires = -3*

Aspect physique: mobilité, douleurs, état général, etc.:

Avant le traitement homéopathique:

Depuis votre recours à l'homéopathie:

Aspect psychique: tonus, angoisses, état dépressif, etc.:

Avant le traitement homéopathique:

Depuis votre recours à l'homéopathie:

Efficacité de vos traitements antérieurs:

*aggravation dramatique = D*

*aggravation majeure empêchant les activités professionnelles / scolaires = -3*

*détérioration objectivée par des tests ou examens médicaux = -2*

*sensation de détérioration = -1*

*aucune modification = 0*

*sensation d'amélioration = +1*

*amélioration objectivée par des tests ou examens médicaux = +2*

*disparition de toutes limitations d'activités = +3*

*guérison = G*

Aspect physique: mobilité, douleurs, état général, etc.:

Avant le traitement homéopathique:

Depuis votre recours à l'homéopathie:

Aspect psychique: tonus, angoisses, état dépressif, etc.:

Avant le traitement homéopathique:

Depuis votre recours à l'homéopathie:

Nombre de consultations annuelles:

Traitements conventionnels qui ont pu être abandonnés:

- 1 .....
- 2 .....
- 3 .....
- 4 .....
- 5 .....

Consultation de ce jour:

- |   | Médicaments conventionnels: | dose: | durée prévue: |
|---|-----------------------------|-------|---------------|
| 1 | .....                       | ..... | .....         |
| 2 | .....                       | ..... | .....         |
| 3 | .....                       | ..... | .....         |
| 4 | .....                       | ..... | .....         |
| 5 | .....                       | ..... | .....         |
- |   | Médicament homéopathique: | dynamisation: | durée: | fréquence: | méthode: |
|---|---------------------------|---------------|--------|------------|----------|
| 1 | .....                     | .....         | .....  | .....      | .....    |
| 2 | .....                     | .....         | .....  | .....      | .....    |
| 3 | .....                     | .....         | .....  | .....      | .....    |
| 4 | .....                     | .....         | .....  | .....      | .....    |
| 5 | .....                     | .....         | .....  | .....      | .....    |

Méthode utilisée pour le choix de chaque traitement:  
répertorisation globale de l'ensemble des symptômes = A  
répertorisation sur les symptômes cliniques = B  
répertorisation sur les modalités "Boenighausen" = C  
matières médicales – précisez laquelle = D  
expérience clinique personnelle = E  
isopathie = F  
organothérapie = G  
information de laboratoires = H  
autres, à préciser = I

.....  
..

Pronostic:

- aggravation dramatique = D
- aggravation majeure empêchant les activités professionnelles / scolaires = -3
- détérioration objectivée par des tests ou examens médicaux = -2
- sensation de détérioration = -1
- aucune modification = 0
- sensation d'amélioration = +1
- amélioration objectivée par des tests ou examens médicaux = +2
- disparition de toutes limitations d'activités = +3
- guérison = G

En combien de temps ce résultat est-il escompté?

mois

Merci pour votre collaboration à cette enquête!

# VRAGENLIJST VOOR DE PATIËNT

N° patiënt: ...

Persoonlijke gegevens:

Geslacht:

M V

Geboortedatum:

Sinds wanneer verzorgt u zich met homeopathie?

Aantal jaarlijkse consultaties vóór uw eerste homeopathische consultatie?

Bij de huisarts:

Bij de specialist(en):

Aantal jaarlijkse consultaties tijdens uw homeopathische behandeling?

Bij de homeopathische arts:

Bij een andere huisarts:

Bij de specialist(en):

Sinds wanneer wordt u behandeld voor uw actueel gezondheidsprobleem?

