

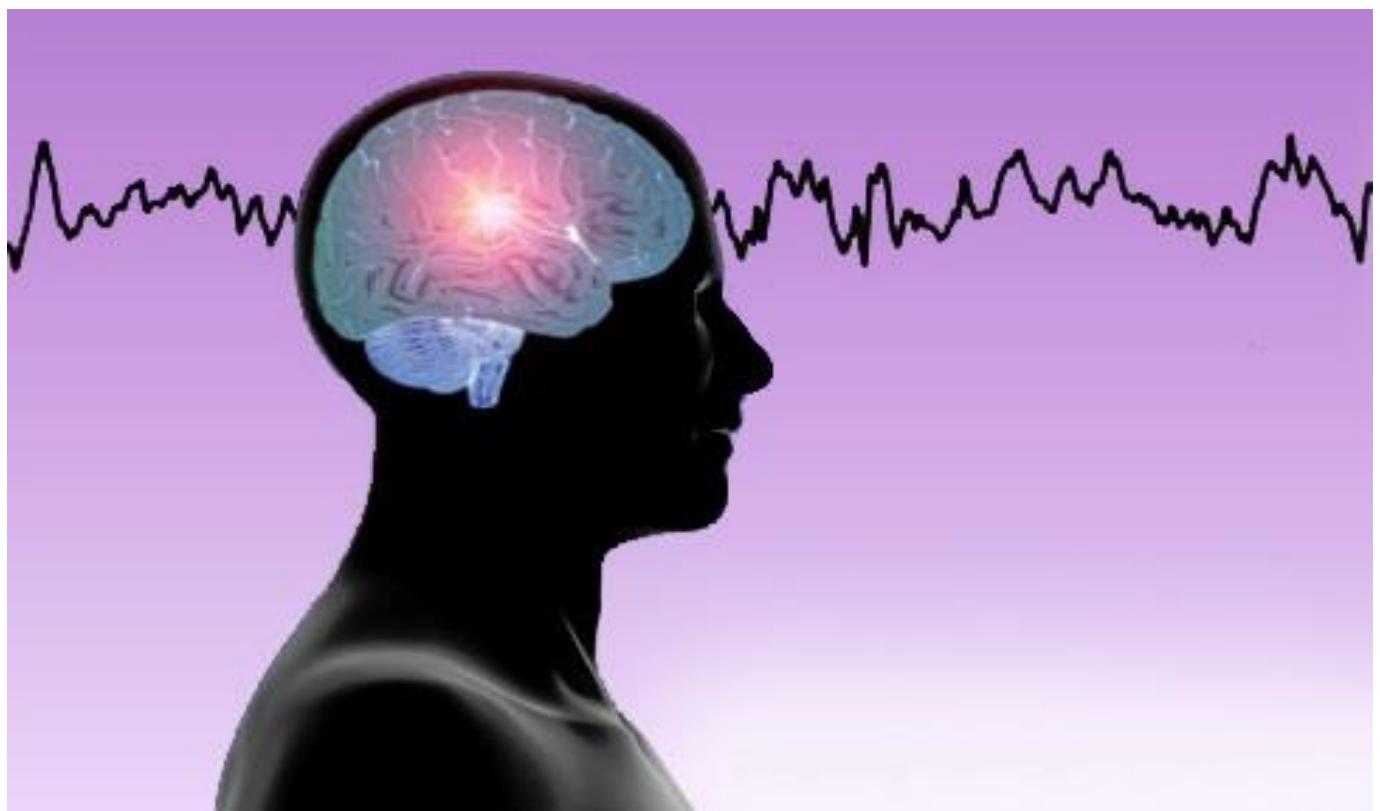
~ANDREWS-REITER GOES GERMANY~

DIAGNOSIS OF FACTORS RELEVANT FOR THE A/R
MARKET ENTRY IN GERMANY

-GA REPORT – ADVICE-

ANDREWS-REITER EPILEPSY RESEARCH PROGRAM,
INC.

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1. Executive Summary

This research project was conducted for the Andrews-Reiter Epilepsy Research Program, Inc. that is a US based non-profit organization that has developed a psychobehavioral epilepsy treatment method which is offered as a health care service and seeks recommendations for a successful market entry in Germany. The reasons why A/R wants to enter the German health care market is because they consider Germany as the '2nd most important source of mind makers in the area of epilepsy right after the US' and because of that 'other countries pay attention to what happens in Germany'. Moreover, they plan to expand to other countries like e.g. Switzerland and Austria.

A/R tried to enter the German health care market before, namely in 2012, but was not able to build up strategic partnerships with German outpatient and stationary physicians. A/R considers partnerships as the most effective market entry tool since their treatment protocol relies on the cooperation between an A/R counselor, the treating neurologist/epileptologist and the patient, so for them – to enter the German health care market – it seems to be most effective to build up strategic partnerships with German physicians in the neurology sector. A/R bases the significance for its psychobehavioral treatment method on the fact that it offers an adjunctive approach that addresses psychological needs that are unmet by the conventional epilepsy treatment approaches e.g. medication and surgery, that are currently practiced in Germany.

Therefore, the purpose of this research project was to make recommendations to A/R to improve the quality of communication with potential partners in the German health care market **by** researching the characteristics of health care decision making, health care marketing communication and partnership building in the health care sector in Germany with potential strategic partners.

This research project started with the search for relevant theory and literature on the three main aspects, namely 'decision making in health care', 'partnership building in health care' and 'health care marketing communication'. These three research areas were considered most crucial since they enabled the researcher to firstly find out how these processes work in the German health care sector before giving recommendations to A/R on how they should best approach their goal of partnership building. Based on the theory, research questions were developed in order to research specific concepts of the three main research areas. Firstly, it was crucial to find out how German physicians, out of outpatient and stationary medical institutions, make decisions and who makes them. It was important to find out how the partnership building process functions, what the drivers for these partnerships are and what partnerships the German physicians actually have and desire. Lastly, the

marketing and communication channels that are used by German physicians are vital to know for A/R in order to be able to effectively reach them.

After conducting ten semi-structured interviews with German physicians out of both outpatient and stationary medical institutions, one in-depth interview with an expert and a survey sent to 300 stationary and 105 outpatient physicians, the following main **conclusions** were made:

- ❖ The main conclusions regarding the decision making in the two groups of potential strategic partners were that in stationary medical institutions the decisions are made as a team but that the head of the institution has the final responsibility. In outpatient institutions the head decides by her-/himself. The factors that lead to an actual decision making process are triggered by external information e.g. learning something new in literature, for stationary physicians. By internal and external information e.g. that the head thinks the integration is important, for outpatient physicians. The main factors that made stationary and outpatient institutions integrate new treatment methods were that e.g. the patient will benefit from it or that they had personal experience with it. The reasons why stationary physicians would revise/change their treatment protocol are e.g. that their patients express needs or complaints. Outpatient physicians expressed that they do not have a stable plan on this and decide more individually on this issue. Furthermore, risk and uncertainty are aspects that influence the decision making of the physicians a lot. Hierarchy seems to influence stationary physicians only.
- ❖ Regarding partnership building of the German medical institutions, it became obvious that both groups primarily have partnerships with clinics, hospitals and epilepsy centers. Moreover, stationary institutions build up partnerships through active engagement e.g. meetings and talks with other physicians. Outpatient physicians do not engage that actively and are primarily linked to their partners through their patients (outpatient physicians refer their patients to hospitals etc.). The main reasons why they would want to partner are e.g. more technical possibilities and the ability of their partners to offer services/methods they cannot. Specific requirements they have are e.g. expertise and interest. Moreover, stationary institutions clearly desire to expand their international partnerships and specifically with research and treatment programs. Outpatient physicians are satisfied with their current partnerships and are uncertain about their future desires.
- ❖ The research into the marketing communication of the two groups of German medical institutions clearly showed that they mostly use digital media, congresses, specialist journals

and books to inform themselves about new treatment methods in the health care sector. Moreover, stationary physicians prefer to use online communication channels and outpatient more offline. The information distribution/promotional tools they consider to work best are personal contact, congresses, specialist journals and books.

