

## Additional files

(1) English translation of the questionnaire (original language: German)



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## Osteopathy in Germany: attitudes, beliefs and handling among General Practitioners

**IMPORTANT:** In order for us to include your questionnaire in our study, it is important that all questions are answered completely.  
Thank you!

### Personal details and medical practice

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender:  female  male

At which university (-ies) did you study human medicine? \_\_\_\_\_

Highest academic qualification:  State examination  Diploma  Promotion  Habilitation

Acquired specialist titles (please name all of them and indicate the year of graduation)

Specialist for \_\_\_\_\_, since: \_\_\_\_\_ (year)

Specialist for \_\_\_\_\_, since: \_\_\_\_\_ (year)

Acquired additional qualifications (please name all)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Type of current work:  employed, since: \_\_\_\_\_ (year)  self-employed/own practice, since: \_\_\_\_\_ (year)

Legal structure of the practice:  Single practice  Joint practice  Medical care center (MVZ)

How would you most likely describe the catchment area of the practice?  big city  small city  countryside

### Experience and handling of osteopathy

Have you ever recommended patients to be treated by an osteopath?

yes, regularly  occasionally  in a few cases  no, never

Have you ever given patients a private prescription/recommendation for osteopathic treatment?  yes  no

If yes:  at my own suggestion  at patient's request  both

If yes: For which diagnoses do you prefer to refer to an osteopath for treatment? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If no, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you know osteopaths who work in the catchment area of your practice?  yes  no -> continue to B

If yes: has there been any cooperation with them?  yes -> continue to A  no -> continue to B

**A** Assessment on the common treatment of patients:

There was an exchange of findings.  yes  rather yes  rather not  no

The information from the osteopath was understandable.  yes  rather yes  rather not  no

The communication with the osteopath was useful for the treatment.  yes  rather yes  rather not  no

**B** Would you like to work/cooperate with osteopaths?  yes  rather yes  rather not  no

Have patients ever been sent to your practice by an osteopath?  yes  no

Do you know a qualified osteopath whom you would recommend to patients?  yes  no

Have you ever been treated by an osteopath yourself?  yes  no

What general feedback do patients give you on average after osteopathic treatment?

mainly positive  rather positive  heterogeneous  rather negative  mainly negative  no feedback

**How do you estimate the benefit of osteopathic treatment for the following patient groups?**

	Very high	Rather high	Rather low	Very low
Newborns and infants	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Children and adolescents	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pregnant women	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Middle-aged adults	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Geriatric patients	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Acute patients	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Chronically ill patients	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**How do you estimate the benefit of osteopathic treatment for the following clinical pictures?**

	Very high	Rather high	Rather low	Very low
Low back pain	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Migraine/tension headache	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Infants' asymmetry	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pain in the cervical region	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Vertigo, balance problems	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Obstructive lung diseases	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Temporomandibular dysfunctions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Carpal tunnel syndrome	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Irritable bowel syndrome	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gastroesophageal reflux disease	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Arterial hypertension	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Psychiatric disorders	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parkinson's disease	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Otitis media in children	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Excessive crying in infancy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Where do you get information about osteopathy? (multiple answers possible)

- Medical journals                       Non-medical journals                       personal stories  
 Television     Internet     Other: \_\_\_\_\_                       have hardly/no information on the subject

How would you rate your knowledge of the concepts of osteopathy and its treatment techniques?

- very good knowledge                       good knowledge                       little knowledge                       no knowledge

Did you know that osteopathy in Germany may only be practiced by doctors and alternative practitioners?

- yes     no

**How do you agree with the following statements?**

	Totally agree	Rather agree	Rather disagree	Don't agree at all
There is no evidence for the effectiveness of osteopathy.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The range of indications for osteopathy should be clearly limited.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
For general practitioners a detailed knowledge of osteopathy is useful.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I consider the partial coverage of costs for osteopathic treatments by the statutory health insurance companies to be justified.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The occupation "osteopath" should be established as an independent health profession in Germany.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Comments**

Thank you for your cooperation!

