

# Homeopathic Miasm Theory at a Glance: Timeline and Glossary

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## 1. Timeline

| Year        | Event                                                                                                                    |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1796        | Samuel Hahnemann introduces homeopathy and the "law of similars".                                                        |
| 1828        | The Chronic Diseases proposes three chronic miasms: psora, sycosis and syphilis.                                         |
| 1879-1905   | The bacteria behind gonorrhea, tuberculosis and syphilis are identified. Germ theory replaces miasma theory in medicine. |
| 1884        | J. C. Burnett proposes "vaccinosis". No scientific evidence has ever supported it.                                       |
| Early 1900s | Kent and J. H. Allen expand miasm teaching; a tubercular miasm is added.                                                 |
| Late 1900s  | Further miasms (cancer and others) are proposed in expanded modern models.                                               |
| 2010 / 2015 | UK Parliament report: homeopathy no better than placebo. NHMRC review: no reliable evidence for any condition.           |

## 2. Each miasm and its modern medical explanation

| Miasm              | Hahnemann's described origin       | What medicine knows today (CDC)                                                           |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Psora              | Suppressed "itch" eruption         | The itch was often scabies: a mite infestation treated with prescription medicine.        |
| Sycosis            | Suppressed gonorrhea and fig-warts | Gonorrhea is a bacterial STI cured with treatment. Genital warts are viral.               |
| Syphilis           | Suppressed chancre (sore)          | Syphilis is a bacterial STI cured with antibiotics. All pregnant people should be tested. |
| Tubercular (later) | Added by later homeopaths          | Tuberculosis is a bacterial infection treated with a full course of medicine.             |

## 3. Glossary

| Term             | Meaning in homeopathic tradition                                                                       |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Miasm            | From Greek miasma, "pollution". A hidden disease influence believed to underlie illness.               |
| Acute miasm      | An infectious disease with a fixed course that ends, such as measles.                                  |
| Chronic miasm    | A lasting disease influence believed to underlie long-term illness.                                    |
| Suppression      | Removing a local sign (rash, wart, sore), believed to drive disease deeper. Not supported by evidence. |
| Antipsoric       | A remedy believed to act on psora; Sulphur is the chief example.                                       |
| Nosode           | A remedy made from diseased tissue or disease organisms. Not a vaccine (Health Canada).                |
| Genus epidemicus | One remedy chosen to match the shared symptoms of an epidemic.                                         |

**Safety:** Never skip treatment for scabies, STIs or TB, or skip a vaccine, because of miasm theory. Talk to a doctor. In the US, call or text 988 if you are in crisis.

Sources: NCCIH; NHMRC 2015; UK House of Commons Evidence Check 2 (2010); CDC; Health Canada; Hahnemann, The Chronic Diseases (1828).