Based on these main conclusions, the following **advice** was given:

- ❖ First concentrate on building up partnerships with German stationary medical institutions
- ❖ Use personal communication with stationary institutions since it is their preferred method of communication
- ❖ Primary communication should be with head of the institutions but the team behind her/him should be considered as well
- ❖ Develop communication tools to lower the uncertainty and fear of physicians about new epilepsy treatment programs
- ❖ Use advertising and personal selling from the ‘marketing communication mix’ to promote and inform
- ❖ Only choose stationary partners that themselves provide good quality services and get them certified
- ❖ Design a B2B communication plan as a next step

2. Project Context

This research was conducted for the Andrews-Reiter Epilepsy Research Program, Inc. (referred to as A/R). The purpose of this research was to support A/R to successfully build partnerships in Germany in order to enter the German market with their epilepsy treatment method. Traditionally, the A/R protocol is set up as a cooperation between the A/R therapist, the treating neurologist/epileptologist and the patient. In order to facilitate the implementation of this therapeutic 'trio' in an efficient manner it seemed natural to A/R to collaborate with medical institutions and therefore they decided that partnership building with German medical institutions is the right way to enter the German health care market. The long-term goal of A/R is that their treatment method will be integrated in the medical treatment guidelines for German epilepsy patients. The previous attempts of A/R to build up partnerships in the German health care sector, in 2012, have failed.

A/R is a US based non-profit organization that has developed a psychobehavioral epilepsy treatment method which is offered as a health care service. A/R intends to market their program to health care specialists in Germany and sought recommendations on how to build up strategic partnerships with outpatient and stationary medical institutions in the German epilepsy sector. Physicians in outpatient institutions have e.g. their own physician's office and physicians in stationary institutions work in e.g. hospitals. These institutions are the two main forms of institutions where medical treatments are offered in Germany and therefore A/R decided that partnering with these would be most efficient.

In 2012 A/R firstly attempted to market their program to the German health care provider market by discussing their treatment method 'face-to-face with the directors of four different epilepsy centers'. Moreover, A/R published articles in 'internationally recognized journals' and 'offered a session on psychobehavioral therapy at the annual meeting of the American Epilepsy Society knowing that professionals from Germany would also be present during that meeting'. Still, A/R has not yet been able to establish any collaborative partnerships with German medical institutions. This inability was the primary concern for A/R.

A/R's motivation to enter the German market is that 'Germany is the 2nd most important source of mind makers in the area of epilepsy right after the US', so 'therefore other countries pay attention to what happens in Germany' (Appendix, Intake interview, p. 88).

Based on this, the research objective was to make recommendations to the director of the Andrews-Reiter Epilepsy Research Program, Inc. to improve the quality of communication with potential partners in the German health care market **by** researching the characteristics of health care decision

making, health care marketing communication and partnership building in the health care sector in Germany with potential strategic partners.

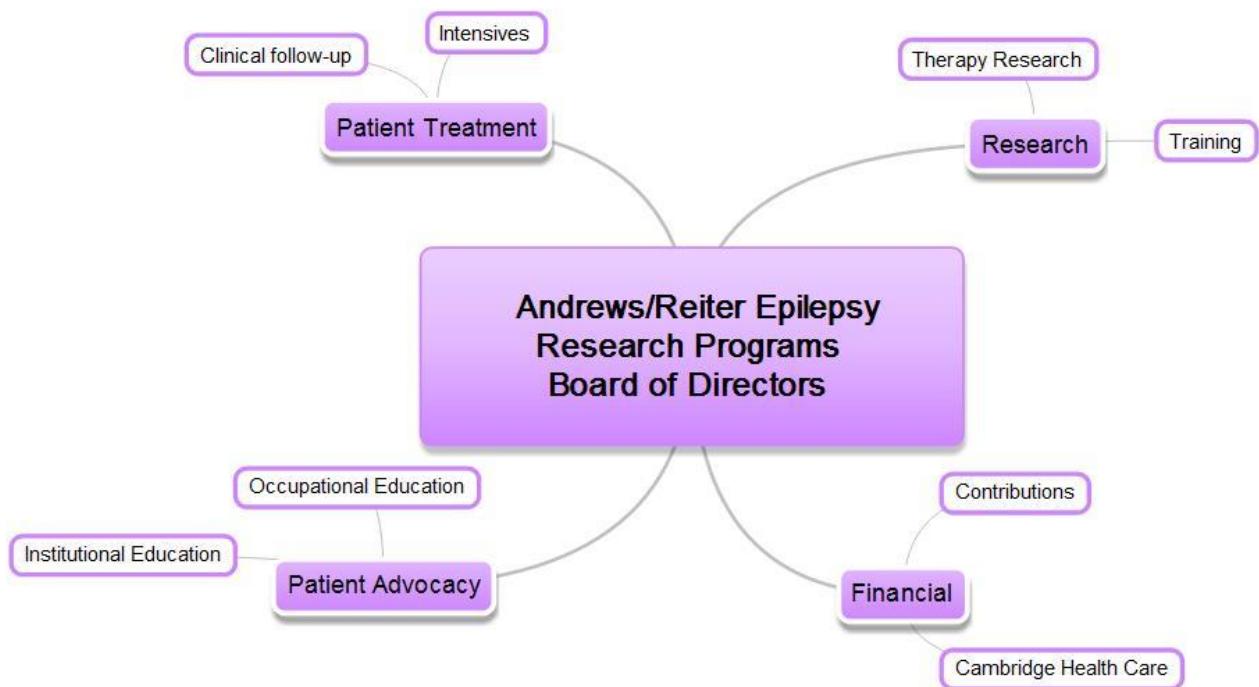
3. Organizational Context

A/R is a non-profit corporation based in Hidden Valley Lake in California, USA. The CEO of the corporation is Donna J. Andrews, Ph. D. who founded the corporation in 1983. A/R stated as their specific purposes 'to research new treatment approaches to epilepsy; to educate medical professionals; and to publish research findings' (Andrews-Reiter, *Articles of Incorporation*, 1983, p. 1). A/R's mission is to help people with epilepsy to take control over their illness by themselves and to reduce their seizures through individual treatment (Andrews-Reiter, n.d., para. 3).

The representative of the A/R program in Germany is Rosa Michaelis who is a physician and behavioral counselor. She and A/R's (future) German partners are the ones responsible to treat the German patients. There are no other representatives in countries besides Germany and the US. The reason why A/R thinks their treatment is needed in Germany is that 'research shows that individuals who do not achieve seizure freedom with a surgery and medication, which is the conventional treatment approach, may achieve seizure freedom with the help of our behavioral approach' (Appendix, Intake interview, p. 88). This explains the difference between the A/R treatment and the conventional treatments practiced in Germany at the moment which makes it so unique to the market.

A/R considers Germany as a starting point in their mission and after successfully entering the German market, A/R plans spreading out to Switzerland and Austria whose epilepsy chapter will i.e. be part of the next epilepsy conference in 2015.

A/R's long-term strategic goal is 'to establish our treatment method as part of the guideline in Germany so that in the long run all epilepsy centers have to offer this treatment' (Appendix, Intake interview, p. 88).



AR's organizational structure

4. Theoretical Framework

To understand how to build partnerships in Germany, three aspects were crucial to be researched, namely decision making, partnership building and marketing communication in health care. It was crucial to know how decisions are made by German physicians so A/R knows e.g. who the decision maker in a German medical institution is in order to talk to her/him. The aspect of partnership building was crucial because A/R has to know how German physicians in the medical institutions build up their partnerships and e.g. what they require. Health care marketing communication was an important aspect because A/R needs to know what marketing and communication tools reach German physicians best.

