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Guidelines Breast  
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HEILEN**

# Diagnosis and Treatment of Patients with early and advanced Breast Cancer

## Complementary Therapy Survivorship



## Complementary Therapy – Hormonal Treatment and Alternatives in Breast Cancer Survivors – Survivorship

- **Versions 2002–2022:**  
Albert / Bauerfeind / Blohmer / Dall / Fersis / Friedrich / Gerber /  
Göhring / Hanf / Janni / Kümmel / Lück / von Minckwitz / Nitz /  
Oberhoff / Rhiem / Scharl / Schmidt / Schütz / Solomayer /  
Thomssen
- **Version 2023:**  
**Heil / Solomayer**

### Screened Data Sources:

Pubmed	2015 - 01/2023
ASCO	2015 – 2022
SABCS	2015 – 2022
EBCC	2015 – 2022
Cochrane library:	summary Jan. 2023

-RCT, systematic review, meta-analysis

1. Leitlinienprogramm Onkologie (Deutsche Krebsgesellschaft, Deutsche Krebshilfe, AWMF): Komplementärmedizin in der Behandlung von onkologischen PatientInnen, Langversion 1.1, 2021, AWMF Registernummer: 032/055OL, <https://www.leitlinienprogramm-onkologie.de/leitlinien/komplementaermedizin/>



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# CAM

## „Integrative Oncology“

**CAM**  
Complementary + alternative medicine

### Complementary

*In addition to  
scientifically  
based medicine*

## „Unconventional methods“

**UCT**  
Unconventional Tx

### Unconventional

*Instead of  
scientifically  
based medicine*

### Unconventional

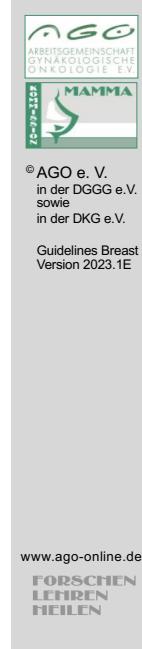
*Unproven outsider  
methods*

Komplementäre Verfahren werden parallel zur konventionellen Therapie angewendet und unterscheiden sich von alternativen Verfahren dadurch, dass sie den Wert der konventionellen Verfahren nicht in Frage stellen, sondern sich als Ergänzung verstehen

### Onkolleinlinienprogramm

1. Witt CM et al.. A Comprehensive Definition for Integrative Oncology. J Natl Cancer Inst Monogr 2017;(52): Igx012
2. Leitlinienprogramm Onkologie (Deutsche Krebsgesellschaft, Deutsche Krebshilfe, AWMF): Komplementärmedizin in der Behandlung von onkologischen PatientInnen, Langversion 1.1, 2021, AWMF Registernummer: 032/055OL, <https://www.leitlinienprogramm-onkologie.de/leitlinien/komplementaermedizin/>

“Integrative oncology is a patient-centered, evidence-informed field of cancer care that utilizes mind and body practices, natural products, and/or lifestyle modifications from different traditions alongside conventional cancer treatments. Integrative oncology aims to optimize health, quality of life, and clinical outcomes across the cancer care continuum and to empower people to prevent cancer and become active participants before, during, and beyond cancer treatment.”



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## Good Clinical Practice

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**All patients should be consulted as early as possible and in the course of the process repeatedly on the interest in information complementary medical measures and, if interested, reliable sources of information should be referred.**

S3 LL "Komplementärmedizin in der Behandlung von onkologischen PatientInnen"

### Literatur:

1. Leitlinienprogramm Onkologie (Deutsche Krebsgesellschaft, Deutsche Krebshilfe, AWMF): Komplementärmedizin in der Behandlung von onkologischen PatientInnen, Langversion 1.1, 2021, AWMF Registernummer: 032/055OL, <https://www.leitlinienprogramm-onkologie.de/leitlinien/komplementaermedizin/>



## General Considerations

Oxford		
LoE	GR	AGO
2b	B	--
2b	B	--

- **CAM instead of loco-regional interventions**
- **CAM instead of systemic treatment**
- **Patients should be asked and advised about their use of CAM modalities**
- **Diagnostic procedures in connection with complementary and alternative therapy concepts without evidence (e.g. iris diagnostics, bioresonance) should not be recommended.**
- **During anti-cancer treatment: Beware of drug interactions**

1. Guha N, Kwan ML, Quesenberry CP, et al: Soy isoflavones and risk of cancer recurrence in a cohort of breast cancer survivors: the Life After Cancer Epidemiology study. *Breast Cancer Res Treat.* 2009;118(2):395–405, pmid:19221874.
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# Complementary Therapy

