

Study "Improved quality of life and prolonged survival in additively homeopathically treated lung cancer patients": Statement on allegations

In the fall of this year 2022, the Austrian Agency for Scientific Integrity (ÖAWI) accused the authors of the study of data falsification and data manipulation in their review report. The study authors strongly reject the accusations of data falsification and data manipulation. They have urged the ÖAWI to hold a hearing on the allegations in the final report. Should the latter not voluntarily withdraw the untrue accusations, this will be enforced by legal means.

What it's about

For 10 years, 16 scientists, the majority of them specialists in oncology, from four hospitals worked on the study. The aim was to offer seriously ill lung cancer patients, in addition to conventional cancer treatment, the possibility of an additive homeopathic therapy, which has been shown to reduce side effects, prolong survival and contribute to an improved condition of the patients.

In October 2020, they published the results in the renowned journal "The Oncologist". In the fall of 2021, the Medical University of Vienna commissioned the ÖAWI – following accusations from private sources – to conduct an expert review. In September 2022, after a one-year review, the ÖAWI published its expert opinion and accused the authors of the study of data falsification and manipulation. The study authors were informed by e-mail. They were not given the opportunity to comment.

If the ÖAWI had already communicated with the study authors during its review, ambiguities and misunderstandings could have been cleared up and the accusations and allegations could have been refuted in time. Furthermore, it is incomprehensible and contradicts the criteria of a – particularly scientific – review that no experts (oncologists) were consulted and that the authors of the study were not given the opportunity to refute potential criticisms and accusations.

About the study

- independent, non-externally sponsored double-blind study of additive homeopathy for lung cancer
- Study design: prospective, double-blind, randomized, three-arm, placebo-controlled, multicenter
- 150 patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)
- monitored and evaluated by academically reviewed statisticians, including an automatically generated patient protocol
- complete and timely involvement of the ethics committee
- objective and factual review by scientific experts prior to publication in the medical journal "The Oncologist"

Link to the study

<https://doi.org/10.1002/onco.13548>

Contact

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