

## **A medical myth : Parsley for urinary disease.**

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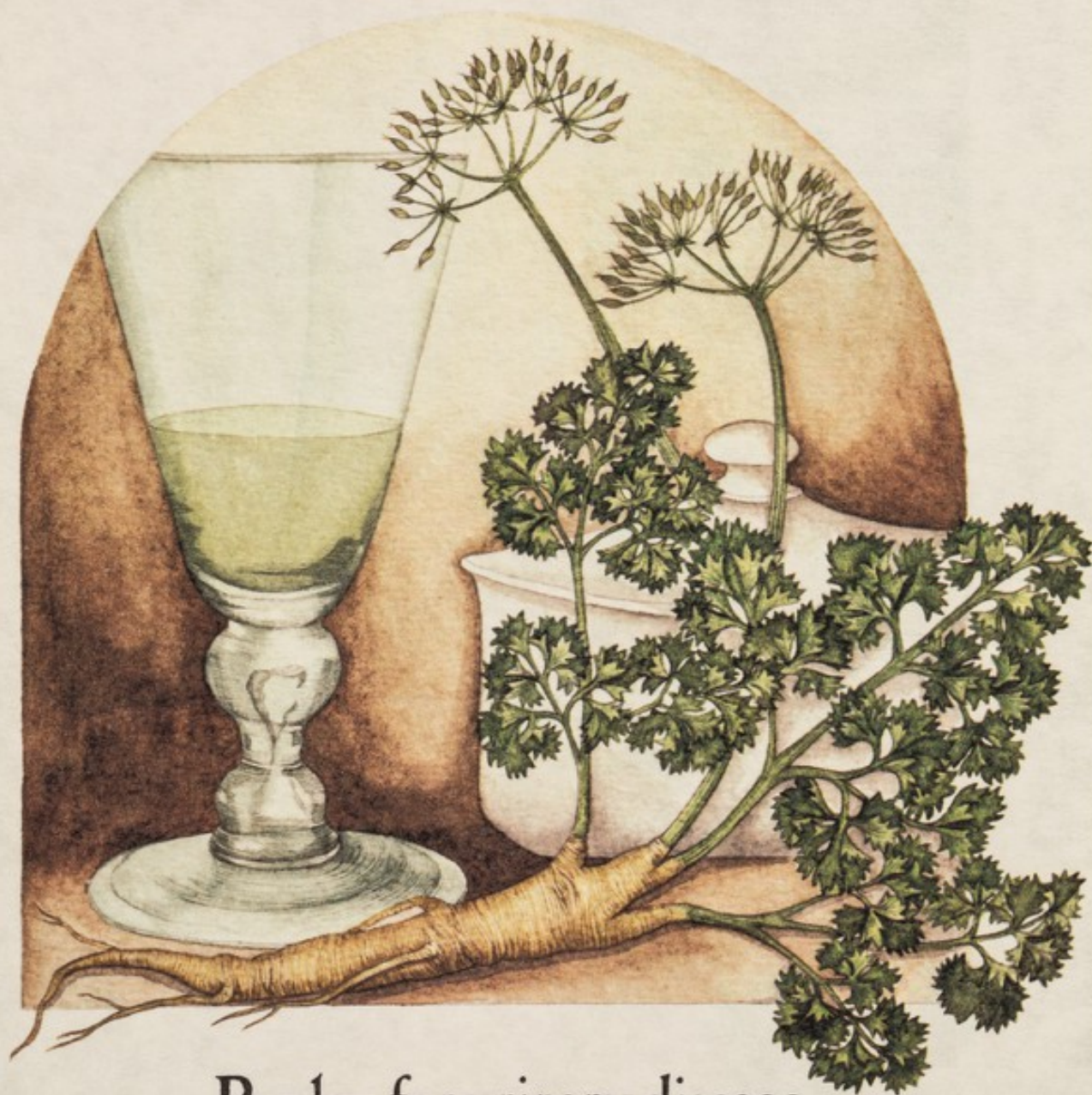
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# A MEDICAL MYTH

No. 1 in a series



## Parsley for urinary disease

*'A decoction of the Roots and Seed, drank, opens obstructions of the Liver, Kidneys and all the Internal Parts. It Provoketh urine and expelleth the stone and gravel.'*

This folk remedy from Ireland recalls the days before physicians could offer rational, scientific treatments for everyday ills.



