

**vdak**

*Verband der  
Angestellten-  
Krankenkassen e.V.*



*AEV - Arbeiter-  
Ersatzkassen-  
Verband e.V.*

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**Presentation at the University Clinic (UKSH)**

**Particle Therapy for the North**

**29 June 2006**

**"Particle Therapy:**

**The Health Insurers' View"**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First, I would like to thank you for inviting me and giving me the opportunity to highlight particle or proton therapy from the health insurers' point of view. An English version of my notes has been distributed.

Let me just make a few general comments on health insurance in Germany for our numerous foreign guests.

Of the 2.8 million citizens in Schleswig-Holstein, 2.4 million people are members of our statutory health insurance scheme. 10 % or approx. 300,000 are insured privately. The choice between statutory or private health insurance is linked to professional groups and/or the level of income.

Statutory health insurance is subdivided into 6 kinds of funds. One of these is the substitutional health insurance fund, which includes

- the Verband der Angestellten Krankenkassen [Federation of Salaried Employees' Health Insurance Funds] and the
- Arbeiter-Ersatzkassen-Verband [Federation of Workers' Alternative Health Insurance Funds].

In Schleswig-Holstein, we insure approx. 40 % of the people covered by statutory health insurance, while the AOK [local health insurance funds] insures 32 % and company health insurance funds insure 20 %.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

German health insurance funds are public-law corporations that have a legal status. Their duties, responsibilities and services have been set down in a Social Security Code, according to which we are bound by the requirement to minimise public health costs. Therefore, our services, such as the costs for radiation using protons, must be oriented to meet this requirement by being:

- sufficient,
- appropriate, and
- economic.

We must not exceed the necessary measures.

Initially, the introduction of new methods of treatment is the responsibility of the Federal Joint Committee, which consists of:

- the medical profession,
- the Hospital Federation, and
- the federations of health insurance funds.

This Federal Joint Committee also examines the indications for proton therapy.

So much for my general comments.

Taking the regulatory framework into account, the substitutional health insurance funds have determined the following:

1. Radiation therapy using protons constitutes a promising method for treating malignant tumours. Due to its dose distribution, proton therapy has the theoretical advantage of achieving a higher radiation dose in the tumour while administering a lower dose in the surrounding healthy tissue and organs.
2. In addition, we will examine whether a combination of conventional radiation therapy and proton radiation achieves a better result than using protons in monotherapy. Our federation is interested in the further development of proton therapy based on indications, as well as providing joint scientific support in the further development of proton therapy. To this end, the Federation of Salaried Employees' Health Insurance Funds and the Federation of Workers' Alternative Health Insurance Funds will appoint an advisory committee together with the University Clinic of Schleswig-Holstein.
3. The substitutional health insurance funds do not expect any locations in northern Germany to be set up other than in Kiel, and that the cooperation with other university clinics will be sustainable at this location for a longer period of time.
4. The University Clinic of Schleswig-Holstein together with the Federation of Salaried Employees' Health Insurance Funds and the Federation of Workers' Alternative Health Insurance Funds on behalf of their member funds plan:
  - to consensually define in a joint advisory committee those indications that are recognised or will be examined for proton mono- and combination therapy at the time negotiations are to be taken up,

- to define out-patient and in-patient services, including the necessary link to conventional radiation therapy and other clinics involved in oncologic treatment, and
- to agree on appropriate remuneration rules.

5. This treatment is also linked to our objective to contribute to the verification and optimisation of its use and commercial efficiency by documenting treatment with proton radiation in accordance with scientific criteria. Therefore, the basic protocols on study, therapy and documentation that are to be applied during treatment will be consensually defined by the contractual partners' joint advisory committee.

In a "Letter of Intent" sent in spring, we informed the University Clinic of Schleswig-Holstein of these core aspects.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the meantime, several rounds of negotiations on a medical care contract have taken place. The structure of the contract has been determined, whereby the question of remuneration is still open. The central issue is whether or not to set fixed prices today that would be effective for the year 2010.

This covers the view of the substitutional health insurance funds. I assume that other kinds of funds will become parties to this contract.

We are very much aware of our responsibility, and must act together now to prevent an uncontrolled expansion of capacity in Germany.