

A vision for "Mythical treatment"

Kamran Mahlooji^a, Mohsen Baghbani^b, Mahsima Abdoli^a, Sheida Mahnam^c

^aResearch Institute for Islamic and Complementary Medicine, School of Persian Medicine, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

^bInstitute for Humanities and Cultural Studies (IHCS), Tehran, Iran

^cIranology Foundation, Tehran, Iran

Abstract:

Background and Purpose: Research in the field of medical history to study various aspects of this science, especially in the field of integrated and interdisciplinary research requires a specific appropriate lexical system. An examination of available treatments in religious and mythological resources indicates that appropriate terms have not yet been formulated for such matters. One of these cases is treatments that are applied in a fixed manner regardless of the type of disease, which can be called "single -procedure therapies".

Materials and Methods: This study was conducted by library method and searching multiple databases including PubMed, Scopus, Google Scholar, Magiran and SID to extract data related to single therapies based on existing articles in this field.

Results: Methods of single procedure treatment are often related to an immaterial source. Contrary to common medical practice that seeks a specific cure for each disease, they treat all or a wide range of diseases with single or limited methods. The use of single-procedure therapies is rooted in mythological therapies. Some ancient texts and even rituals, such as the oiling of the sick in Christianity, fall under the category of mythical healing. This type of healing elucidates a direct connection between healing of diseases and divine grace, faith, or a spiritual source. For example, ritual oiling treatment is a single procedure treatment that uses only one method to treat all patients, but due of its effectiveness and alignment with its foundations, it has persisted through time.

Conclusion: Given the wide range of applications of single-procedure therapies, it seems that there is no direct relationship between treatment and disease in this type of treatment, as in modern medicine. The use of single-procedure therapies is rooted in mythological therapies and examining the insights governing these therapies and the reasons for the sustainability of these traditions can help understand how effective they were in treating diseases over the centuries and to augment the mutual relationship with medical history and other disciplines of knowledge.

Keywords: Treatment, Oiling, Medical history

Corresponding Author: Abdoli.m@kar.iums.ac.ir