Kostprijs van uw medische verzorging op jaarbasis:

Vóór uw homeopathische behandeling:

euro

Sinds uw homeopathische behandeling:

euro

Gemiddelde consultatieduur:

Bij de homeopathische arts:

min

Bij de huisarts:

min

Tevredenheid over uw behandeling:

(1=slecht tot 10=perfect): 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Vóór de homeopathische behandeling:

Sinds de homeopathische behandeling:

## Ernst van uw ziekte/toestand:

*weinig storend = 0*  
*storend in dagelijks leven = -1*  
*bevestigd door medische testen = -2*  
*maakt beroeps- of schoolactiviteit onmogelijk = -3*

Lichamelijk: beweeglijkheid, pijn, algemene toestand, etc.:

Vóór uw homeopathische behandeling:  
Sinds uw homeopathische behandeling:

Geestelijk: spanningen, angsten, depressiviteit, etc.:

Vóór uw homeopathische behandeling:  
Sinds uw homeopathische behandeling:

## Doeltreffendheid van uw behandeling:

*dramatische verslechtering van toestand = D*  
*ernstige verslechtering die beroeps- en schoolactiviteit onmogelijk maakt = -3*  
*verslechtering bevestigd door medische testen = -2*  
*lichte verslechtering = -1*  
*ongewijzigd = 0*  
*lichte verbetering = +1*  
*verbetering bevestigd door medische testen = +2*  
*geen beperking meer in beroeps- en schoolactiviteiten = +3*  
*genezing = G*

Lichamelijk: beweeglijkheid, pijn, algemene toestand, etc.:

Vóór uw homeopathische behandeling:  
Sinds uw homeopathische behandeling:

Geestelijk: spanningen, angsten, depressiviteit, etc.:

Vóór uw homeopathische behandeling:  
Sinds uw homeopathische behandeling:

Bedankt voor uw deelname aan deze enquête!

# VRAGENLIJST VOOR DE ARTS

N° patiënt: ...

Datum van de 1<sup>ste</sup> consultatie:

Diagnose:

Hoofddiagnose: .....

Bijkomende diagnose:

1/ .....

2/ .....

3/ .....

4/ .....

5/ .....

Begindatum:

Begindatum:

Begindatum:

Begindatum:

Begindatum:

Begindatum:

Ernst van de toestand van patiënt:

*weinig storend = 0*

*storend in dagelijks leven = -1*

*bevestigd door medische testen = -2*

*maakt beroeps- of schoolactiviteit onmogelijk = -3*

Lichamelijk: beweeglijkheid, pijn, algemene toestand, etc.:

Vóór uw homeopathische behandeling:

Sinds uw homeopathische behandeling:

Geestelijk: spanningen, angsten, depressiviteit, etc.:

Vóór uw homeopathische behandeling:

Sinds uw homeopathische behandeling:

Doeltreffendheid van uw behandeling:

*dramatische verslechtering van toestand = D*

*ernstige verslechtering die beroeps- en schoolactiviteit onmogelijk maakt = -3*

*verslechtering bevestigd door medische testen = -2*

*lichte verslechtering = -1*

*ongewijzigd = 0*

*lichte verbetering = +1*

*verbetering bevestigd door medische testen = +2*

*geen beperking meer in beroeps- en schoolactiviteiten = +3*

*genezing = G*

Lichamelijk: beweeglijkheid, pijn, algemene toestand, etc.:

Vóór uw homeopathische behandeling:

Sinds uw homeopathische behandeling:

Geestelijk: spanningen, angsten, depressiviteit, etc.:

Vóór uw homeopathische behandeling:

Sinds uw homeopathische behandeling:

Aantal consultaties per jaar:

Beëindigde conventionele behandelingen:

- 1 .....
- 2 .....
- 3 .....
- 4 .....
- 5 .....