## (2) Cross table with univariate predictors of recommendations (all items matched, ntotal=341)

Have you ever recommended patients to be treated by an osteopath? (dichotomized)				in a few cases; no, never	yes, regularly; occasionally		
Parameters	nvalid	Categories	ntotal (relative %)	absolute number (relative %)	absolute number (relative %)	p (Pearson Chi- Square)	Exp(B)/Odds Ratio (95% CI)
Gender	341	male	184 (54.0)	69 (37.5)	115 (62.5)	<b>0.002</b>	<b>2.09 (1.29-3.38)</b>
		female	157 (46.0)	35 (22.3)	122 (77.7)		
Scientific qualification (PhD or habilitation?)	316	no	113 (35.4)	29 (25.7)	84 (74.3)	0.174	0.70 (0.42-1.17)
		yes	203 (63.6)	67 (33.0)	136 (67.0)		
Age category	338	≤ 39 years	23 (6.7)	7 (30.4)	16 (69.6)	0.997	1.00 (0.40-2.51)
		40-49 years	70 (20.3)	22 (31.4)	48 (68.6)		
		50-59 years	134 (39.6)	32 (23.9)	102 (76.1)		
		≥ 60 years	111 (32.8)	42 (37.8)	69 (62.2)		
In which year becoming medical specialist?	321	before 1980	9 (2.8)	6 (66.7)	3 (33.3)	0.290	1.39 (0.76-2.56)
		1980-1989	57 (17.8)	20 (35.1)	37 (64.9)		
		1990-1999	103 (32.1)	31 (30.1)	72 (69.9)		
		2000-2009	86 (26.8)	26 (30.2)	60 (69.8)		
		2010-2019	66 (20.6)	17 (25.8)	49 (74.2)		
When established practice and started to work there?	285	before 1980	7 (2.5)	5 (71.4)	2 (28.6)	0.301	1.31 (0.78-2.20)
		1980-1989	38 (13.3)	16 (42.1)	22 (57.9)		
		1990-1999	102 (35.8)	31 (30.4)	71 (69.6)		
		2000-2009	77 (27.6)	22 (28.6)	55 (71.4)		
		2010-2019	61 (21.4)	17 (27.9)	44 (72.1)		
Completed at least one additional qualification	341	no	230 (67.5)	70 (30.4)	160 (69.6)	0.971	0.99 (0.61-1.62)
		yes	111 (32.5)	34 (30.6)	77 (69.4)		
Practice environment	327	big city	72 (22.0)	21 (29.2)	51 (70.8)	0.630	1.15 (0.65-2.04)
		small city	122 (37.3)	38 (31.1)	84 (68.9)		
		countryside	133 (40.7)	44 (33.1)	89 (66.9)		
Legal structure of practice	267	Single practice	157 (58.8)	48 (30.6)	109 (69.4)	0.494	1.20 (0.71-2.01)
		Joint practice	101 (37.8)	37 (36.6)	64 (63.4)		
		Medical care center	9 (3.4)	1 (11.1)	8 (88.9)		
Place of practice	340	States of former West Germany	256 (75.3)	86 (33.6)	170 (66.4)	<b>0.021</b>	<b>1.99 (1.10-3.60)</b>
		States of former East Germany + Berlin	84 (24.7)	17 (20.2)	67 (79.8)		
Do you know any osteopaths who work in the catchment area of your practice?	337	no	76 (22.6)	42 (55.3)	34 (44.7)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>4.11 (2.43-6.96)</b>
		yes	261 (77.4)	59 (22.6)	202 (77.4)		
Do you know a qualified osteopath whom you would recommend to patients?	328	no	112 (34.1)	66 (58.9)	46 (41.1)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>6.94 (4.14-11.64)</b>
		yes	216 (65.9)	37	179		
General feedback of patients regarding their osteopathic treatment	333	rather/mainly positive	229 (68.8)	40 (17.5)	189 (82.5)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>7.26 (4.31-12.22)</b>
		heterogeneous	76 (22.8)	42 (55.3)	34 (44.7)		
		rather/mainly negative	9 (2.7)	7 (77.8)	2 (22.2)		
		no feedback	19 (5.7)	14 (73.7)	5 (26.3)		
Have you ever been treated by an osteopath yourself?	333	no	222 (66.7)	90 (40.5)	132 (59.5)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>5.14 (2.72-9.72)</b>
		yes	111 (33.3)	13 (11.7)	98 (88.3)		
How would you rate your knowledge of the concepts of osteopathy and its treatment techniques?	338	no/little expertise	195 (57.7)	71 (36.4)	124 (63.6)	<b>0.009</b>	<b>1.91 (1.17-3.14)</b>
		good/very good expertise	143 (42.3)	33 (23.1)	110 (76.9)		