**Prescribing Information. Presentation** Tablets – white, flat, round with bevelled edges, imprinted with the manufacturer's symbol on one face, with a single break bar on the other and coded AE/2. Each tablet contains 100mg trimethoprim B.P. Available in packs of 100 and 500. Basic NHS price £4.95 and £21.00. Tablets – white, flat, round, with bevelled edges, imprinted with the manufacturer's symbol on one face, with a single break bar on the other coded DE/5. Each tablet contains 200mg trimethoprim B.P. Available in packs of 100. Basic NHS cost £8.99. Suspension – white, sugar-free anisced flavoured suspension containing 50mg trimethoprim per 5ml. Available in bottles of 100ml. Basic NHS price £1.40.

**Indications** Treatment of susceptible infections caused by trimethoprim-sensitive organisms including urinary and respiratory tract infections. **Dosage and Administration** Acute Infections – Adults and children over 12 years 200mg twice daily. Children 6 years to 12 years 100mg twice daily. Children 6 months to 5 years 50mg twice daily. Children 6 weeks to 5 months 25mg twice daily. Treatment should continue for at least one week. The first dose can be doubled. Long-term Treatment and Prophylactic Therapy – Adults and children over 12 years 100mg at night. Children 6 years to 12 years 50mg at night. Children 6 months to 5 years 25mg at night. Where there is reduced kidney function, reference should be made to the dosage schedule in the Data Sheet.

**Contra-Indications, Warnings, etc.** Contra-indications. Pregnancy, trimethoprim hypersensitivity, blood dyscrasias, severe renal insufficiency where blood levels cannot be monitored. On prolonged treatment with large doses there is a theoretical possibility of affecting human folic acid metabolism. It is therefore advisable to check the blood picture in patients on long-term treatment. In neonates, trimethoprim should be used under careful medical supervision. **Side-Effects** Skin rashes, nausea and vomiting have been reported in rare instances.

**Product Licence Numbers** Tablets – 100mg: 4012/0001 – 200mg: 4012/0003. Suspension – 100ml: 4012/0002. **Name and Address of Licence Holder** A/S GEA, DK-2000, Copenhagen F, DENMARK. Further information is available from Duphar Laboratories Ltd. a trade mark of A/S GEA. **References:** 1. Lacey, R.W. *et al* (1980) *Brit. Med. J.*, 3, 376. 2. Brumfitt, W. & Pursell, R. (1972) *Brit. Med. J.*, 2, 673. 3. Kasanen, A., Sundquist, H. & Junnila, S.Y.T. (1979) *Curr. Ther. Res.*, 25, 202. 4. Kasanen, A. *et al* (1974) *Ann. Clin. Res.*, 6, 285. 5. Koch, U.J. *et al* (1973) *Chemotherapy*, 19, 314. 6. Brumfitt, W. & Hamilton-Miller, M.T. (1980) *Brit. J. Hosp. Med.*, March, 281. 7. May, J.R. & Davies, J. (1972) *Brit. Med. J.*, 3, 376.

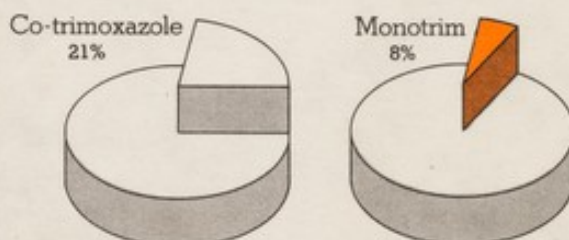
## A MODERN MEDICAL MYTH

**Trimethoprim must be given in combination with a sulphonamide**

There is now ample evidence<sup>1-5</sup> that trimethoprim alone is quite as effective as its combination with a sulphonamide in co-trimoxazole. Synergy – the justification for combining the two – does *not* occur at the concentrations of trimethoprim and sulphamethoxazole achieved in urine<sup>6</sup> or in sputum.<sup>7</sup>

**Trimethoprim (Monotrim) – as effective as co-trimoxazole, but considerably more acceptable and more economical**

*Incidence of unwanted effects in 339 courses*




A double-blind U.K. trial<sup>2</sup> which showed that trimethoprim was as effective as co-trimoxazole in urinary and respiratory infections also demonstrated that the incidence of unwanted effects could be cut significantly by omitting the sulphonamide – from 21% with co-trimoxazole to 8% with (Monotrim) trimethoprim alone.

**Today's proven answer to urinary and respiratory infections**

# MONOTRIM

trimethoprim B.P.

**prescribe for acceptability  
prescribe for economy**

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M/E/2