Huidige raadpleging:

- |   | Conventionele medicatie: | dosering: | duur: |
|---|--------------------------|-----------|-------|
| 1 | .....                    | .....     | ..... |
| 2 | .....                    | .....     | ..... |
| 3 | .....                    | .....     | ..... |
| 4 | .....                    | .....     | ..... |
| 5 | .....                    | .....     | ..... |

- |   | Homeopathische remedie: | dynamisatie: | duur: | frequentie: | methode: |
|---|-------------------------|--------------|-------|-------------|----------|
| 1 | .....                   | .....        | ..... | .....       | .....    |
| 2 | .....                   | .....        | ..... | .....       | .....    |
| 3 | .....                   | .....        | ..... | .....       | .....    |
| 4 | .....                   | .....        | ..... | .....       | .....    |
| 5 | .....                   | .....        | ..... | .....       | .....    |

*Gebuurkte methode in verband met de keuze van iedere homeopathische remedie:*

*repertorisatie van de totaliteit van de symptomen = A*

*repertorisatie op uitsluitend klinische symptomen = B*

*repertorisatie volgens "Boenighausen" = C*

*Materia Medica – graag specificeren = D*

*klinische ervaring = E*

*isopathie = F*

*organotherapie = G*

*informatie artsbezoeker = H*

*andere: graag specificeren = I*

Prognose:

*dramatische verslechtering van toestand = D*

*ernstige verslechtering die beroeps- en schoolactiviteit onmogelijk maakt = -3*

*verslechtering bevestigd door medische testen = -2*

*lichte verslechtering = -1*

*ongewijzigd = 0*

*lichte verbetering = +1*

*verbetering bevestigd door medische testen = +2*

*geen beperking meer in beroeps- en schoolactiviteiten = +3*

*genezing = G*

Na hoeveel tijd verwacht u dit resultaat?

maanden

Bedankt voor uw deelname aan deze enquête!

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# 4.2 Appendix II

## Paper on imaging and lab tests

UNION PROFESSIONNELLE NATIONALE HOMEOPATHIQUE



## ENQUETE UNIO - INAMI 1998-99

*Profil de prescriptions d'imagerie médicale et de  
biologie clinique par les médecins généralistes  
homéopathes.*

MAISON DE L'HOMÉOPATHIE:  
Uniobel @cyclone.be  
Chaussée de Bruxelles 132 bte 1  
1190 Bruxelles

2002-12-15

E-mail :

Tel. & Fax (02) 346 18 26

UP/BV : ABR/7385/26/1988

## METHODE

Régulièrement, l'Institut National d'Assurance Maladie-Invalidité (INAMI) publie le profil de prescription en imagerie médicale et en biologie clinique pour chaque médecin autorisé à la pratique de la médecine en Belgique. Ce profil individuel est comparable aux moyennes nationales et loco-régionales.

Dans cette publication officielle, les prescriptions sont regroupées en différentes catégories.

IM1 = prix total de l'imagerie prescrite aux patients ambulants par le médecin.

IM2 = prix moyen de cette même imagerie par contact patient.

IM3 = idem que IM1 avec en plus les montants éventuels pour des patients hospitalisés. BC1 = nombre total de biologie clinique prescrite aux patients ambulants par le médecin.

BC2 = nombre d'analyses par prescription.

BC3 = prix total des actes de biologie clinique remboursés aux patients ambulants de ce médecin.

BC4 = prix moyen de ces actes remboursé par prescription.

BC5 = prix moyen de ces actes remboursé par contact patient.

BC6 = BC3 + montant forfaitaire dû au biologiste pour chaque prescription.

BC7 = BC4 + montant forfaitaire dû au biologiste pour chaque prescription.

BC8 = BC5 + montant forfaitaire dû au biologiste pour chaque prescription.

La rubrique C1 donne le nombre de contact patients que le médecin a eu durant une année, ce nombre est restreint aux sources prises en compte : organismes assureurs dans le cadre de l'assurance obligatoire soins de santé à l'exception des conventions internationales + données de la SNCB.

De plus un tableau de valeurs de déciles pour chaque année est joint à cette publication. Ces valeurs permettent de se situer par rapport aux autres confrères du pays pour chacune des informations. Exemple : une valeur au décile 1 signifie qu'il y a 10% de médecins qui se situent sous cette valeur et 90% au dessus ; décile 4 = 40% en dessous et 60% au dessus.

