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The bioresonance —is it going to replace parasitological diagnostics and therapy?

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In the wake of the success of “alternative medicine” methods, there has been a growing interest in so-called bioresonance (not to be confused with a legitimate method of magnetic resonance). This method was developed in 1977 in Germany by Franz Morel and Erich Rasche and marketed there as the MORA Therapie. The theory of “bioresonance” is based on the assumption that each organism, including pathogens, induces electromagnetic radiation of unique frequencies. Detecting those frequencies can allegedly help to identify parasitic infections and also allergies (especially “concealed allergies”). Electronic devices used in “bioresonance” employ the “reversed frequencies” that are allegedly capable of curing parasitic diseases (killing parasites?) or eliminating allergies (especially “concealed” ones). The electronic devices used by “bioresonance” practitioners are either based on measuring the electric resistance of the skin, similarly like the e-meter used by Scientologists, or on analysing the spectrum of the electromagnetic field. Diagnostic/therapeutic devices used in the “bioresonance” are labelled with various sophisticated names such as “Quantum Resonance Magnetic Analyzer” (QRMA) or “Quantum Resonance Spectrometry” (QRS). Unfortunately, no published results are available to confirm individual frequencies emitted by parasites. Furthermore, no spectrometers are known to be capable of distinguishing such frequencies from the background electromagnetic noise.

In recent years, “bioresonance” practitioners have been trying to target parasitic infections and they are very “effective” in detecting multiple infections, which cannot be otherwise confirmed using legitimate methods. Surprisingly, this quackery is well accepted by the general public. There are many reasons for this phenomenon. Among them are the growing accessibility of the Internet, the increasing popularity of conspiracy theories, and the official medicine focusing on pharmaceutical and mechanical aspects only, neglecting psychological interactions with the patient. Also, despite the increasing level of formal education of the Polish society, there are fewer and fewer people who can independently analyse information and distinguish the truth from false. Parasitology has become an easy target for quackery in this country because of the marginalization of Parasitology as an academic subject.

The majority of alternative medicine methods provide a positive result based on the placebo effect. This is probably also the case of “bioresonance”. We must be aware, however, that the latter, is also blamed on indirect harmful consequences. The mass-detection of parasites by “bioresonance” quacks increases the informal pressure on family physicians, who are asked to

prescribe anti-helminthic drugs. Many doctors, having limited knowledge of parasitology, are not capable on a merit discussion on the subject. Consequently, they give up and prescribe drugs for the imaginary parasites, despite obvious side effects of such pharmaceuticals.

The “bioresonance” has been banned in some countries, including the USA. Unfortunately, the liberal legal system in Poland is favouring the whole array of socially negative phenomena... This article outlines the extent of the “bioresonance”, its legal status, and suggested actions to be taken by parasitologists and laboratory diagnosticians before it is too late.

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