## Pre- and Postoperative

Oxford		
LoE	GR	AGO
1b	B	+
1b	B	+/-
2b	B	+
2b	C	+/-
1a	A	+
1a	A	+
1b	B	+/-
1b	B	--
2b	C	+
2b	C	+/-

### Preoperative:

- Hypnosis (reduces anxiety, pain, nausea)

### Postoperative:

- Acupuncture (pain relief, anxiety)
- Acupuncture (nausea, vomiting)
- Massage therapy (pain relief)
- Early postoperative exercise reduces upper-limb dysfunction (beware: increased wound drainage)
- Physical exercise
  - to reduce breast cancer related secondary lymphedema
  - as a prophylaxis of lymphedema
- Prophylactic lymphatic drainage
- Yoga (arm and shoulder pain)
- Music therapy (reduces pain after mastectomy)

Präoperativ:

### Hypnosis

1. Montgomery GH, David D, Kangas M, et al. Randomized Controlled Trial of a Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy Plus Hypnosis Intervention to Control Fatigue in Patients Undergoing Radiotherapy for Breast Cancer. JCO 2014;DOI 10.1200/JCO.2013.49.3437
2. Cramer H, Lauche R, Paul A, et al: Hypnosis in Breast Cancer Care: A Systematic Review of Randomized Controlled Trials. Integr Cancer Ther. 2015 Jan;14(1):5-15. Epub 2014 Sep 18.
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Postoperative:

### Acupuncture

1. Chao LF et al.: The efficacy of acupoint stimulation for the management of therapy-related adverse events in patients with breast cancer: a systematic review. Breast Cancer Res Treat 2009;118:255–267.
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  4. Giron PS, Haddad CA, Lopes de Almeida: Effectiveness of acupuncture in rehabilitation of physical and functional disorders of women undergoing breast cancer surgery. *Support Care Cancer*. 2016 Jun;24(6):2491-6.
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  6. Ruan QZ, Chen AD, Tran BNN integrative Medicine in Plastic Surgery: A Systematic Review of Our Literature. *Ann Plast Surg* 2019 April;82(4):459-468

#### Massage Therapy

1. Pan YQ, Yang KH, Wang YL, et al: Massage interventions and treatment-related side effects of breast cancer: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Int J Clin Oncol*. 2014 Oct;19(5):829-41.
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#### Postoperative exercise

1. McNeely ML, Campbell K, Ospina M et al.: Exercise interventions for upper-limb dysfunction due to breast cancer treatment. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2010, Issue 6. Art. No.: CD005211. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD005211.pub2.
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3. Anderson RT, Kimmick GG, McCoy TP, et al. A randomized trial of exercise on well-being and function following breast cancer surgery: the RESTORE trial. *J Cancer Surv* 2012;6(2):172-81
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1. Baumann FT, Reike A, Reimer V et al: Effects of physical exercise on breast cancer –related secondary lymphedema : a systematic review *Br Ca res Treatment* 2018; 170: 1-13

#### Prevention lymphedema

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1. Devoogdt N, Christiaens MR, Geraerts I, et al: Effect of manual lymph drainage in addition to guidelines and exercise therapy on arm lymphoedema related to breast cancer: randomised controlled trial. *BMJ* 2011;343:d5326 doi: 10.1136/bmj.d5326
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## Complementary Treatment While on Cancer Treatment – Impact on Toxicity I

### During anti-cancer treatment: Beware of drug interactions

	Oxford		
	LoE	GR	AGO
▪ <b>Mistletoe (<i>Viscum album</i>)</b> in order to reduce side effects	<b>1a</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>+/-</b>
▪ <b>Thymic peptides</b> lower risk of severe infections	<b>2a</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>+/-</b>
▪ <b>Ginseng</b> reduces fatigue; note: interacts with cytochrome P enzymes e.g. CYP 3A4	<b>2b</b>	<b>C</b>	-
▪ <b>Ganoderma Lucidum</b> reduces fatigue, note: inhibits cytochrome P enzymes (e.g. CYP 3A4)	<b>2b</b>	<b>C</b>	-
▪ <b>L-Carnitine</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ peripheral neuropathy</li> <li>▪ treatment of fatigue</li> </ul>	<b>1b</b> <b>1b</b>	<b>B</b> <b>B</b>	-- -
▪ <b>Melatonin</b> (reduces fatigue, improve sleep, depressive symptoms, cognition)	<b>2b</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>+/-</b>
▪ <b>Curcumin</b> adjunct to reduce radiation-induced dermatitis	<b>1b</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>+/-</b>
▪ <b>Ginger</b> adjunct to guideline-oriented medication to treat chemotherapy induced nausea & vomiting – beware of drug interactions	<b>1b</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>+/-</b>

### General

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### Mistletoe

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#### Thymus

1. Wolf E, Milazzo S, Boehm K, et al. Thymic peptides for treatment of cancer patients. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2012, Issue 2. Art. No.: CD003993. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD003993.pub3.