Several theories were found that helped to find related concepts. Moreover, these theories helped when formulating research questions and creating the research instruments. It starts with theories that helped to understand how decisions were made for the currently adopted treatment options and how factors like risk, uncertainty and hierarchy influence decision making. Furthermore, the chosen theories helped researching the process of partnership building (e.g. the driving factors/reasons) and various partnership models in health care. Moreover, theories were chosen to help researching which marketing and communication tools effectively reach the potential partners. This has been done by analyzing which parts of the marketing communication mix are most effective in this mission and which online/offline communication tools are actually used by the potential strategic partners. Also basic communication theories were chosen for this topic since A/R was not familiar at all with the simple communication processes.

1. Decision making in health care

One theoretical model was developed by Goepfert & C. Conrad (2013) called the '**Steps in decision making**' (p. 155). The model applies to a German stationary medical institution, namely the hospital, and looks as follows:

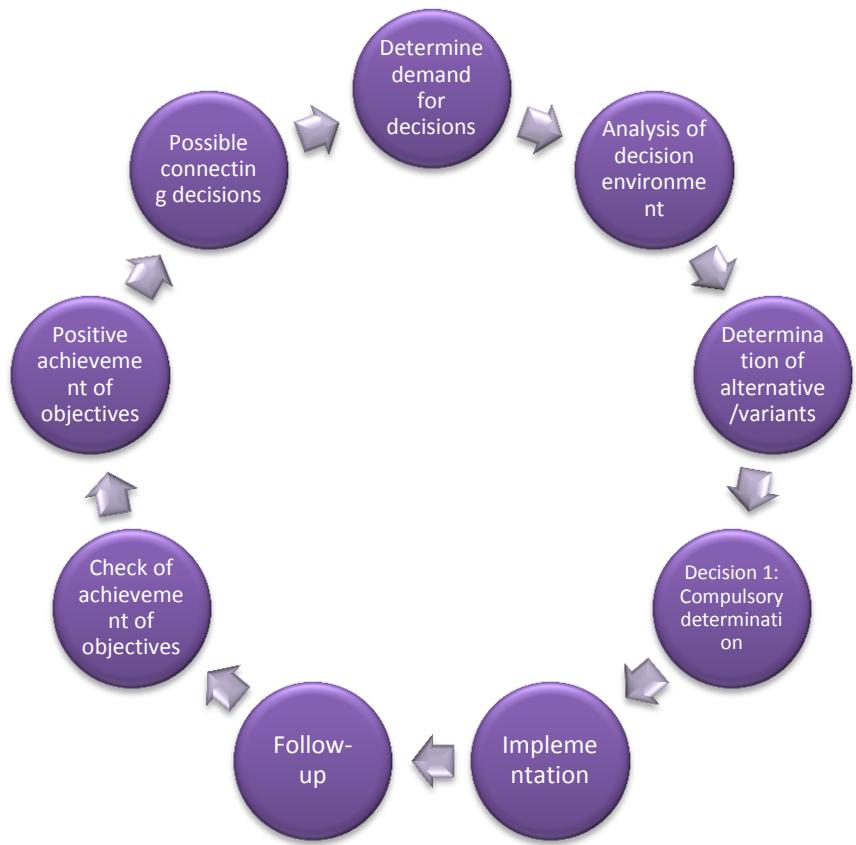


Figure 3.6, *Unternehmen Krankenhaus*, p. 145

Goepfert & Conrad (2013) explain that a decision is necessary if there is a choice of different alternatives and variants (p. 144). Moreover, rational decisions correspond to superior defined goals and existing standards and anticipate the desired and undesired consequences of the decision. Furthermore, the more complex the circumstance that is decided on, the more necessary is valid information from the decision environment. Regarding the hierarchical structures in a German stationary medical institution (here hospital) it can be stated that they are of strict hierarchical nature. Normally, there is a chief physician who leads the department. The next level consists of the assistant medical directors and assistant physicians. Next to these is the area that consists of the nursing-positions which is often, parallel to the medical faculty, hierarchically structured (A. Goepfert & C. Conrad, 2013, p. 148-149). On the next level under the nursing management (highest level) are normally the management of the departments and the health-and nursing staff. The overall management of the medical institution is composed of the managing director or the administrator (A. Goepfert & C. Conrad, 2013, p. 148-149). Also, A. Goepfert & C. Conrad (2013) state that the know-how, job and life experience of the decision maker in a medical institution like the hospital plays an important role. The knowledge of this theory contributes to the research in the way that it provides the researcher with important knowledge prior to conducting the field research. It becomes

obvious that there is a strict hierarchical nature in German hospitals and that it is necessary to conduct the interviews and the survey with the actual decision-makers, namely the chief physicians.

Another theory for investigating this aspect is called '**Expected Utility Theory**'. Hellinger (1989) defines this theory as 'the standard method to predict people's choices under uncertainty'. Furthermore, Hellinger (1989) states that 'studies of people's attitude towards risk in the health sector often involve a comparison of the desirability of alternative medical treatments'. This theory describes the situation that any outcome a medical treatment has is not certainly known and that physicians have to make risky choices (Hellinger, 1989). In further research by applying this theory, M. Gold (1996) states that 'when risk and uncertainty are significant factors, it has been used even more successfully to prescriptively guide decisions'. Moreover, more authors published information about what role economic evaluation plays in decision making: Drummond et al (2005) state that 'resources are scarce' and so 'choices must and will be made concerning their deployment, and methods such as "what we did last time", "gut feelings" and even "educated guesses" are rarely better than organized consideration of the factors involved in a decision to commit resources to one use instead of another' (p. 8). Also, they state that the features of decision analysis are the 'identification of a preferred option based on the expected values of the alternatives' and 'an explicit acceptance that decisions will always be taken under conditions of uncertainty' (p. 279). Additionally, Schöffski & van der Schulenburg (2012) outline that in evaluation studies not only the costs but also the medical result of an intervention or outcome is considered (p. 52-53). Regarding the contribution of this theory it can be stated that the physicians will be asked in the interviews and the survey how they make decisions on new treatment methods. The theory indicates that, based on Schöffski & van Schulenburg (2012), in evaluation studies not only the costs but also the medical result of an intervention or outcome is considered (p. 52-3). This will be tested in asking the physicians in the interviews and the survey about what factors lead to the discussion about integrating new treatment methods. Also, since the theory states that people have to make decisions even if there is risk, questions about how risk influences the German physician's decision making will be asked.

The '**Decision-making model**' by J. Stein (2014) is defined as 'the method a team will use to make decisions' (MIT Human Resources, 2014). J. Stein (2014) describes five different types of models used for decision making being (a) 'Team leader decides and informs the team', (b) 'Team leader gathers input from team then decides', (c) 'Consensus decisions', (d) 'Consensus with a fallback' and (e) 'Team leader sets constraints and delegates decisions to team members' (MIT Human Resources, 2014). Considering the contribution of this model, it can be stated that through knowing the five different types of models used to make decisions, the researcher is able to directly ask the interviewed and surveyed physicians about how their decision-making process functions e.g. in

providing them with five different answer choices in the survey regarding the question of how decisions are made, for example 'as a team'. This is crucial for the researcher to know in order to advice A/R in the end who they should direct their communication and marketing efforts at when trying to build up partnerships with German medical institutions e.g. if the head decides alone, A/R should focus its communication efforts at him/her.