Nous avons demandé à nos membres médecins généralistes de bien vouloir nous communiquer (anonymement) une copie de leur profil personnel afin de les regrouper, d'en calculer les moyennes et de les comparer avec le profil moyen national. Ceci a été réalisé sur 2 années successives. Dans notre fichier de membres (>400) les médecins généralistes accrédités sont 236, pour les données de 1998-99, nous avons reçu 121 réponses soit 52%. Pour quelques dossiers, les données collectées étaient incomplètes et n'ont pu être intégrées. Pour éviter des biais éventuels, nous avons regroupé les valeurs des deux années et calculé une moyenne annuelle.

## RESULTATS

Le nombre moyen de consultation est de **2.415 par année** ce qui place les médecins homéopathes au décile 3,4 (34% des médecins Belges font moins de consultations, 66% voient plus de patients que le groupe de médecins homéopathes). Le schéma C1 montre que la répartition de ces fréquences au sein du groupe est relativement homogène entre 1.000 et 4.000 patients par année. Le tableau détaillé révèle que certains médecins du groupe n'ont pratiqué que la dernière année (nouveaux diplômés ?).

Pour le prix total de l'imagerie prescrite par les médecins du groupe (IM1), nous nous situons au décile 3,1 (31% des médecins Belges coûtent moins, 69% coûtent plus que le groupe de médecins homéopathes). Ceci ne montre pas de différence très significative avec le groupe référence. Par contre si nous regardons le **prix moyen par contact patient** (IM2) une différence très significative apparaît puisque nous nous situons au décile 2,6 (seulement 26% des médecins Belges coûtent moins, 74% coûtent plus que le groupe de médecins homéopathes). Le nombre de patients hospitalisés suivi par un médecin homéopathe (voir IM3) est faible puisque cette valeur ajoutée ne change pratiquement la valeur IM1.

Pour le nombre total d'analyses biologiques prescrites par année par médecin du groupe d'homéopathes (BC1) nous nous situons au décile 2,9 (29% des médecins Belges en prescrivent moins, 71% en prescrivent plus). Par contre, le **nombre d'analyses par prescription** (BC2) se situe au décile 10, c'est à dire que nous prescrivons peu d'analyses par contact patient mais lorsqu'un médecin homéopathe estime nécessaire cette prescription, la mise au point est la plus complète possible et le nombre d'analyses très important, nettement supérieur à la pratique de tous les autres médecins (100%).

Quant au prix total des analyses médicales demandées par les médecins homéopathes (BC3) il n'y a pas de différence significative avec les autres médecins (décile 3,7 = 37% des médecins moins coûteux à l'assurance soins de santé, 63% plus coûteux). Par contre bien sûr le prix moyen par prescription d'analyses (BC4) est supérieur, décile 7,3 (73% des médecins prescrivent moins cher et 37% plus cher). Mais nous remarquons donc que si le nombre d'analyses par prescription est très élevé chez nous, le prix n'y est pas proportionnel, ce qui veut dire que les analyses supplémentaires demandées ne sont pas fort coûteuses. Le prix par contact patient (BC5) se situe au décile 4,8 (48% des médecins Belges coûtent moins, 52% coûtent plus), ceci était à prévoir puisque si le nombre total d'analyses demandées par année est faible mais que le nombre d'analyses par prescription est très important ceci aura des répercussions sur le prix calculé par contact patient. De toute manière ceci démontre que **ce comportement médical particulier n'induit pas de problème particulier pour la sécurité sociale**. Cette affirmation est d'ailleurs confirmée si on ajoute le montant forfaitaire dû au biologiste aux prix des actes (ceci est d'ailleurs une approche beaucoup plus proche de la réalité financière pour la sécurité sociale). Dans ce cas le prix total (BC6) on se situe alors au décile 3,3 (33% des médecins Belges coûtent moins, 67% coûtent plus), ceci est en correspondance avec le nombre de contact patient par année. Par prescription nous sommes au décile 6,1 (61% sont moins coûteux pour la sécurité sociale, 39% le sont plus) mais plus importante est le décile obtenu pour le prix par contact patient

qui est de 3,6 (36% de médecins moins coûteux, 64% plus coûteux) donc ici aussi en correspondance avec notre nombre moyen de contact patients par années.

