

**THE RECEPTION OF PENICILLIN IN PORTUGAL (1945-1950)**

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Alexander Fleming's discovery of penicillin in 1928 is one of the most distinguished scientific discoveries in the history of science, medicine and pharmaceuticals of the 20th century. The authors point out the importance of this discovery and the transformation of penicillin into medication. Early Portugal acceded to this discovery, which showed immediate practical results.

The authors present the results of their research regarding the reception of penicillin in Portugal during the second half of the 1940s, in the pharmaceutical and medical press and through books.

The authors inform about the first pharmaceutical industries that commercialized medicines with penicillin in Portugal. The impact of penicillin on society was measured through the study of publicity and through the articles of public understanding of the new medicine (drug), on both the daily and the specialized press between 1943 and 1950. Finally, the authors evaluate the medical-sanitary and social-economical impact of penicillin through the study of Portuguese official statistics.