Also Geert Hofstede's '**Five Dimensions of Culture**' was applied in this research (Nunez, Nunez Mahdi & Popma, 2009). The five dimensions are namely Power Distance, Individual vs. Group orientation, Masculinity vs. Femininity, Uncertainty Avoidance and Long vs. Short Term Orientation. As the treatment option is new to German physicians, it is important to understand if and how uncertainty and hierarchy influence their decision making. Therefore, the crucial dimensions were Power Distance and how it impacts the hierarchical structures in German medical institutions and Uncertainty Avoidance. Moreover, these dimensions contribute to this research in the way that the researcher will be able in the end to compare if the findings of this research fit to the statements Geert Hofstede made about the Uncertainty Avoidance and Power Distance dimension of Germany. This will help the researcher to prepare A/R about degree of uncertainty and hierarchy in German medical institutions and about the influence of these two on their decision making. The results from the research where then compared to Germany's scores in these categories in Hofstede's scoring system (0-100) to investigate if the research is in accordance with these cultural dimensions or not. The researcher will then be able to advice A/R if and how to tackle these two cultural aspects. Also other authors wrote about the connection of culture and decision making like D. Briley (2007), who states that 'people with different culture backgrounds have different expectations, norms and values, which in turn have the potential to influence their judgments and decisions'. Also A. Oliveira (2007) states in this context: 'literature shows a relationship between culture and decision-making' (p. 15). He bases this statement on a literature review conducted on the topics of culture and decision-making. Also, A. Oliveira (2007) states that 'literature shows a relationship between culture and decision-making' (p. 15). He bases this statement on a literature review conducted on the topics of culture and decision-making. A. Oliveira (2007) concludes based on his findings that 'culture dictates the way individuals and groups solve their problems because it influences how people think, behave, and communicate (p. 15). Also, Higgs et al (2008) continue in naming several attributes that 'influenced the decision-making process', firstly, 'certainty' which is defined as 'the amount of information and clear guidelines that exist as to the interpretation of data and to guide a course of action (Lewis (1997), May (1996), Whitney (2003))', and secondly 'risk' that is defined as 'the estimation of the chance of an adverse or negative outcome occurring as a result of the decision (Smith, 2006)' (p. 92).

2. Partnership building in health care

The '**The Partnership Model**' by Lambert et al (2010) contains several parts such as drivers and facilitators that directly lead to the 'decision to create or adjust partnership', components, outcomes and feedback (Lambert et al, 2010). The model has the purpose to support managers to 'find effective methods for developing the appropriate type of relationship' so they benefit from it (Lambert et al, 2010). Moreover, the model contributes to this research because it clearly defines specific aspects in the partnership building process. One particular aspect is called the 'drivers' that lead to the decision about creating or adjusting partnerships. The 'drivers' component of the model is crucial for this research because it describes the 'compelling reasons to partner' which have to get known with this research in order to develop recommendations for A/R (Lambert et al, 2010). Based on these insights, the physicians are being asked e.g. what reasons they would need to have in order to build up a partnership with another organization which will be an important insight for A/R.

The '**Five levels of partnership involvement**' developed by D. Wilcox in 2000 shows that there are 'five levels which offer increasing degrees of control to the others involved'. These levels are Information, Consultation, Deciding together, Acting together and 'Supporting independent community initiatives'. The main levels of partnership operations are 'Deciding together' and 'Acting together'. The 'Acting together' stage differs from the 'Deciding together' stage because the partners will not only decide together but also carry out a decision as partners. The other three levels describe situations where two instances are just interacting with each other (D. Wilcox, 2000). This concept contributes to this research because it shows that there are several different kinds of partnerships possible which enables the researcher to ask the physicians specific questions, in the interviews and the survey, to find out to which stage the current and desired partnerships of German physicians belong to. This is crucial for A/R to know because they would then be able to compare the outcome to their own wishes and decide if the kinds of partnerships that German physicians have fit to what A/R wants. Additionally, Teckleburg et al (2013) state that in competition and profiling of hospitals, the crucial links for new constellations of the hospital lie with other healthcare providers (p. 135). Moreover they illustrated that cooperation and networking are able to support the growth of certain departments, develop strengths or compensate weaknesses (Tecklenburg et al, 2013, p. 135). Another aspect Tecklenburg et al (2013) stress, suggested by Röder et al in 2009, is that no hospital and university hospital covers the entire range of supplies as a single entity (p. 135). The goal of a cooperation or network in health care should be to use the chance for the own corporation to develop quality oriented therapeutic procedures, that are as well patient-oriented, between the partners and to use them in collaboration (p. 135). To summarize, Tecklenburg et al (2013) state that

cooperation is a large-scale corporative decision and should be a matter of the boss in a hospital on management- and clinical level (p. 135).

Moreover, Carnwell & Carson (2008) identify **four types of partnerships** within the health care context. These four types are (1) project partnerships that are ‘time limited for the duration of a particular project’, (2) ‘problem oriented partnerships’ that are ‘formed to meet specific problems’, (3) ideological partnerships that ‘arise from a shared outlook or point of view’ and lastly, (4) ethical partnerships that ‘share a number of features with the above but they also have a sense of ‘mission’ and have an overtly ethical agenda, that seeks to promote a particular way of life’ (Carnwell & Carson, 2008, p. 12-13). In defining four different types of partnerships, the research is able to exactly define, based on the interviews and the survey with the German physicians, what kind of partnerships these have right now and wish to have in the future. Based on that the researcher is able to provide A/R with this insight about what kind of partnerships they can establish in the German health care sector.

3. Health care marketing communication

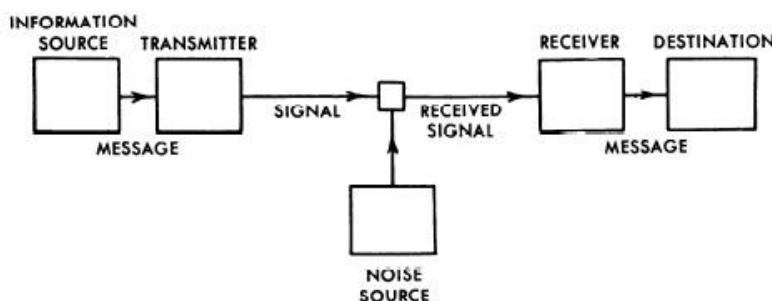
It was integral to understand which marketing communication tools positively affect the potential collaboration partners e.g. which marketing tools reach them. Based on this, the '**Marketing Communication Mix**' was relevant since it suggests advertising, PR, personal selling, sales promotion and direct marketing as being crucial parts of the promotion of products/services (Kotler & Armstrong, 2010). Since health care is a service, the model was able to be applied to research health care marketing communication. This mix contributes to this research because based on this mix, the researcher will ask the German physicians, in both the interviews and the survey, to indicate what information sources they are actually using to inform themselves in the health care sector. This will enable the researcher to recommend a specific marketing communication mix to A/R that fits their aim to reach German physicians in order to build up partnerships with them e.g. if the physicians prefer personal communication, personal selling should be one mix element to recommend to A/R. Moreover, Kotler & Clarke (1987) state that non-profit organizations in health care ‘place service objectives as top priority’ rather than ‘to maximize profit’ like ‘for-profit organizations’ (p. 7). Furthermore, Kotler & Clarke (1987) explain that nonprofit organizations ‘tend to pursue several important objectives simultaneously rather than only one, such as profits’ (p. 10). An example for an objective typical for a nonprofit health care organization is ‘to educate health professionals’ (p. 10). Regarding the aspect to whom health care marketing should be targeted at, Kotler & Clarke (1987) state that ‘hospital administrators argued that patients did not choose hospitals, their doctors did’ so that ‘marketing, to be effective, would have to be directed at physicians’ (p. 16-17). Moreover, the

authors state that the overall idea of marketing in health care has an unfavorable image (p. 16-17). Also, De Pelsmaker et al (2010) state various additional information about the marketing communication mix: He states that sales promotion is becoming a more and more 'important instrument of the communication mix' (p. 407). Referring to other parts of the communications mix, De Pelsmaker (2010) explains that 'promotion is seen as a useful tool to attract the attention of target groups and to 'seduce' them into buying their brands' but that 'it is increasingly difficult to reach the consumer effectively by means of advertising' (p. 408). When talking about advertising, being a tool of the marketing communication mix, De Pelsmaker (2010) states that 'advertising is a good marketing communications tool to inform and persuade people, irrespective of whether a product, a service or an idea is promoted' (p. 213). About direct marketing, also being part of the marketing communication mix, De Pelsmaker (2010) states that the objectives of it are direct sales, 'sales and distribution support' and 'customer loyalty and retention' (p. 442). Regarding personal selling, De Pelsmaker (2010) states that 'personal selling is an important element of the marketing communications mix, especially for business-to-business communications' (p. 529). Moreover, regarding public relations (also part of the marketing communications mix) De Pelsmaker (2010) states that it has several strengths, namely crisis management, good citizenship, 'advice on important trends', 'difficult-to-reach audiences', more objective, cost-effective and message flexibility (p. 340). Corbin et al (2000) state in this context that 'the marketing of healthcare services has become essential for the financial survival of physicians and healthcare organizations' (p. 1). Moreover, they state that 'physicians can successfully use the fundamental service marketing principles proven by other service industries' (p. 1). They conclude that 'healthcare organizations and practitioners have found the importance of promoting their services in order to achieve increases in public awareness, market share and reimbursement' and that service marketing 'is and will continue to be a topic of major importance' and that 'the practice of medicine has become a business' (p. 7).