Les schémas de répartition des différentes valeurs pour chaque médecin qui a participé à l'enquête montrent l'homogénéité du groupe des médecins homéopathes, malgré quelques cas particuliers qu'il faudrait sans doute analyser de manière plus individuelle.

## CONCLUSIONS

Certaines conclusions ne sauraient être formulées sans une enquête complémentaire sur le profil des patients qui consultent les médecins homéopathes comparé au profil des autres malades.

En effet, si la clientèle des médecins homéopathes est totalement différente de celle des autres médecins, aucune extrapolation n'est possible. Il en est de même si nos patients consultent régulièrement aussi d'autres médecins pour y faire une mise au point supplémentaire. Cette enquête complémentaire est prévue en 2003.

Les seules conclusions possibles d'emblée sont les suivantes :

- ❑ La pratique de nos membres se fait bien dans le cadre de la médecine. Le recours aux analyses biologiques et à l'imagerie médicale a lieu lorsqu'il est nécessaire.
- ❑ Il n'y a pas d'écart anormal vers une insuffisance de prescriptions ou vers un excès de prescriptions et il existe une grande homogénéité du profil de prescription de nos membres.
- ❑ Il n'y a pas de différence significative quant au coût de l'imagerie médicale ou des analyses biologiques prescrites par les médecins homéopathes Belges et les autres médecins.
- ❑ Par contre il existe un comportement très particulier des médecins homéopathes qui, lorsqu'ils prescrivent des analyses biologiques, réalisent une mise au point beaucoup plus complète que les autres médecins. Ce comportement n'a cependant aucun impact financier pour le système de sécurité sociale.

Dr Michel VAN WASSENHOVEN.

NATIONALE HOMEOPATHISCHE BEROEPSVERENIGING



## ONDERZOEK UNIO - RIZIV 1998 – 1999

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## METHODE

Regelmatig publiceert het Rijksinstituut voor Ziekte- en Invaliditeitsverzekering, het RIZIV, de voorschriftprofielen voor medische beeldvorming en voor klinische biologie van elke arts die gemachtigd is een medische praktijk te beoefenen in België. Dit individueel profiel kan vergeleken worden met het nationale en loco-regionale gemiddelde.

In deze officiële publicatie werden de voorschriften samengebracht in verschillende categorieën:

- MB1 : bedrag vergoed voor verstrekkingen voor medische beeldvorming voorgeschreven en verricht voor ambulante patiënten
  - MB2 : gemiddeld vergoed bedrag per patiëntencontact voor verstrekkingen voor medische beeldvorming voorgeschreven en verricht voor ambulante patiënten
  - MB3 : bedrag vergoed voor verstrekkingen voor medische beeldvorming voorgeschreven en verricht voor ambulante en gehospitaliseerde patiënten
  - KB1 : totaal aantal voorschriften betreffende verstrekkingen voor klinische biologie en nucleaire geneeskunde voorgeschreven voor ambulante patiënten
  - KB2 : aantal onderzoeken per voorschrift
  - KB3 : totaal bedrag der akten klinische biologie van de arts vergoed aan ambulante patiënten
  - KB3 : totaal bedrag der akten klinische biologie van de arts vergoed aan ambulante patiënten
  - KB4 : gemiddeld bedrag van deze akten vergoed per voorschrift
  - KB5 : gemiddeld bedrag van deze akten vergoed per patiëntencontact
  - KB6 : KB3 + bedrag van de forfaitaire honoraria van de klinische bioloog voor elk voorschrift
  - KB7 : KB4 + bedrag van de forfaitaire honoraria van de klinische bioloog voor elk voorschrift
  - KB8 : KB5 + bedrag van de forfaitaire honoraria van de klinische bioloog voor elk voorschrift
- De rubriek C1 geeft het aantal patiëntencontacten weer van de arts gedurende één jaar.

