

In article <1993Apr17.125545.22457@rose.com> ron.roth@rose.com (ron roth) writes:

- > OTOH, who are we kidding, the New England Medical Journal in 1984
- > ran the heading: "Ninety Percent of Diseases are not Treatable by
- > Drugs or Surgery," which has been echoed by several other reports.
- > No wonder MDs are not amused with alternative medicine, since
- > the 20% magic of the "placebo effect" would award alternative
- > practitioners twice the success rate of conventional medicine...

1: "90% of diseases" is not the same thing as "90% of patients".

In a world with one curable disease that strikes 100 people, and nine incurable diseases which strikes one person each, medical science will cure 91% of the patients and report that 90% of diseases have no therapy.

2: A disease would be counted among the 90% untreatable if nothing better than a placebo were known. Of course MDs are ethically bound to not knowingly dispense placebos...