Cannabis in Cancer Treatment

Experiences from the Doctor’s Office
Cannabis treatment is multidisciplinary

- ADHD / Autism
- Depression
- Anxiety / PTSD
- Schizophrenia
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Epilepsy
- Pain / Migraine
- HIV / AIDS
- Chronic bowel diseases
- Rheumatoid Arthritis

Patients seek help regardless of age, disease or doctors’ specialization
Prescription of Cannabinoids in Germany

• Narcotic substances as mainly off-label-prescriptions on a private basis

• Dronabinol (THC, 2.5% and 5% solution)

• Sativex® as the only full Cannabis extract

• Cannabidiol is a mainly unknown substance

• Dronabinol 195€/10 g/250 mg THC, Cannabidiol 120€/20 g/500 mg, Sativex® 314€/30 ml/729mg THC, 675mg CBD, 10800 mg Alcohol

• Approval for the use of Cannabis Flowers by the German Health Ministry (BfArM, BOS) since 2007

• Indications for Cannabinoids in cancer therapy are treatment of nausea and vomiting during chemotherapy, cachexia
A. Glioblastoma multiforme WHO IV

August 2015 first diagnosed
- Symptoms only for two weeks, partial loss of memory (names)
- cMRI, craniotomy with total extirpation, cortisone-infusion, combined radiochemotherapy with Temozolomide (STUPP), Granisetrone

September 2015 first appointment
- Reference Dr. C. Sanchez, Spain
- Titration up to THC approx. 45 mg (28 drops of 5% Dronabinol solution), CBD approx. 320 mg (230 drops of 5% Cannabidiol solution)
- Relapse-free, good health condition, working and travelling (Nov 2016)

Approval for Cannabis flowers denied because of lack of symptoms
Private insurance covers costs
B. Mamma-Ca with cutaneous metastasis

September 2011 first diagnosed
- Biopsy and Ablatio mamma left side, invasive ductal G3 pT1c, pN0sn, cM0
- Tamoxifen 20 mg

July / August 2015 first therapy
- Thoracal pain, fracture of left rib, cutaneous metastasis left axilla
- Scintigraphy and PET revealed mediastinal and multiple bone metastasis
- Docetaxel 35 mg, discontinuation after day 1, Bisphosphonates

September 2015 first appointment
- Reduced health status, cognitive deficits, nausea, multiple cutaneous metastasis
- Experience with Cannabis inhalation and tincture
- Additional intake of Cannabidiol through fiber hemp

December 2015 second therapy
- Docetaxel tolerable with Cannabis, preferred oral intake and external application
March 2016

- Clinical evidence and CT displayed regression of cutaneous, mediastinal and thoracic metastasis
January 2016

- Rejection of cost coverage
- MDK referred to MCP, Haloperidol, palliative chemotherapy, intravenous alimentation
- **Approval by the German Health Ministry for the use of Cannabis flowers**

March 2016

- Clinical regression of cutaneous metastasis
- Headaches, nausea: Meningeosis carcinomatosa versus NW Cannabis-Oil?
- Financial problems resulting from chemotherapy and Cannabis flowers

April / May 2016

- Hospital stay reveals reduction of intrathoracal and mediastinal metastasis, Medication at dismissal Haloperidole 20-20-20 gtt, Dexamethasone 2-2-2 mg, Metamizole 40-40-40-40 mg, Hydromorphone ret. 8-0-8 and acute 1,3 mg up to 3x/d, Diazepam rect. 5 mg (convulsions)
- cMRI showed medullary layer encephalopathy and beginning cerebral involution
Patient died two weeks after clinic dismissal suffering serious convulsions.
C. Non hodgkin’s lymphoma Stadium IV

July 2015 first diagnosed
- Lymphocytosis seen three years before in lab of occupational medicine (fire department)
- Symptoms were reduced performance, pain syndrome in joints and stomach, psychic alteration
- Watch and wait, rehabilitation until september 2015, working capability only three hours per day

May 2016 first appointment
- Initiation of Cannabinoid therapy with Sativex®
- Dosage of 1-0-2 buccal application leads to noticeable positive effect

November 2016
- Reintegration into occupation and further education
- Dosage 0-0-12, significant effects, psychological stability, worsening if not available
## Laboratory parameters

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TV show about cancer-treatment with Cannabis

January 28, 2016 3sat „Cannabis bei Krebs”

• Cancer patients have less fear of contact with Cannabis because of
  - high psychological strain
  - side effects of chemotherapy
  - unsatisfied with after-care

• Patients ask for Hemp Oil or „Rick Simpson Oil“

• Focus is rather on a higher quality of life than healing