#### Ginseng, Ganoderma lucidum

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#### Curcumin

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#### Ingwer

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## Complementary Treatment While on Cancer Treatment – Impact on Toxicity II

Oxford		
LoE	GR	AGO
<b>1b</b>	<b>B</b>	-
<b>2b</b>	<b>B</b>	+/-
<b>1b</b>	<b>C</b>	-
<b>2b</b>	<b>D</b>	-
<b>1b</b>	<b>B</b>	-
<b>1b</b>	<b>B</b>	-
<b>3b</b>	<b>B</b>	-
<b>1b</b>	<b>B</b>	-*inf
<b>5</b>	<b>D</b>	--
<b>2b</b>	<b>B</b>	+/-**

\*inf: i.v.-infusion (in Germany not approved)  
\*\*treatment in clinical trials recommended

### General

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### Antioxidant supplements

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#### Vitamin C

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#### Selen

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#### Proteolytic enzymes and toxicity of chemotherapy

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#### Bromelain

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Chinese herbal medicine and wound healing

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Kurzzeit-Fasten

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# Additional Complementary Therapy of Side Effects Related to Cancer Treatments

Oxford		
LoE	GR	AGO
<b>1b</b>	<b>B</b>	-
<b>1b</b>	<b>B</b>	+/-
<b>3a</b>	<b>B</b>	+/-
<b>1b</b>	<b>C</b>	+/-
<b>2b</b>	<b>D</b>	+/-
<b>3b</b>	<b>C</b>	+/-

- **Chinese medicinal herbs** (to treat the side effects of chemotherapy)

- **Homoeopathic medicine** (against therapy side effects / Placeboeffect)
- **Topical Silymarin** (to prevent acute dermatitis during radiotherapy)
- **Massage** (to improve on fatigue, pain, anxiety, nausea)
- **Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve stimulation (TENS)** (against cancer pain)
- **Hydrotherapy** (for supportive skin care)

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## Additional Complementary Therapy of Side Effects Related to Cancer Treatments

### Acupuncture in order to improve on

- Chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting
  - (Electro)-Acupuncture as adjunct to antiemetic treatment
  - Acupressure as adjunct to antiemetic treatment
- Pain
  - Cancer pain
  - Aromatase-inhibitor – induced arthralgia
- Fatigue
  - Acupressure
- Anxiety and depression
- Cognitive dysfunction
- Menopause syndrome in Breast Cancer Patients
  - to improve on frequency and severity of hot flashes
  - Electro-Acupuncture to improve on sleep and hot flashes
- Leucopenia (Moxibustion)
- Treatment of chemotherapy induced polyneuropathy
  - prophylactically
  - therapeutically
- Chronic lymphedema after Breast Cancer Treatment

Oxford		
LoE	GR	AGO
1b	B	+
1b	B	+
1b	B	+
1a	B	+
1a	B	+
1b	B	+
2b	B	+
5	D	+/-
1b	B	+
1b	B	+/-
2a	B	+
2b	B	+/-
1b	B	-
2b	B	+/-
2b	B	+/-

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# Complementary Treatment

## Mind-Body Medicine I

Oxford		
LoE	GR	AGO
1a	A	+

### MBSR (Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction)

Program improves quality of life, coping strategies, attentiveness, and lowers stress, anxiety, depression, fatigue, and sleep disturbances

1a	A	++
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### Physical exercise / sport

min. 3x/week moderate endurance training in combination with workout exercises (2x per week) improve quality of life, cardio-respiratory fitness, physical performance, sleep, pain, depression, lymphedema, and fatigue

1a	A	++
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# Complementary Treatment

## Mind-Body Medicine II

	Oxford		
	LoE	GR	AGO
<b>Relaxation techniques</b>	<b>2b</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>+/-</b>

**Relaxation techniques**  
Reduction of anxiety and nausea, improvement of quality of life, reduction of psychological stress

