### **Cost-effectiveness of homeopathic and anthroposophic medicinal products**

A number of scientific research studies evaluate the cost-effectiveness of homeopathic and anthroposophic medicines. It is plausible to state that both homeopathic and anthroposophic medicine can contribute to sustainable health systems by significantly reducing treatment costs.[[1]](#footnote-1)

The following examples show specific health care situations with clear data on cost-effectiveness:

* In Germany, 493 patients treated by GPs for chronic conditions with homeopathy had **better clinical outcomes** than those treated with conventional medicine, for similar costs.[[2]](#footnote-2)
* A study comparing the costs generated by conventional, homeopathic and mixed medical practice in French general medicine found homeopathic GPs to be up to **20% less expensive** than conventional medicine GPs; homeopathic GPs prescribed noticeably fewer psychotropic drugs, antibiotics and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs.[[3]](#footnote-3)
* An Italian study[[4]](#footnote-4) shows **savings of more than 40%** for patients with respiratory diseases under homeopathic treatment versus conventional therapy. After the first year, the spending decreased by 42% with a further reduction of 13% in the second year, representing a cost saving of 50% in total over the two years.
* Another study on recurrent upper respiratory tract infection showed homeopathic treatment to have superior medical effectiveness, fewer complications, fewer consultations, better quality of life, and less parental time off work – for equivalent direct medical costs.[[5]](#footnote-5)
* Swiss insurance company data show that homeopathic and anthroposophic medicinal products offer **potential savings of 45% and 12%** respectively compared to conventional medicines.[[6]](#footnote-6)

1. Reducing healthcare costs with homeopathy and anthroposophic medicine: A summary of available literature, ECHAMP 2014 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Witt et al: Outcome and costs of homoeopathic and conventional treatment strategies: a comparative cohort study in patients with chronic disorders. Complement Ther Med. 2005 Jun;13(2):79-86 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Colas et al., Economic impact of homeopathic practice in general medicine in France, Health Econ Review, 2015; 5: 18, 2015 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Rossi et al., Cost-benefit evaluation of homeopathic v conventional therapy in respiratory diseases Homp (2009) 98:2-10 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Trichard M et al., Pharmacoeconomic comparison between homeopathic and antibiotic treatment strategies in recurrent acute rhinopharyngitis in children. Homeopathy 2005:94:3-9 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. SASIS-Datenpool Jahresdaten mit Abzugsdatum 2015, SVKH [↑](#footnote-ref-6)