

The Homeopathic Approach to Symptom Control

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Dr. Elizabeth Thompson trained in Palliative Care initially in Yorkshire and then in the West of Scotland. She attained her CCST in June 2000 and then was appointed to one of the very few NHS consultant posts in homeopathic medicine. She has recently been appointed Honorary Senior Lecturer in the Department of Palliative Medicine, Division of Oncology at Bristol University and her research interests have included the homeopathic approach in symptom control, particularly in the management of menopausal symptoms in women with breast cancer.

In this presentation Dr. Thompson will review the small amount of research that has been done in the field of oncology. She will discuss some of the basic science which is trying to research the underlying mechanism for homeopathic medicines. She will also discuss research methodologies which seem appropriate for researching a complex interaction such as the homeopathic approach with particular reference to the randomized control trial that she carried out in 2000. She will then discuss future studies in the palliative care setting which may clarify any benefit that the homeopathic approach may have in symptom control.