

MEDICINE

Recovered Long Covid patient: "Dr. Jaeger is fearless"

Updated: 08.11.2021, 11:59 | Reading Time: 3 minutes Annette Lehmann



Dr. Beate Jaeger, an internist from Mülheim, treats Long Covid sufferers with a special blood wash: HELP apheresis. One of her former patients, Markus Klotz, wants to promote the procedure with an own company. Photo: Michael Dahlke / FUNKE Photo Services

Long Covid patient Markus Klotz was successfully treated in Mülheim and can even kitesurf again. But he says: "It's not a miracle cure."

Long Covid patients travel to Mülheim from many countries. They hope to finally find help in Dr. Beate Jaeger's practice, and some of them pay a lot of money for it.

LONG COVI D



Blood wash against Long Covid: 1700 sick on Waiting list



One of the patients who underwent the blood wash there was Markus Klotz, an Austrian living in Larnarca, Cyprus. The 43-year-old was so convinced by the treatment that he now wants to promote the procedure with an own company and push for the establishment of apharesis centres.

Family man was seriously ill with Long Covid: 'A dying in instalments'

Klotz reports that he learned about Jaeger's approach through an interview on Deutschlandfunk radio. It was broadcast in early June, when he - entrepreneur, amateur athlete, father of a young daughter - was a seriously ill man. He had been bedridden for nearly five months after a corona infection in November 2020, which was not unusually severe at first. Long Covid had hit him hard. "It was no longer a life," Markus Klotz says of his

suffering, "it was dying in instalments. On the worst days I couldn't even lift a glass of water."



Markus Klotz (43) was seriously ill with Long-Covid. After four treatments with HELP apheresis in Mülheim he feels healthy today. Photo: MK

Although he was barely able to fly, he agonized his way to Mülheim and lodged in a hotel for three weeks. By the end of June, he had been treated four times with HELP apheresis and quickly felt improvement. "I came to the practice with blue lips and a pale face. Already after

the first apheresis, I realized something was happening. The air hunger was gone." Today, more than four months later, the entrepreneur feels healthy. Even the kitesurfing scene has him back. After a nine-month forced break, he took off high with his board off the Cypriot coast in mid-August.

Paid about 5300 euros for four treatments

The four apheresis treatments alone cost him around 5300 euros. In addition, there was the flight, accommodation in Mülheim, laboratory reports - a total of around 7500 euros, which the 43-year-old paid himself. From his point of view, it was worth it. "I have experienced how alone we Long Covid patients are," says Markus Klotz. Based on these personal experiences, he is now also repositioning himself professionally, with the goal of making HELP apheresis available to as many people as possible.

Markus Klotz does not want to raise false hopes, he emphasizes: "This treatment is not a miracle cure." According to previous experience, most patients are able to get back on their feet completely. Others would at least experience significant improvement, could perhaps go back to work. "But there is obviously a small group of sufferers for whom it doesn't help." For example, in people who have already suffered organ damage from the virus.

CORONA SEQUENCE

Mülheim ICU nurse: "Covid destroyed my life"



"Most apheresis clinics don't dare yet".

"People need to know it's still experimental." In general, however, the convalescent expresses great respect for the work of Dr. Beate Jaeger. "Most apheresis clinics still don't dare to treat Long Covid patients. Dr. Jaeger is simply incredibly fearless."

The website of The Apheresis Association (non-commercial), co-founded by Markus Klotz, collects scientific publications on the subject. In addition, various media reports about the approach of Dr. Beate Jaeger can be found there.

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