Dit aantal wordt beperkt door de gebruikte bronnen, namelijk verzekeringsorganismen in het kader van de verplichte ziekteverzekering met uitzondering van de internationale conventies en de gegevens van de NMBS.

Daarenboven wordt er bij deze publicatie een tabel toegevoegd met de decielwaarden per jaar. Deze waarden laten toe zich te situeren ten opzichte van de overige collega's en dit voor elke gegeven informatie afzonderlijk. Bijvoorbeeld: een decielwaarde 1 betekent dat er 10% van de artsen zich situeren onder deze waarden en 90% erboven; decielwaarde 4 betekent 40% eronder en 60% erboven.

We vroegen aan onze leden artsen, algemene praktijk, om ons anoniem een kopie te willen bezorgen van hun persoonlijk profiel met de bedoeling deze gegevens samen te brengen. Zo konden we de gemiddelden berekenen en deze vergelijken met het nationaal gemiddelde profiel. Dit werd verwezenlijkt over het verloop van twee opeenvolgende jaren. We tellen meer dan 400 leden, waarvan 236 geaccrediteerde huisartsen. Wat de gegevens 1998-1999 betreft, ontvingen we 121 antwoorden of 52%. Om eventuele bias te vermijden, brachten we de waarden van deze twee opeenvolgende jaren bij elkaar en berekenden hiervan een jaargemiddelde.

## RESULTAAT

Het gemiddeld aantal raadplegingen bedraagt **2.415 per jaar**. Dit plaatst de homeopathische artsen op deciel 3,4: 34% der Belgische artsen doen minder raadplegingen, 66% zien meer patiënten dan de groep homeopathische artsen. Het schema C1 toont dat de verdeling van deze frequenties binnen de groep relatief homogeen is tussen 1.000 en 4.000 patiënten per jaar. De gedetailleerde tabel leert dat sommige artsen alleen het laatste jaar praktijk hadden (nieuw gediplomeerden?).

Wat het totaal bedrag van de door de groep artsen (MB1) voorgeschreven beeldvorming betreft, bevinden we ons op deciel 3,1: 31% van de Belgische artsen kosten minder, 69% kosten meer dan de groep homeopathische artsen. Er zijn weinig betekenisvolle verschilpunten aan te tonen met de referentie groep. Daarentegen, indien we het **gemiddeld vergoed bedrag per patiëntencontact** (KB2) in aanmerking nemen, dan blijkt er een zeer betekenisvol verschil. Want we situeren ons op deciel 2,6: slechts 26% der Belgische artsen kosten minder, maar meer dan 74% kosten meer dan de groep homeopathische artsen. Het aantal gehospitaliseerde patiënten, dat door een homeopathische arts gevolgd wordt (KB3), is uiterst gering, omdat deze bijgevoegde waarde praktisch nauwelijks de waarde KB1 wijzigt.

Wat het totaal aantal door de groep homeopathische artsen voorgeschreven klinische biologische analyses per jaar betreft (KB1), bevinden we ons op deciel 2,9: 29% van de Belgische artsen schrijven minder voor, 71% schrijft meer voor. Daarentegen, **het aantal analyses per voorschrift** (KB2) is gesitueerd op deciel 10: dit betekent dat we weinig analyses voorschrijven per contact patiënt. Maar van de andere kant, wanneer een homeopathisch arts een voorschrift nodigt acht, dan wordt de op punt stelling zo volledig mogelijk uitgevoerd en wordt het aantal analyses sterk opgedreven, duidelijk uitgebreider dan de keuze door de andere artsen (100%).

