Homoeopathic remedies and drug-regulatory authorities

Silvio Garattini and Vittorio Bertei's pledge to "safeguard the credibility of regulatory agencies and the professional dignity of their scientific committees" lacks references but it is a real issue. In France, homoeopathic remedies are still reimbursed under the mandatory National Health Service scheme (e.g. Ginkgo biloba homoeopathic remedy, which is only vigorously shaken water, costs €4.75 per L) whereas the vast majority of primary care trusts in the UK have cut funding.

In 2007, the French medicine agency (AFSSAPS) issued a national official warning to pharmacists and doctors after a mix-up in the labelling of two homoeopathic remedies by the company. However, the preparations only differed in terms of the label's labelling.

Placebos lack objective clinical effects; if you secretly slip a placebo into a person's drink, it doesn't work. Placebos are marketed by money-hungry quacks, they strengthen medical aircorporate and infantilise patients. This has a name: disease mongering.

Neither drug-regulatory authorities, nor scientific committees, must support this prolonged most.

I declare that I have no conflicts of interest.

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