

Thomas Dover Encyclopedia Article

Thomas Dover

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Thomas Dover

1660-1742

English physician who is best known for introducing a popular remedy known as Dover's Powder. This potent medicine contained ipecac, opium, and potassium sulfate. It was prescribed as an analgesic, a sedative, and a sudorific or diaphoretic (an agent that increases perspiration). Ipecac (ipecacuanha) is a powerful emetic (a medicine that causes vomiting). Although Dover practiced medicine in London, he was never certified by the College of Physicians. In *An Ancient Physician's Legacy to his Country*, Dover claimed that he had practiced medicine for 49 years.