**On: Piltan D, Rist L, Simões-Wüst A,
Saller R: Test of a homeopathic dilution of
Aconitum napellus. A clinical, randomized,
double-blind, controlled crossover study
in healthy volunteers. Forsch Komplement-
med 2009;16:168–173**

The study by Piltan et al. is interesting and well done and the authors are to be congratulated. The crossover design is indeed a good possibility to show a difference concerning the effect of homeopathic diluted remedies on human individuals. The authors discuss correctly the limitations of the crossover design as the situation for the group having received the verum first remains under the influence of the action of the homeopathic information for a time interval varying individually and depending on the chosen remedy and its potency. In the case of Aconitum napellus, a quick and short acting remedy, this had, as shown by the authors, no significant influence on the result of the study.

However, as we have encountered in our study treating ADHD children by homeopathic remedies [1], the time inter-

val can be much longer, even using short acting LM potencies. Amongst the about 2,500 known homeopathic remedies there are short acting ones like Aconitum napellus, but also long and slow acting ones like e.g. Silica or Alumina. Using 17 different remedies we had then to extend the washout period from 4 to 6 weeks due to a remaining carry-over effect, the maximum limit still tolerated by the affected children without treatment.

In further crossover studies it will therefore be necessary to carefully evaluate this point according to the characteristics and potency of the chosen homeopathic remedy.

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Reference

- 1 Frei H, Everts R, von Ammon K, et al: Homeopathic treatment of children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder: a randomised, double blind, placebo controlled crossover trial. Eur J Pediatr 2005;164:758–767.