

4° Congresso Nazionale ROI

Le prove di efficacia: il patto terapeutico tra paziente ed osteopata

Managing and using "scientific" literature in clinical practice

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There is an expectation that modern health care practitioners can use “scientific” literature. This implies that that it is understood what constitutes scientific literature and that the ways in which literature can be used are clear. One way that literature may be used is in clinical practice where it is advocated that the best available evidence should be integrated with experience and patient values to inform individual clinical decisions. This approach is arguably, a key part of contemporary professional practice. However there are practical and ideological tensions inherent in this model. Furthermore, practitioners may draw on literature for reasons that go beyond the individual clinical encounter.

Practitioners commonly find it challenging to identify, appraise and use published evidence. In addition, there are concerns about loss of professional autonomy and artistry when practice is seen as being led solely by evidence from clinical trials. Osteopaths claim to offer individualised, holistic care strongly informed by osteopathic principles. This further amplifies the challenge of using evidence derived from populations with individuals in the clinical encounter.

This presentation will explore the nature and different types of scientific literature and its use in professional practice. A brief overview of contemporary evidence based practice will be offered along with a discussion of the challenges of applying evidence in practice.



Practical tips for searching databases and accessing literature will be given. An example of software use to help manage literature will be given as well as tips for assessing the relevance and quality of studies. Further resources will be offered for delegates to explore.

Vogel Steven

Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) at the University College of Osteopathy in London. Although most of his working time is spent on research and education, he held a clinical post as an osteopath in an NHS primary care setting for over 20 years and more recently works in private practice. His main research interests focus on back pain, clinicians' beliefs and attitudes and more recently, reassurance, communication and consent, safety and manual therapy. Steven was a member of the development groups for the NICE clinical guidelines for persistent non-specific low back pain the current NICE low back pain and sciatica clinical guideline. He is Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Osteopathic Medicine.