The '**Media Richness Theory**' was used, that distinguishes between richer and less rich communication media basing this assessment on their ability to reduce uncertainty and equivocality. Richer media are defined as direct contact between two communicators. Less rich media are e.g. reports and rules/regulations (R. Daft & R. Lengel, 1986). This theory provides important insights into the characteristics of these. The researcher will be able to recommend A/R what kind of channels to use based on the interview and survey outcomes. The German physicians will be asked to indicate what communication channels they use and how they rank them based on the importance they attach to them. In the conclusions then, the researcher will be able to exactly tell A/R what kind of channels are preferred by the German physicians and to what group, rich or less rich, they belong to. Moreover, W. Evans (2006) states, regarding the use of communication channels, that

'communication channels for health information have changed greatly in recent years' and that 'one-way dissemination of information has given way to a multimodal transactional model of communication' (p. 1207). Challenges that these 'social marketers face' is, beyond others, the 'increased numbers and types of communication channels, including the internet' (p. 1207).

The '**Shannon and Weaver Model of Communication**' was used (Shannon & Weaver, 1964, p. 7-8). The model can be described as follows: 'The information source selects a desired message out of a set of possible messages' e.g. spoken words, music or pictures. The transmitter then 'changes this message into the signal which is actually sent over the communication channel from the transmitter to the receiver (Shannon & Weaver, 1964, p. 7-8). The receiver can be described as 'a sort of inverse transmitter, changing the transmitted signal back into a message, and handing this message on to the destination' (Shannon & Weaver, 1964, p. 7-8). Moreover, Shannon and Weaver (1964) state that 'in the process of being transmitted, it is unfortunately characteristic that certain things are added to the signal which were not intended by the information source' (Shannon & Weaver, 1964, p. 7). They call these 'changes in the transmitted signal' noise' (Shannon & Weaver, 1964, p. 7-8). One might add 'feedback' to the model that is send from the receiver to the sender after receiving the message (communicationtheory, n.d.). This model contributes to this research because it shows the basic parts of a communication process between a sender and a receiver through a specific communication medium aka. channel. In the survey and the interviews the German physicians will be questioned about the communication channels they prefer to use and will be asked to rank them based on their importance. Through this, not only specific communication channels to use can be advised to A/R but it can also be shown what part they play in the interaction between A/R and the German physicians based on this model. This theoretical model was used in order to identify the simple communication process happening (and its components) when A/R wants to communicate with German stationary and outpatient physicians. This theoretical model was important to mention in this context because A/R was not familiar with these basic communication processes which is crucial in order to reach their potential collaboration partners effectively.



Shannon & Weaver, 1964, p. 8

'Multi-Channel Marketing' 'is the concept of integrating different elements of the marketing mix, including traditional methods and newer digital channels, into an overall strategy that allows these individual channels to complement each other' (T. Meek, 2014). T. Meek (2014) states that 'over the past few years' the 'rise of digital technology has contributed to the growing capability of multichannel marketing, however, adding new tools to the traditional marketing arsenal'. Moreover, he quotes the statement of a 'VP commercial strategy' at Veeva Europe, Jan van den Burg, who stated that '2014 marks the year where most healthcare professionals are now 'digital natives', ie they have grown up with digital technology as an integrated part of communications' (T. Meek, 2014). Additionally, T. Meek (2014) states that physicians use digital technology to a greater extend nowadays and that therefore makes targeted communication more crucial. This concept will be applied in the way that the interviews and the survey will contain questions about the preferred online and offline communication channels of the German physicians. Based on these findings, the researcher will then be able to compare whether the statements behind this concept e.g. that physicians tend to use more digital communication channels, fit to the empirical findings of this research.

5. Research Design

5.1 Intervention Cycle

Based on Verschuren & Doorewaard (2010), the research nature of this project was identified to be diagnostic research, specifically a background analysis. The client's prior identification of the problem was the following: Being unsuccessful in building collaborative partnerships in Germany. The overall goal of this research project was to make recommendations to A/R on how to build up professional partnerships with German medical institutions.

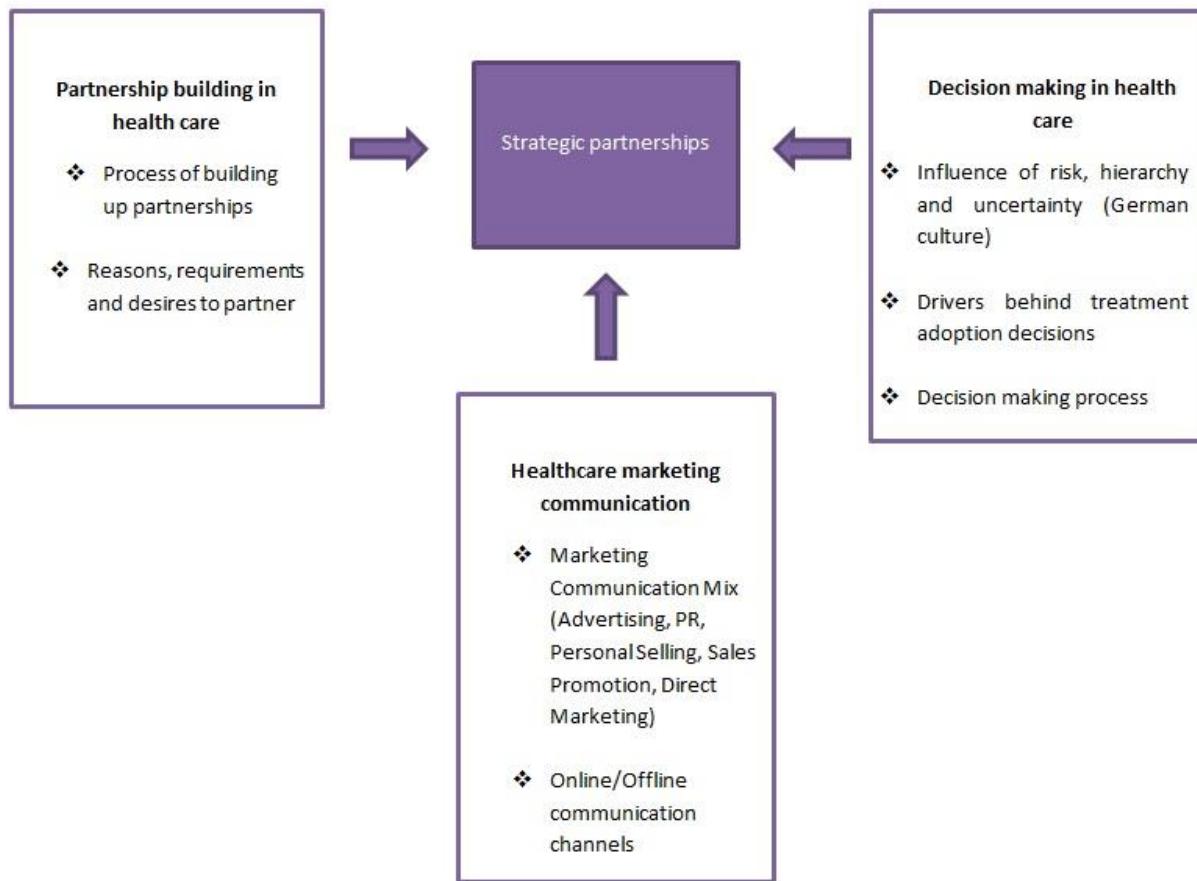
5.2 Research Objective

A/R already put effort in their approach to communicate with few desired collaboration partners in Germany to build up partnerships but had no representative diagnosis why their approach failed to do so. Moreover, the factors that influenced their problem have not been systematically identified yet.

