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The Leading Publication for Complementary Health, Education and Wellbeing





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Hello and welcome to the latest issue of Choice Health and Wellbeing.

After careful thought and consideration we have decided to change the format of Choice

Health and Wellbeing as follows: New format, 84 pages Magazine - Perfect bound Frequency - Quarterly, each of our spring, summer, autumn and winter issues will be bigger, and packed with the latest news and techniques. Subscriptions have been adjusted

automatically to take these changes into account.

Organisations today are confronted by challenges brought about by continuous change, globalisation, growing cultural differences and a constant need for efficacy and efficiency. These and other factors contribute to the ever increasing



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pace at which organisations operate to remain competitive in a difficult marketplace. This trend is challenging the wellbeing and health of the working population and indirectly of the economy itself.

Together through the work we do, promoting health, education and wellbeing for a healthier nation, remember how important you are. Happy reading,

Angela

Angela Mahandru Editor, Publisher

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Do not let

poor sleep ruin your life!

egarding sleep issues, if someone does not sleep enough, then it is a medical fact that their health will deteriorate. For example, statistics show that people who are short of sleep are more likely to suffer from an accident in the workplace.

What is a healthy sleep pattern?

As a rule of thumb, if you do not wake up refreshed and full of energy, then your sleep pattern probably needs some work. Medically, it is very hard to clarify what constitutes healthy sleep because individual requirements for sleep actually vary widely, from as few as four hours to nine hours of sleep every night. For example, as I practise in Spain, I see many clients who can manage with as little as four hours if this is complemented by a nap during the day (to accommodate work schedules or through custom).

Medically, sleeping patterns are considered to be driven by the hormonal system: the level of cortisone (the stress hormone) in the blood tends to rise just before waking up, and fall before going to bed. In parallel, the pineal gland secretes melatonin (our sleep hormone) when it gets dark around us.

However, as in general for health, it is not as simple as that: many people can sleep in full light, or during the daytime, and with practice most people can achieve very effective 'power naps' (a 15–20 minute sleep).

Sleeplessness is not a disease as such but a symptom that can have many causes. Insomnia is defined as partial or complete lack of sleep during the night. It is the most critical sleep problem.

Disturbed sleep, excessive perspiration, difficulty in getting to sleep or a feeling of being unrefreshed and tired when getting out of bed are, however, equally damaging in the long run, and can also lead to problems.

How can I improve my sleep patterns without the use of drugs?

First, I need to stress that sleep issues, like

digestive issues, are often too complex for selfprescription. There is usually a combination of stress, emotional issues and poor lifestyle or diet. For this reason, my view is that it is more effective to ask for an objective analysis from a competent health practitioner.

However, as a general rule, two areas need to be worked on: lifestyle and the emotional cause behind poor sleep.

In terms of lifestyle, review what you do during the last two hours of your waking life. Review everything with an open mind in order to be as relaxed as possible when going to bed.

Also, try to find what works for you in terms of feeling more relaxed. Be open-minded as being relaxed is very individual. One typical example in my clinic is that people get better sleep after some gentle exercises an hour before going to bed. Most of the general health advice would suggest that you should not be active before

Here are some examples of recent sleep issues that may respond well to a homeopathic approach:

- Solution After a big scare: Aconitum napellus 30C or 200C
- During periods: Actea racemosa 30C or 200C
- Section 2000 Anxiety: Arsenicum album 30C or 200C
- Selladonna 30C or 200C
- Solution After severe diarrhoea or vomiting: China 30C or 200C
- Secause of intestinal worms: Cina 30C or 200C
- Because of altitude sickness: Coca 30C or 200C
- After night shifts or nursing someone at night: Cocculus 30C or 200C
- Secause of mental over-activity: Coffea 30C or 200C
- After extremely good news: Coffea 30C or 200C
- After too much coffee: Coffea or Chamomile 30C or 200C
- After bad news: Gelsemium 30C or 200C
- Because of cramps: Mag phos or Nux vomica 30C or 200C
- After a heavy meal or too much alcohol: Nux vomica 30C or 200C
- Solution After severe grief: Natrum muriaticum 30C or 200C
- Staphysagria 30C or 200C
- Waking up at 3 am: Nux vomica, Sepia or Kali Carb 30C or 200C
- Waking up at 5 am: Sulphur 30C or 200C
- Not sleeping until 1 am: Arsenicum album 30C or 200C

These are readily available from your local health food shop or by order from a homeopathic pharmacy. If you wish to self medicate remember it is hard to be objective about our own health so think seriously about seeing a qualified practitioner.

going to bed, because it is supposed to raise your level of cortisone. However, these people find themselves sleeping much better after a good dance or a good swim. If this is your way to let go of your stress, then go for it. Do not believe the health headlines and just trust your body.

As a matter of general advice, which needs to be individualised, here is what I suggest:

If you watch TV, computers or play video games one to two hours before going to bed, and have sleep issues, then try and cut it off and replace it with a walk or reading a book. TV and computers etc. are major stimulators of our brains, and will definitely disturb the levels of cortisone and melatonin just before sleep.
Ensure that your diet is low in refined carbohydrate, soft drinks, coffee and tea. You

may have sleep issues because of what you eat: foods that keep your brain active are likely to disrupt your hormonal system.

Strong spices or artificial additives such as monosodium glutamate (MSG) have been linked to sleep issues. So if you suspect this to be an issue, try and stay off them for a couple of weeks to see if it makes a difference.

♥ Drink at least 1.5 to 2 litres of water a day. Many people are not good at spotting that their body is not hydrated. A poorly hydrated body is usually under stress, and this can lead to anxiety and sleep issues.

♥ If this is something you are attracted to, practise some form of relaxation or meditation to train your mind to 'calm down'.

♥ Are you taking any recreational drugs or conventional medication that may impact your sleep pattern? If so, could you arrange to have an alternative strategy to be able to reduce them, or alternatively take them early in the morning, with the agreement of your GP?

♥ Finally, herbal teas such as chamomile, passiflora, valerian or hops can help you find sleep. However, especially in the case of valerian and hops, some people are sensitive to these herbs.

What can I do if following these suggestions do not help?

This is where the second part of the equation comes in. I have seen numerous patients with sleep issues, and for each of them I could trace the issue to some emotional stress, either deep in the past or still recurring.

Sleep is our gateway to our subconscious, and any emotional issue that has not been dealt with may disturb it.

This is where in my view, homeopathy as taught at the College of Practical of Homeopathy is well ahead of any other healing practice. Homeopathy has about 200 remedies available for sleep issues from depending on the cause of poor sleep, your sleep pattern, when you wake up, your dreams, what awakes you, and so on. This is one of the areas where homeopathy really seems miraculous.

What happens if I am taking medication for this and I want to stop?

If you have been a long-term user of conventional sleep medication, and find you cannot stop taking it, then it is because the actual cause of the sleep issues has not been addressed. In most cases, it is best to consult a practical homeopath. Your health practitioner will have to first help you with any underlying issue impacting sleep and then work in cooperation with your GP so that the latter can reduce your medication slowly and gently.

In the meantime, have a good month, and a restful sleep. **CHW**

© Thierry Clerc, Clinical Homeopath, LCPH, MSc. If you wish to have a consultation regarding your sleep issues, contact him on 01223 655 300 or check his website at www.thierry-health.com. CPH now offer a postgraduate course in Homeopathy for qualified CAM Practitioners who would like to 'integrate' homeopathy into their practice. If you are interested contact Tessa on 0208 445 6123 or go to www.collegeofpracticalhomeopathy.com

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