

Es gibt zwei Eingänge [in die Heilkunst]: Der eine ist in den geschriebenen Büchern, der andere ist in der Natur.

*There are two approaches [to medicine]: One in books, the other in nature.*

PARACELSUS

You cannot tell the quality of medicine from the outcome of medicine. You cannot tell that someone has performed poor medicine because the patient dies.

*Jan P. Vandenbroucke*

How can we bridge the gap between historical accumulated knowledge and the scarcity of randomized trials? I practice some Kampo medicine myself, without having solid data based on randomized controlled trials. Should I stop practicing Kampo medicine or should I continue?

*Kiichiro Tsutani*

The distinction of a placebo effect may perhaps be of some academic interest, but for a patient seeking cure, it doesn't matter through which known and unknown mechanisms he or she is helped. If a placebo effect cannot be properly controlled without distorting the treatment practice, a placebo control would be unscientific. The primary question is the efficacy of a complete therapy in its setting. In fact, this logic was always applied if a true placebo was not feasible for technical reasons, exemplified by the lack of placebo-surgery and by a large number of studies using «referred care» or «usual care» as controls.

*Johannes G. Schmidt*