Wat nu het totale bedrag van de door de homeopathische artsen aangevraagde medische analyses betreft (KB3), is er geen opmerkelijk verschil met de andere artsen: deciel 3,7 betekent dat 37% van de artsen minder kosten aan de ziekteverzekering, 63% kosten meer. Daarentegen ligt de gemiddelde prijs per voorschrift van de akten (KB4) natuurlijk hoger, deciel 7,3: 73% der artsen schrijft minder duur voor, 37% duurder. Maar we stellen dus vast dat, hoewel het aantal analyses per voorschrift bij ons zeer hoog ligt, het vergoede bedrag niet proportioneel is, wat betekent dat de supplementair aangevraagde analyses niet duur zijn. Het bedrag per patiëntencontact (KB5) situeert zich op deciel 4,8: 48% van de Belgische artsen kosten minder, 52% kosten meer. Dit was te verwachten vermits het totaal aantal aangevraagde analyses per jaar zwak is, maar het aantal analyses per voorschrift zeer hoog ligt. Dit heeft natuurlijk zijn weerslag op het bedrag dat berekend wordt per patiëntencontact. In elk geval bewijst dit dat **het specifiek medisch handelen geen bijzondere problemen scheidt voor de sociale zekerheid**. Deze bewering wordt namelijk nog bevestigd wanneer men het forfaitaire bedrag ten gevolge van de klinische bioloog toevoegt aan het bedrag van de akten. Dit is trouwens een benadering die veel beter aansluit bij de financiële realiteit van de ziekteverzekering. In dit geval bevindt het totale bedrag (KB6) zich op deciel 3,3: 33% van de Belgische artsen kosten minder, 67% kosten meer. Dit stemt overeen met het aantal patiëntencontacten per jaar. Per voorschrift bevinden we ons op deciel 6,1: 61% van de Belgische artsen zijn minder duur voor de sociale zekerheid, 39% zijn duurder. Maar nog belangrijker is het deciel verkregen voor het bedrag per patiëntencontact, wat 3,6 bedraagt: 36% van de Belgische artsen kosten minder, 64% kosten meer. Dus ook hier bemerken we een overeenkomst met ons gemiddeld aantal patiëntencontacten per jaar.

De schemata die de verdeling weergeven van de verschillende waarden voor elke arts die deelnam aan het onderzoek, tonen de homogeniteit van de groep homeopathische artsen, niettegenstaande enkele bijzondere gevallen die waarschijnlijk meer individueel moeten geanalyseerd worden.

## BESLUIT

Sommige besluittrekkingen kunnen niet geformuleerd worden zonder een bijkomend onderzoek waarbij het profiel van de door homeopathische artsen geraadpleegde patiënten, vergeleken wordt met het profiel van de andere zieken.