<b>Yoga</b> Improves sleep, quality of life, stress, anxiety, depression, fatigue, and sleep	<b>1b</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>+</b>
<b>Qi Gong</b> May improve quality of life, fatigue, and mood	<b>2a</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>+/-</b>
<b>Tai Chi</b> Improves quality of life, muscular strength, sleep	<b>2a</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>+/-</b>
<b>Hypnosis (in combination with cognitive training)</b> Improves fatigue and muscle weakness under radiotherapy; also reduces distress	<b>1b</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>+</b>

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## CAM

### Prevention of Recurrence / Improvement of Overall Survival I

Modifiable Lifestyle Factors

	Oxford		
	LoE	GR	AGO
	2a	A	++
▪ Physical exercise			
(equivalent to 3–5 hrs moderate walking per week) improves DFS and OS, cardio-respiratory fitness, physical functioning			
▪ Reduce smoking	2b	A	+
▪ Reduce alcohol consumption (< 6 g/day)	2b	A	+

#### Physical exercise

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# Modifiable Lifestyle Factors

## Nutrition after Breast Cancer Diagnosis Prevention of Recurrence / Improvement of Overall Survival II

- **Adherence to normal BMI / weight loss if overweight, irrespective of HR-status**
- **Low fat diet**  
dietary counseling recommended
- **Increased fiber intake (e.g. Flaxseed)**
- **Adherence to general nutrition guidelines**  
(e.g. DGE, WCRF) similar to a Mediterranean Diet
- **Dietary extremes**

Oxford		
LoE	GR	AGO
1a	A	++
1a	B	+
2a	B	+
2a	B	++
2a	B	--

### Adherence to normal body weight/BMI

1. Schwingshackl L, Hoffmann G: Adherence to Mediterranean diet and risk of cancer: an updated systematic review and meta-analysis of observational studies. *Cancer Med.* 2015 Dec;4(12):1933-47. doi: 10.1002/cam4.539.
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### Obesity

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Dietary extremes:

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# Complementary Treatment

## Prevention of Recurrence / Improvement of Overall Survival III.1 Dietary Supplements – Herbal Therapies

### During anti-cancer treatment: Beware of drug interactions

	Oxford		
	LoE	GR	AGO
<b>Post treatment vitamine / antioxidant supplements does not appear to be associated with increased risk of recurrence (beware of drug / treatment interactions)</b>	2b	B	
<b>Smokers on antioxidant supplements are at higher risk for lung cancer</b>	1b	A	
<b>For Prevention of BC Recurrence:</b>			
▪ Antioxidants	2a	B	+/-
▪ Vitamine supplementation in patients on a balanced diet (esp. Vitamine C, E)	2a	B	+/-
▪ Vitamine D (after Vit D level)	2b	B	+/-
▪ Soy-food (natural source of phytoestrogenes) – food or concentrates containing ≥ 100 mg isoflavones per day	2a	B	+/-
▪ Black Cohosh (Cimicifuga racemosa)	3b	C	+/-
▪ Antioxidant supplements (after completion of radiotherapy)	2b	B	+/-
▪ Green tea	3a	C	+/-
▪ Selenium	2b	B	+/-

### General

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### Post treatment vitamin and/or antioxidant supplements

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#### Vitamin D Supplementation

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# Complementary Treatment

## Prevention of Recurrence / Improvement of Overall Survival III.2

### Dietary Supplements – Herbal Therapies

During anti-cancer treatment: Beware of drug interactions	Oxford	LoE	GR	AGO
▪ Other orthomolecular substances (Zinc...)	5	D	-	-
▪ Artificial carotenoids appear to be associated with worse outcome	2b	B	-	-
▪ Proteolytic enzymes (Papain, Trypsin, Chymotrypsin)	3b	B	-	-
▪ Mistletoe ( <i>Viscum album</i> )	1b	C	-	-
▪ Thymic peptides (impact on OS)	2a	B	-	-
▪ Oxygen- and ozone therapy	5	D	--	--
▪ Laetrile (Amygdalin, „Vitamine B17“)	1c	D	--	--
▪ Methadone	5	D	--	--
▪ Cancer bush ( <i>Sutherlandia frutescens</i> ), Devil's claw ( <i>Harpagophytum procumbens</i> ), Rooibos tea ( <i>Aspalathus linearis</i> ), Bambara groundnut ( <i>Vignea subterranean</i> )	4	C	-	-
▪ Incense	5	D	-	-
▪ Curcuma, curcumine	5	D	-	-

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