

HOCl Research Project against Covid-19

Press Release, June 2023



A discovery by a former ENT patient has caught the attention of the scientific community: HOCl wound rinses could soon play an important role in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic.

Viennese consulting entrepreneur Michael Winter, MSc, used such a wound rinse in a self-experiment in 2013 to treat a sinus infection. His surprising success in this venture led to a long series of independent experiments over the following years, from nasal sprays to inhalation with a highly diluted solution. Thus, he was able to cure his own illness unusually quickly during the major flu wave in 2017.

When the Covid-19 pandemic broke out in 2020, he turned to the renowned Viennese physician Prof. Dr. Christian A. Müller, who runs the ENT outpatient clinic at the Vienna AKH. After extensive research into the scientific studies available, the concept was found to be plausible, and German specialist Prof. Dr. Bertold Renner was brought in.

This working group of three finally published a paper in a medical journal in the spring of 2021:

“A Concept for the Reduction of Mucosal SARS-CoV-2 Load using Hypochloric Acid Solutions”¹

Christian A. Mueller, Michael Winter, Bertold Renner

Drug Res (Stuttg) 2021; 71(06): 348-350, DOI: 10.1055/a-1467-5956

This publication subsequently received a very good reception in the specialist world, and became one of the most purchased scientific articles of 2021 in this journal.

The wound rinses in focus are approved as medical devices in Austria and throughout Europe, and their use in the nose and mouth is already part of clinical routine, such as in the context of nasal or dental surgeries. They are also available through pharmacies.

As the latest development, there are now also the first dedicated mouth rinses with hypochlorous acid in comparable concentrations available.

The basic antiviral effect of HOCl solutions is now well documented. It is based not on a pharmacological, but a physical principle. The solutions break down during application after a few minutes into water and a very small amount of salt, and therefore cannot accumulate in the body.

Due to the high antiviral effectiveness, the clinically proven, relatively harmless application in the nose and mouth, the wide availability and not least the low treatment costs, from a medical perspective, a complementary use in the fight against the pandemic may be possible after appropriate study results.

On this concept, a TV-documentation², several television and radio reports³⁴ as well as newspaper articles⁵⁶⁷ have been published. A book about its discovery entered Amazon's German bestseller lists.⁸

It was presented to a medical professional audience on November 18th, 2021 on the ÖGHMP Hygiene Day.⁹

An international multicentric, double-blind, and placebo-controlled study was subsequently designed, to test the effectiveness of HOCl solutions in the early treatment against Covid-19.

Study funding by donations was successfully completed in 2022, and the clinical trial has since been approved by the respective ethical commissions. The Viennese arm of the study has started its recruitment phase in June 2023.

¹ <https://www.thieme-connect.com/products/ejournals/abstract/10.1055/a-1467-5956>

² <https://tv.orf.at/program/orf3/treffpunkt220.html>

³ <https://www.br.de/fernsehen/ard-alpha/programmkalender/ausstrahlung-2730594.html>

⁴ <https://oe1.orf.at/player/20211222/663287>

⁵ <https://www.sn.at/panorama/wissen/kann-eine-wundspueloesung-bei-covid-19-helfen-106539793>

⁶ <https://www.diepresse.com/6065738/corona-wie-nasensprays-helfen-konnten>

⁷ <https://www.stadt-wien.at/gesundheit/corona-gegenmittel.html>

⁸ <https://www.amazon.de/dp/B09G8PBNDV/>

⁹ https://www.oeghmp.at/index.php?rex_media_type=download&rex_media_file=oeghmpnews21_programm_hygiene_tag.pdf

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