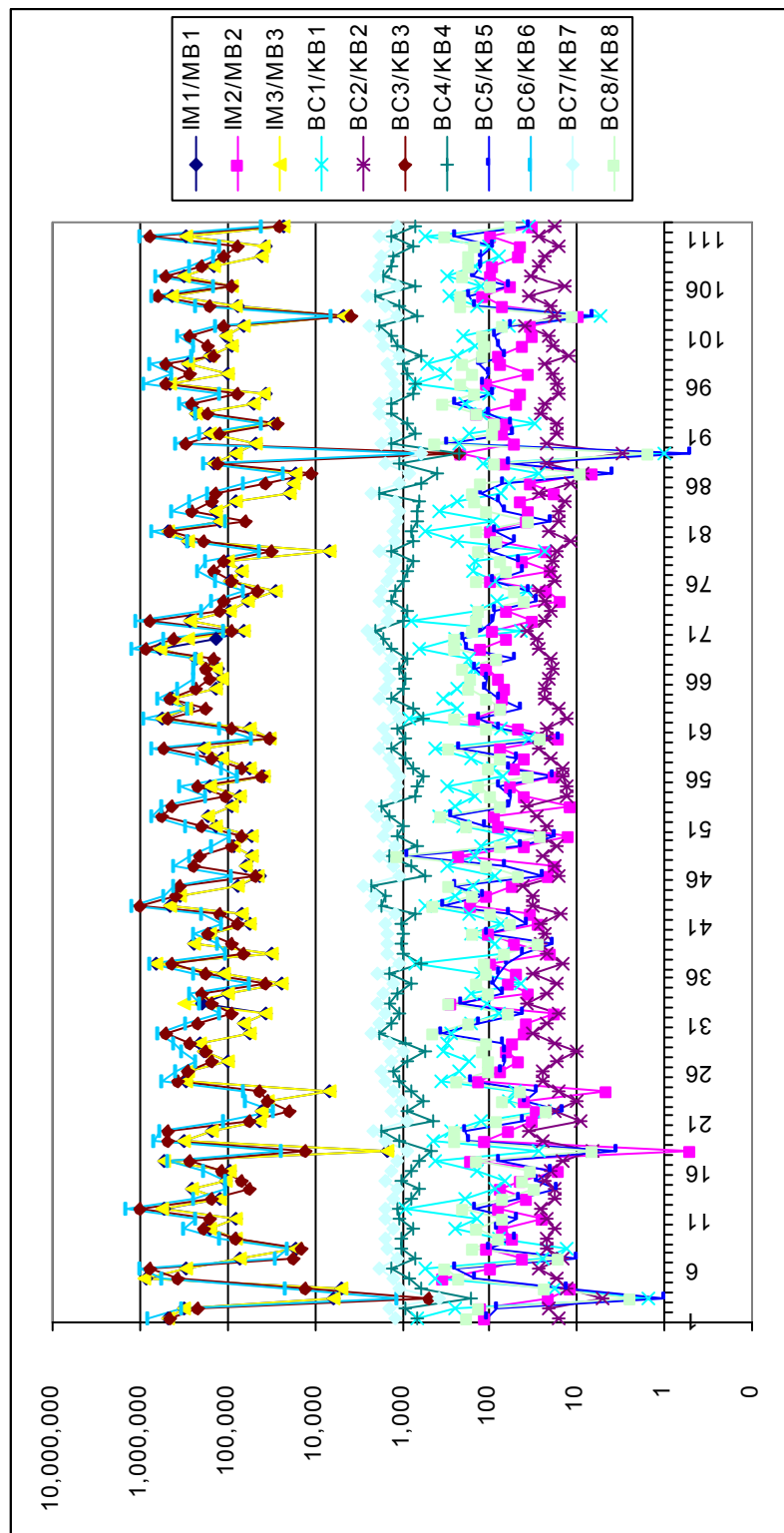
Inderdaad, indien de praktijk van de homeopathische artsen totaal verschillend is van die van de overige artsen, dan is geen enkele extrapolatie mogelijk. Hetzelfde geldt eveneens indien onze patiënten regelmatig ook andere artsen raadplegen voor supplementaire op punt stelling. Dit bijkomend onderzoek is gepland voor 2003.

De enige mogelijke huidige conclusies zijn:

- De praktijk van onze leden is wel degelijk een onderdeel van de geneeskunde. Klinische biologie en medische beeldvorming worden gebruikt waar nodig.
- Er wordt geen abnormale afwijking vastgesteld wat betreft onvoldoende of overdreven voorschriften. En de voorschriftenprofielen van onze leden zijn duidelijk gelijklopend.
- Er kan geen betekenisvol verschil vastgesteld worden tussen de kosten medische beeldvorming of klinische biologie, voorgeschreven door de Belgische homeopathische artsen en de overige artsen.
- Daarentegen bestaat er een bijzondere houding bij de homeopathische artsen: wanneer ze analyses klinische biologie aanvragen, passen ze een veel volledigere op punt stelling toe dan de overige artsen. Deze specifieke houding heeft echter geen enkele financiële weerslag op het systeem van de sociale zekerheid.

Dr. med. Michel Van Wassenhoven

## Partition of the data from the 112 respondents (logarithm)



## Partition of the numbers of yearly patient contacts of the 112 respondents