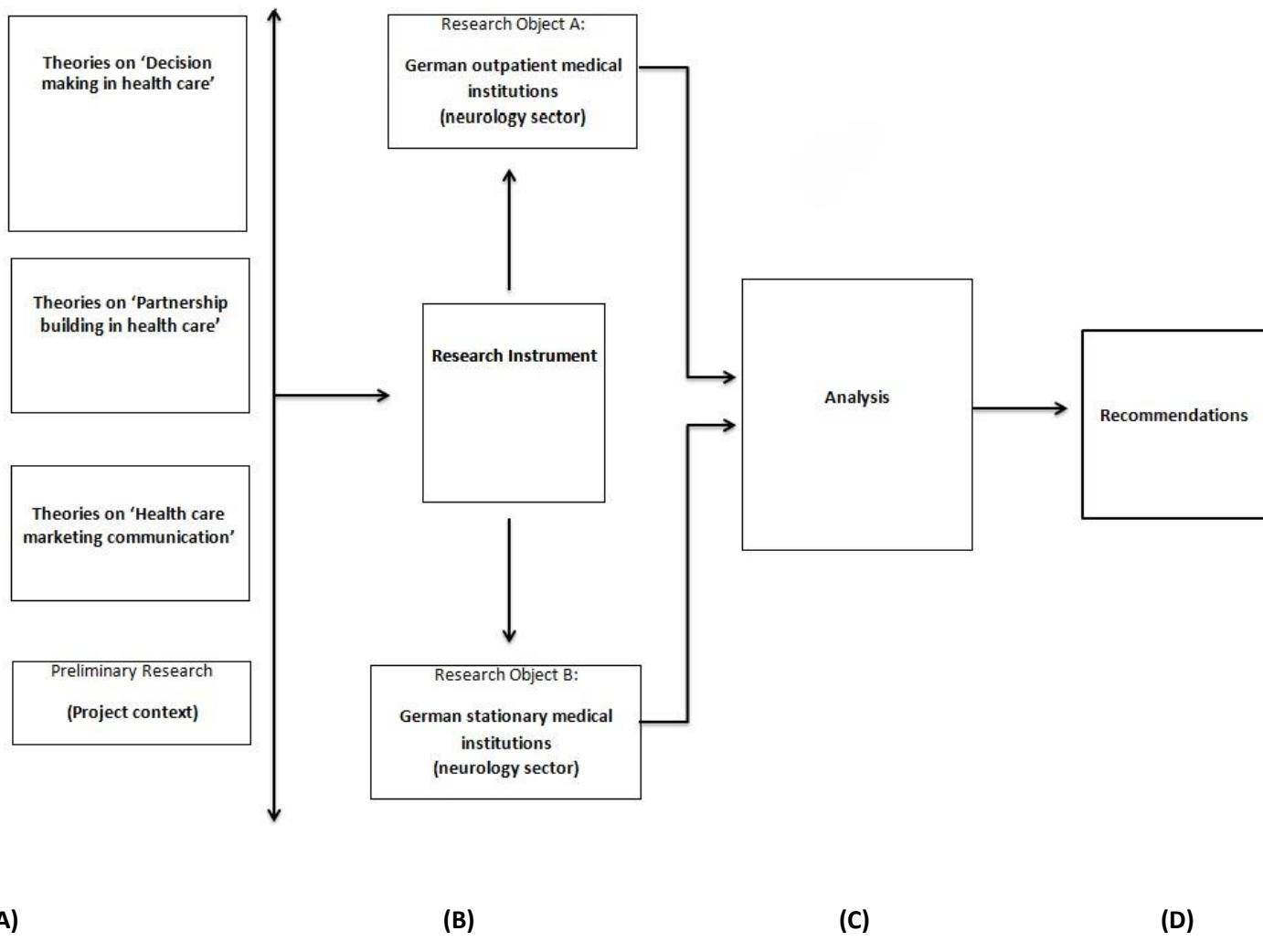
Based on this, the following **research objective** was developed:

The research objective was to make recommendations to the director of the Andrews-Reiter Epilepsy Research Program, Inc. to improve the quality of communication with potential partners in the German health care market by researching the characteristics of health care decision making, health care marketing communication and partnership building in the health care sector in Germany with potential strategic partners.

5.2.1 Conceptual Model



5.3 Research Framework



(A)

(B)

(C)

(D)

Regarding Verschuren & Doorewaard (2010), a research framework 'is a schematic representation of the research objective and includes the appropriate steps that need to be taken in order to achieve it' (p. 65). The research framework for this project should be read as follows:

(A) Based on the studies of the literature published on the areas of decision making in health care, partnership building in health care and health care marketing communication and with considering the preliminary research, (B) two groups of potential German partners were interviewed and surveyed, namely those in outpatient and stationary medical institutions. Based on the (C) analysis of the findings of the interviews and the survey, separated according to the two different groups, (D) recommendations will begin to improve A/R's current approach to increase the number of partnerships to enter the German health care market.

5.4 Research Questions

Several central research questions with sub questions were formulated in order to gain explanatory knowledge (Verschuren & Doorewaard, 2010). The knowledge gathered by the questions was supposed to firstly answer them and secondly provide insights into the research areas.

The following **research questions** have been defined:

1. What does theory indicate about the characteristics of decision making in health care, partnership building in health care and health care marketing communication?

1.1 How do the theories on decision making in health care contribute to the research?

1.2 How do the theories on partnership building in health care contribute to the research?

1.3 How do the theories on health care marketing communication contribute to the research?

2. How does the decision making process, the partnership building process and marketing communication function in German outpatient and stationary medical institutions based on the statements of German physicians working in these institutions?

2.1 What are the drivers of the decisions of outpatient and stationary medical institutions to adapt specific treatment methods considering the role of uncertainty avoidance, risk and power distance in German culture?

2.2 What are the specific reasons, requirements and desires behind the drive for partnership building of German outpatient and stationary medical institutions?

2.3 What are the used and preferred online and offline marketing and communication channels by the two groups of German outpatient and stationary medical institutions?

3. What are the most important similarities and differences between German outpatient and stationary medical institutions regarding the characteristics of decision making, partnership building and marketing communication in health care crucial to consider for A/R's market entry approach?

3.1 Which of the two groups, German outpatient or stationary medical institutions, is most suitable to target by A/R in their mission to build up collaborative partnerships in Germany and why?

3.2 What are the main barriers that most hinder A/R to target the other, not most suitable, group?

5.5 Research Objects

The research objects were German outpatient and stationary medical institutions. These two kinds of medical institutions are the main two groups existing in the German health care sector. For this research, only physicians out of the outpatient and stationary medical institutions in the German neurology sector were taken into consideration since A/R offers a service primarily relevant in this sector. Physicians working in stationary medical institutions in Germany are e.g. working in hospitals in the general neurological department or in epilepsy centers. Physicians working in outpatient medical institutions in Germany are e.g. working as psychotherapeutic psychologists, neurologists, epileptologists and neuropsychologist in their own/a physician's office. With physicians out of these two groups interviews and a survey were conducted with.

5.6 Research Strategy & Methodology

The research strategy was deductive research implying the use of existing theories. It was characterized by the use of triangulation, meaning that multiple research tools were used to obtain qualitative and quantitative data (Saunders et all., 2009). This strategy was chosen in order to obtain data through various ways from different sources to provide the client with representative research findings. The research strategy contained three major instruments, namely a literature review, semi-structured interviews and a survey that influenced one another.

