

# Psyche & cancer

from Dr. Alexander Bernhaut

## How pharmaceuticals can help

### **Herbert N., 39 years old, single, no children, self-employed in the economic sector:**

The patient was allotted to me when he has already had virulent metastases (due to cancer) in his brain. He was very broad-minded and absolutely optimistic despite these serious circumstances. Moreover he underwent a radiation therapy. Treatment by Psychopharmaceuticals was refused by him.

Mr. N. was totally clear in his mind, without a trace of amentia or aggressiveness. He really used the chance to get anything off his chest

during our therapeutic conversations.

Unfortunately the patients' general condition changed noticeably after a few weeks. His mental condition was also concerned due to the progression of the virulent metastases in his brain. Memory gaps occurred, followed by phases of amentia and verbal-aggressive behavior.

The affiliated asked for conversations again and again where they expressed their helplessness. It was important to clarify that with special disease patterns there can be changes in the mental

processes – which appear unconsciously for the patient – and that it is false to feel personally attacked. This knowledge resulted in a kind of relief of the strain for the family.

However, in succession it was vital to apply pharmaceuticals. It clearly appeared that it was possible to radically improve the condition of Mr. N. through the specific application of so called neuroleptics.

This medical history clearly shows the importance of psychotherapeutic support of the person concerned, education and support of the affiliated.

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