

P R E S S R E L E A S E



German Brain Tumour Association Commitment for Brain Tumour Patients

In Germany, approximately 8,000 people are diagnosed with a primary brain tumour every year. The number of patients with brain metastases developing as a result of lung cancer, breast cancer or other cancerous diseases is even higher. Both brain metastases and malignant gliomas, the most frequent primary brain tumours in adults, confront patients, relatives and doctors with a challenging situation. For more than one decade the *Deutsche Hirntumorhilfe* is dedicated to all people concerned.

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With the intention to promote science and neuro-oncological research as well as to improve health care standards for brain tumour patients, the *Deutsche Hirntumorhilfe* was founded on August 1, 1998, in Leipzig. The independent non-profit organisation is an important contact point for everyone confronted with a brain tumour diagnosis. Supporting especially the issues of patients with brain tumours and brain metastases, the *Deutsche Hirntumorhilfe* is unique in the German-speaking countries and strives for further cooperation with other international organisations. All projects are financed exclusively by donations, membership fees and project-related subsidies.

Knowledge Creates Future

More than 700 members and 7,000 supporters from all over the world are pursuing one common goal: to find a cure for brain tumours – as fast as possible. True to the motto "Knowledge Creates Future", the *Deutsche Hirntumorhilfe* provides health care professionals and patients with detailed information on standards and innovations in the treatment of brain tumours. The organisation stands up for the promotion of science and research in the field of neuro-oncology and supports interdisciplinary collaboration of all involved areas.

Brain Tumour Information Service and Patient Help Line

One important project for improving patient care is the brain tumour information service. Annually, it provides more than 3,000 affected people with quality assured information on performance data, therapy options and clinical diagnosis. Besides inquires from german-speaking countries, also patients from all over Europe direct their questions and concerns to the *Deutsche Hirntumorhilfe*. In addition to the scientific information, a psycho-oncological helpline is offered, which gives advice on all non-medical issues and helps to handle anxiety and psychological distress.

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Communication and Information

Informative literature supplements the information and awareness activities of the *Deutsche Hirntumorhilfe*. The periodically published magazine *Brainstorm* addresses to patients as well as to physicians. It provides important current information about neuro-oncology. Twice a year, the *Deutsche Hirntumorhilfe* organizes national symposia with leading experts informing about standards and innovations in the brain tumour treatment. Certified by the medical association, these events with more than 500 participants are often used by physicians for further medical education.

An international clinical trial register and an Internet platform as well as workshops and tutorials for brain tumour patients are further projects that are funded by the *Deutsche Hirntumorhilfe*. Moreover, the organisation represents the interests of patients in various political committees, medical societies and boards of health care providers.

Thanks to the support of volunteers and sponsors, numerous brain tumour patients and their families could be helped until now. Going forward, the *Deutsche Hirntumorhilfe* will demonstrate: it is possible to achieve much more. What began more than a decade ago is a challenge and an obligation at the same time. There is still much to do to improve the situation of patients and to promote neuro-oncological research.

For more information visit www.hirntumorhilfe.org.

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