

Retraction of: Homeopathic Treatment as an Add-On Therapy May Improve Quality of Life and Prolong Survival in Patients with Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer: A Prospective, Randomized, Placebo-Controlled, Double-Blind, Three-Arm, Multicenter Study

This is a retraction of: Michael Frass, Peter Lechleitner, Christa Gründling, Claudia Pirker, Erwin Grasmuk-Siegl, Julian Domayer, Maximilian Hochmair, Katharina Gaertner, Cornelia Duscheck, Ilse Muchitsch, Christine Marosi, Michael Schumacher, Sabine Zöchbauer-Müller, Raj K. Manchanda, Andrea Schrott, Otto Burghuber, Homeopathic Treatment as an Add-On Therapy May Improve Quality of Life and Prolong Survival in Patients with Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer: A Prospective, Randomized, Placebo-Controlled, Double-Blind, Three-Arm, Multicenter Study, *The Oncologist*, Volume 25, Issue 12, December 2020, Pages e1930–e1955, <https://doi.org/10.1002/onco.13548>.

The journal published the article in December 2020¹ and a correction in March 2021². In August 2022, the journal received a request from the Commission for Research Integrity of the Austrian Agency for Research Integrity (OeAWI) to retract the article following an investigation they conducted at the request of the Vice Rector of the Medical University of Vienna. The journal published an Expression of Concern in October 2022³, followed by a second correction⁴ and accompanying Editorial in September 2024⁵.

The journal has decided to retract the article for the following reasons:

- The published paper omitted an important methodological detail: each patient received an individualized homeopathic treatment tailored to their condition, personality, and constitution, meaning both dosing strategies and potencies were also individualized and could vary over the course of treatment. Although the published paper discloses all prescribed medicinal products in Tables 6 and 7, along with the number of patients per product and group allocation, it does not report changes in dosing or potency, making the study's findings difficult to reproduce.
- At the time of article publication, the authors did not disclose to the journal that the same homeopathic medicinal products were being marketed and prescribed by the first

¹ Michael Frass, Peter Lechleitner, Christa Gründling, Claudia Pirker, Erwin Grasmuk-Siegl, Julian Domayer, Maximilian Hochmair, Katharina Gaertner, Cornelia Duscheck, Ilse Muchitsch, Christine Marosi, Michael Schumacher, Sabine Zöchbauer-Müller, Raj K. Manchanda, Andrea Schrott, Otto Burghuber, Homeopathic Treatment as an Add-On Therapy May Improve Quality of Life and Prolong Survival in Patients with Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer: A Prospective, Randomized, Placebo-Controlled, Double-Blind, Three-Arm, Multicenter Study, *The Oncologist*, Volume 25, Issue 12, December 2020, Pages e1930–e1955, <https://doi.org/10.1002/onco.13548>

² Michael Frass, Peter Lechleitner, Christa Gründling, Claudia Pirker, Erwin Grasmuk-Siegl, Julian Domayer, Maximilian Hochmair, Katharina Gaertner, Cornelia Duscheck, Ilse Muchitsch, Christine Marosi, Michael Schumacher, Sabine Zöchbauer-Müller, Raj K. Manchanda, Andrea Schrott, Otto Burghuber, Homeopathic Treatment as an Add-On Therapy May Improve Quality of Life and Prolong Survival in Patients with Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer: A Prospective, Randomized, Placebo-Controlled, Double-Blind, Three-Arm, Multicenter Study, *The Oncologist*, Volume 26, Issue 3, March 2021, Page e523, <https://doi.org/10.1002/onco.13693>

³ Expression of Concern: Homeopathic Treatment as an Add-On Therapy May Improve Quality of Life and Prolong Survival in Patients with Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer: A Prospective, Randomized, Placebo-Controlled, Double-Blind, Three-Arm, Multicenter Study, *The Oncologist*, Volume 27, Issue 12, December 2022, Page e985, <https://doi.org/10.1093/oncolo/oyac221>

⁴ William D Figg, Susan E Bates, Clinical trial results: each patient's participation should count, *The Oncologist*, Volume 30, Issue 7, July 2025, oyae252, <https://doi.org/10.1093/oncolo/oyae252>

⁵ Correction to: Homeopathic Treatment as an Add-On Therapy May Improve Quality of Life and Prolong Survival in Patients with Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer: A Prospective, Randomized, Placebo-Controlled, Double-Blind, Three-Arm, Multicenter Study, *The Oncologist*, Volume 29, Issue 11, November 2024, Pages e1631–e1632, <https://doi.org/10.1093/oncolo/oyae253>

author's clinic while the clinical trial was ongoing. This should have been disclosed as a conflict of interest in the published paper.

[Here we can include, if desired by the authors, a statement on whether some or all authors agree or disagree with the journal's decision to retract.].