

## Teaching Palliative Care to homeopaths - a essential necessity in Brazil

Margarida Antunes Haddad

School Hospital of Faculdade de Medicina de Itajubá - Brazil  
margaridahaddad@gmail.com

### Summary

The author discuss the existing needs to teaching Palliative Care to homeopaths in Brazil. The practice of Palliative Care [PC] is still poor in Brazil. Based in The Economist magazine<sup>1</sup> "EIU Quality of Death Index – 2015", Brazil, as many other developing countries, needs to work and advances in this aspect. The problems Brazil has facing is a large margin for improvement and limited trained healthy care professional.

Palliative care is a new science. Medicine has triumphed in modern times, but when it comes to the inescapable reality of aging and death, what medicine can often runs conter to what it should. A modern medicine is a paradox: "those people living longer will have disability and advanced illness about the last eighth or ten years of their life and they will need PC. The imbalance between the population requiring PC and those who can provide is significant<sup>2</sup>.

In homeopathy, the practice of PC is a hundred years old. A reviwed literature shows that James Tyler Kent helped patients in the final stages of life. It could say that there is historical evidence in PC in Kent's writings. The knowledge of PC with homeopathy remedy was described in several times in the *Lectures on Homoeopathic Philosophy* [1900], *Homeopathic Materia Medica* [1904] and *Lesser Writings* [1926]. For example: Lecture XXXV - Prognosis after observing the action of the remedy "Incurable diseases will be very often palliated by mild medicines". In *Carbo vegetabilis* Materia Medica "The patients looks like a cadáver [...] This state is present in advanced stage, when they are incurable [...] It furnishes an excellent palliative, stops the violent symptoms and mitigates greatly". And in Lesser Writens: "I am invited frequently to stand at the bed of moribund patients, whom I never attended during their curable ills".

In Brazil, homeopathy is a respected medical practice since 1840. Homeopathy is the 16<sup>th</sup> most used practice of the 61 medical specialties in the country<sup>3</sup>. The Brazilians homeopaths have broadened fields of activity that they are more credible among users and the regulatory institutions. Since 2006, the support of the Ministry of Health was established the “National Policy of Integrative and Complementary Practices” to supporting and strengthening initiatives for homeopathic in specialized attendance, intensive care units, palliative care units or in hospital wards<sup>4</sup>.

The Complementary and Alternative Medicine [CAM] is in general useful to people who face the challenge of incurable diseases. They are attracted by other possibilities of care and homeopathic medicine is very important when the chances of cure are limited. Homeopathy remedy improve quality of life and quality of death in the end-of-life.

At this Congress the author's proposal is to show the necessity and value of teach PC to homeopaths in Brazil. Homeopathic teachers must prepare and training their students suitable to deal with the needs of patients and relatives facing life-threatening illnesses.

The project was designed to teach PC to homeopaths in 3 steps: 1<sup>st</sup> Teach basic skills in PC and end-of-life issues, - 2<sup>nd</sup> Teach how to take a case; to research specific repertorie rubrics and Materia Medica, - 3<sup>rd</sup> Teach the family about death, dying and bereavement. The first course, next year, has been designed for 50 hours / class in the form of Continued Homeopathic Instruction.

The author has seen incurable patients since 1985, at School Hospital and or in their own home, caring them until their last moments of life, minimizing their discomfort and giving emotional and spiritual support to their relatives, prescribing homeopathic remedy. It can be said that the teaching of PC to homeopaths transforms the wrong way in which modern medicine is accustomed to treating incurable patients. <sup>5</sup>

**Bibliographic references:**

1. 2015 –Quality of death index  
[\[https://www.eiuperspectives.economist.com/healthcare/2015-quality-death-index\]](https://www.eiuperspectives.economist.com/healthcare/2015-quality-death-index)
2. Gawand, A. (2014). Being Mortal: Medicine and whats matters in the end. Toronto: Doubleday, Canada
3. A homeopatia no Brasil [<http://aph.org.br/a-homeopatia-no-brasil/>]
4. BRASIL. MINISTÉRIO DA SAÚDE. Política Nacional de Práticas Integrativas e Complementares - PNPIC. Brasília, 2006. [[www.saude.gov.br](http://www.saude.gov.br) e [www.amhb.org.br](http://www.amhb.org.br)]
5. Floriani CA. Palliative care in Brazil: a challenge to the health-care system. [<http://search.proquest.com/openview/b9077c1d28323a90e000eb89609203d5/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=1076339>].

.