The following **major steps** were taken as part of the research strategy and methodology:

STEP 1: Literature review was conducted to find theories that helped to find concepts for the three main research aspects and research questions

STEP 2: Interviews with potential strategic partners were conducted including questions based on concepts found in theory and the research questions (qualitative research)

STEP 3: Based on the outcomes of the interviews, partly simultaneously, quantitative answer choices for the survey were created (quantitative research) and the survey was conducted to verify the interview outcomes

Desk research was taking place in conducting a ***literature review*** that is ‘knowledge produced by others’ (Verschuren & Doorewaard, 2010). Firstly, literature was gathered about the three main research areas and was then sifted and sorted based on its suitability to support researching the three main areas. Afterwards, the suitable literature findings e.g. theories were summarized for each main research area and then critically reviewed and presented as answers for the theoretical research questions.

As part of the field research, ten ***semi-structured interviews*** (see Appendix, p. 100) were conducted with physicians out of the two potential partner groups to gain a deeper insight into the main research areas. They contained 17 open main questions relating to the main research topics and covering the concepts found in the theory found in the literature review. Based on the questions’ openness, it was possible to ask follow-up questions. The questions were able to be modified each time as the researcher gained more insight into the main topics from prior interviews (snowball-effect). The outcome of this was that there were two versions of interview questions that were used during the research project. Questions that seemed to be not relevant for this research were omitted. Then they were transcribed in both German and English. Afterwards, they were analyzed separately based on the group the interviewed physician belonged to. During the analysis process, recurrent themes were identified and the answers were grouped based on them. Then the data (responses) was sorted for each research question based on the main themes and the possible discovery of patterns among the respondents was considered. Finally, the data was presented as answers to the research questions.

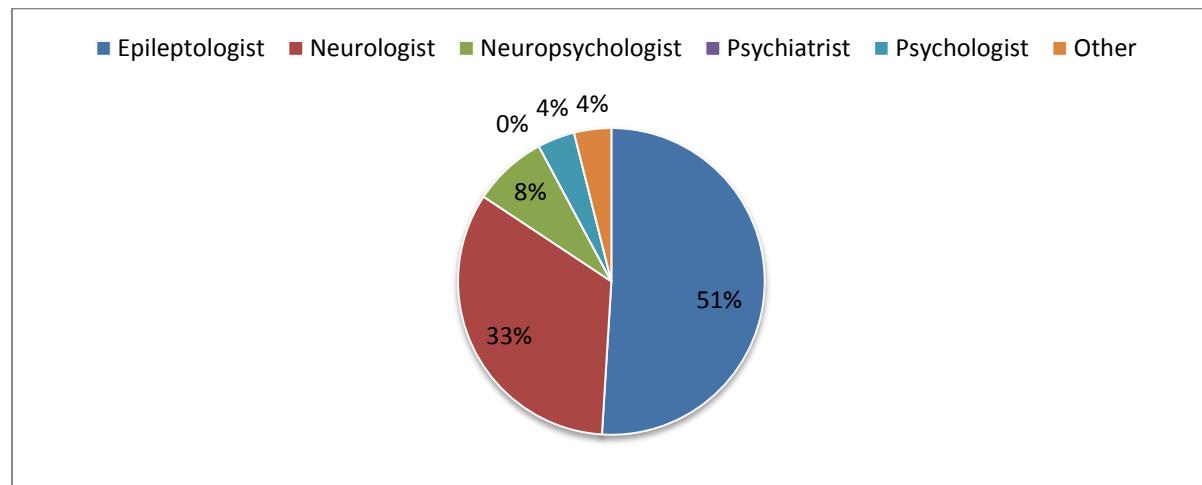
The **survey** ('cross sectional research') (see Appendix, p. 190) had the purpose to gather a representative amount of quantitative data about the research areas and to verify the findings of the interviews (Verschuren & Doorewaard, 2010). The survey was send separately to 105 outpatient and 300 stationary physicians in Germany by the German Society for Epileptology (*see www.dgfe.info*). These contacts were all German physicians working in the hospital neurology department, epilepsy centers or their own private medical practice and are all members of that society. The survey contained 13 questions and had around three to five per main topic. The survey included 12 closed and one open question. The presented answer choices were based on the knowledge gathered by previous interviews. The physicians always got the chance to answer with 'other' and indicated their individual answer choice. The outcome was then analyzed statistically. The answer outcomes were partitioned based on the research questions they answered. The participation rate in the survey was 14, 57 %. To be specific, the rate of stationary physicians was 17 % and the one of outpatient was 7, 62 %.

One **in-depth interview** (See Appendix, p. 100) was conducted with an expert, a psychologist and psychotherapist, who did research in the past on why the integration of certain treatment options failed based on specific structures in the German health care sector and who is the publisher of several books in this area. This expert got introduced to the three main research areas to share his knowledge about them, not asked pre-structured questions. The purpose of this interview was to discover prior unobserved relevant aspects for this research. The interview was then analyzed by identifying recurring themes and sorting the responses based on these. Since no pre-structured questions were asked, the responses were organized based on the main topics. Also the data from this interview was presented in form of answers to the research questions they fit to.

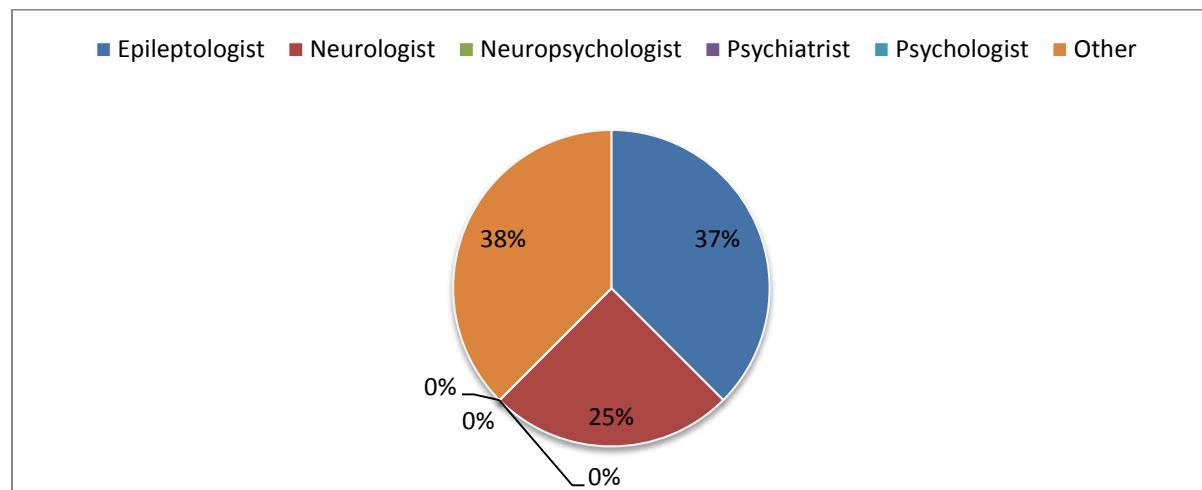
6. Research Results

Seven interviews were conducted with German stationary medical institutions, three with German outpatient medical institutions and one with an expert. The responses were sorted based on recurring themes and listed based on the number of physicians that gave these. Therefore, it is possible that one physician e.g. named several responses and therefore they do not sum up to seven all the time.

Stationary physicians out of different professions took part in the survey:



Outpatient physicians who took part had the following professions:



6.1 Results of stationary medical institutions

6.1.1 Semi-structured interviews

6.1.1.1 Decision-making

When describing how the decision making process works within their institutions in terms of deciding to integrate a new treatment method, the following answers were given:

- ❖ the decisions are made as a team e.g. every therapist-team informs itself in their respective specialist field and then discusses what they found out with the whole team and present it to executives (4)
- ❖ the head of the department, the clinic or the director make the final decision (4)
- ❖ the decisions regarding the integration of new treatment methods is made by specialists (1)
- ❖ it is decided by the clinic's director along but in consultation with the senior physician for the specific field. (1)

Moreover, pertaining the factors that lead to the discussion of whether to integrate a new treatment method in their treatment protocols, the physicians stated the following:

- ❖ they get ideas when visiting other centers, when they attend a continued education or if that they get suggestions from colleagues (2)
- ❖ if they would learn something new on a congress, publications, literature or when someone spreads the news, that these would be factors leading to the discussion of whether to integrate a new treatment method in their treatment protocols (2)
- ❖ this depends on the personnel (1)
- ❖ if the method is applicable and promises a certain factor of efficiency, this would be a factor (1)
- ❖ the more scientifically founded, the better e.g. when a study shows positive results of a method this would be an important factor influencing the decision (1)

The following answers were given on why they integrated the treatment methods they have right now:

- ❖ the patient will profit from the treatment and the therapeutic chances will rise (4)
- ❖ scientific data and studies about these treatment methods played a big role when assessing its success and efficiency (3)
- ❖ the treatment methods currently practiced by the physicians got adapted to the treatment protocol after they were applied critically and examined (1)

- ❖ a psychologist stated that he/she applies social competence training because he/she considers it as an important treatment method for epilepsy patients (1)
- ❖ his/her institution does not ‘pick up every trend’ (1)
- ❖ the treatment methods he/she and his/her clinic practice right now are based on the policy of the German Association of Neurology so they are diagnostic guidelines of his professional group (1)

About the question if the physicians recognize needs/problems of their patients that are not taken care of with their current treatment protocol, the following answers were given:

- ❖ do not have enough capacity to ambulatory treat patients and that mostly patients that are not treated stationary have needs (2)
- ❖ they offer everything, they do not oversee something and even that patients are already overwhelmed with offer (2)
- ❖ there are problems like e.g. that the psychiatric treatment of patients could be improved (psychological and medical psychotherapeutic assistance) (2)
- ❖ he/she thinks to have a need for professional rehabilitation (1)
- ❖ he/she can treat patients after referral from an established neurologist and that it would maybe be better if family physicians could refer the patients directly (1)

Pertaining the question what would make them revise/change their treatment protocol, the following answers were given:

- ❖ new therapy methods and programs would be a driving factor (3)
- ❖ needs and complaints of patients or a positive response of patients would lead them to focus more on a certain area and therefore would be a driver to revise/change their treatment protocol (2)
- ❖ the presenting of more specific groups as a reason to adapt/change his treatment protocol (1)
- ❖ this depends on resources and one physician stated that ‘most commonly known and oldest things, where you have the best level of evidence and experience, comes first’ (1)

Regarding the question in what way risk and uncertainty influence the decision making about integrating a certain method in their treatment protocols, the physicians answered the following:

- ❖ these factors influence the decision making a lot (6)
- ❖ they look at the data that others report, invite people who use it and get a feeling for it e.g. the level of evidence and the profile of side effects (2)

- ❖ they use their own experience in e.g. testing the method (2)
- ❖ they either do not know good studies or that there is not enough specific data yet regarding the evidence level and by-effect profile of certain treatment methods (related to risk and uncertainty) (2)
- ❖ he/she uses critically reflected methods that got a lot of critic already and/or that have the highest possible evidents (1)

Concerning the factor of uncertainty, the physicians stated the following:

- ❖ they are absolutely feeling uncertainty about the current epilepsy treatments e.g. insecurities about quality of evidence level and are sure that every offered method can be improved (3)
- ❖ there are always insecurities e.g. that you never know what can happen as a long-term effect and one physician said that psychotherapy itself is important (2)
- ❖ some patients are relatively resistant against any kind of therapy and it could be useful for them to test more developments (1)
- ❖ he/she is sure that the methods that he/she offers help most of their patients (1)
- ❖ he/she does not feel any kind of uncertainty (1)

About the questions of how hierarchy in the institutions looks like and if and how it influences decision making e.g. who has the final say in that matter, the following outcome can be presented:

- ❖ the executive of the division, the chief physician or the medical director always have the final word (5)
- ❖ it would not be possible that everyone decides and two physicians mentioned that they have a very open team and the hierachic structure is very loose (1)

6.1.1.2 Partnership building

As to the partnership process, the semi-structured interviews with the physicians had the following responses when asked about their current partnerships:

- ❖ (university) clinics and hospitals (7)
- ❖ epilepsy centers as current partners (5)
- ❖ do not have a formal cooperation or e.g. just an informal partnership with an epilepsy center (2)
- ❖ has a partnership with an ambulant neurologist in their region (1)
- ❖ some groups in his/her clinic are connected with specific center (1)

In reference to how partnership building works in German stationary medical institutions, the physicians had the following responses:

- ❖ there are annual meetings e.g. a conference or work group, with the cooperation partners (2)
- ❖ there is a regional connection e.g. that they talk about cases, call each other, hold conferences regularly and visit each other (2)
- ❖ they visit or sit in on classes (2)
- ❖ the interpersonal base is important (1)
- ❖ with their colleagues from far away the cooperation is based more on theory than on patients (1)
- ❖ he/she has a service based cooperation e.g. that they send data and their partners handle it for us, or vice versa, or that they ask them for certain kind of questions or answers and they just exchange them without billing it (1)
- ❖ he/she has intensive partnerships e.g. hold a meeting every two weeks and discuss certain topics and one physician mentioned that he/she research contacts (1)

Apropos the specific reasons why stationary medical institutions would want to partner with an organization, the following answers were given:

- ❖ one reason is that their partners should have more technical possibilities, more capacity and offer a service/method that they cannot deliver (5)
- ❖ they would use the partner's expertise and learn from them (2)
- ❖ another reason would be that they would want to have a research or scientific cooperation with their partners (3)
- ❖ they have no budget left for specific services and that this would be a reason to partner (1)
- ❖ they work together with specific clinics because their patients are treated in these (1)

About the requirements, the following answers were given:

- ❖ expertise is one requirement (2)
- ❖ interest in humans with epilepsy and the working together on the subject of epilepsy (2)
- ❖ subject-specific requirements e.g. certain neurological, or combination of neurology, psychiatry and psychotherapy (2)
- ❖ creativity (1)
- ❖ need to have experience (1)
- ❖ they must offer quality (1)

- ❖ partners must be reliable (1)

The desires of German stationary medical institutions regarding their partnerships for the future are the following:

- ❖ they would like to expand their international partnerships (2)
- ❖ they would want to have better networking and working as a group altogether (2)
- ❖ they would want more feedback and communication about individual patients (2)
- ❖ did not know what he desires in this aspect (1)
- ❖ if certain research questions arise regarding specific topics, and one needs to know how that another group has, one would contact them and try to cooperate (1)
- ❖ desire to have more local partners and one physician wants a better cooperation with a psychosomatic rehabilitation center (1)
- ❖ they would want a partnerships with another facility that is interested in scientific cooperation (1)
- ❖ wants a facility that works on new therapies as a partner (1)
- ❖ they have no special wishes but that there is always room for improvement (1)

6.1.1.3 Marketing communication

About the kind of media that physicians out of German stationary medical institutions are using to e.g. inform themselves about new treatment methods or innovations in the health care sector in general, the following responses were given:

- ❖ digital media e.g. the internet and internet information services as sources for their information (6)
- ❖ congresses (5)
- ❖ specialist journals (5)
- ❖ lectures e.g. inviting referents if they are interested in certain topics and two physicians stated that they read the news and newsletters to inform themselves (2)
- ❖ they exchange themselves with colleagues and one physician mentioned work groups as an information medium (2)
- ❖ much less classical media e.g. print, is used (1)
- ❖ information from the pharmaceutical industry or manufacturers of stimulation devices who deliver their knowledge but that this is only a very small part (1)
- ❖ events as an information source (1)

With reference to the role of word-of-mouth propaganda and recommendations of colleagues, the following answers were given:

- ❖ it plays a big role and that within their clinic there is a lot word-of-mouth (2)
- ❖ it depends on the colleague e.g. what he/she does and how the physician trusts him/her (1)
- ❖ they do not go to others but others come to them and that they do not need to know where others are searching for solutions (1)
- ❖ it plays an average role and one physician said that it is only a very small part (1)

As for the question what online and offline communication channels the physicians are using, the following answers were given:

- ❖ email because e.g. they are more free in planning their time than via phone (5)
- ❖ personal contact (3)
- ❖ conferences (2)
- ❖ phone as their preferred communication channels (2)
- ❖ they rarely use the phone or much less than other channels (2)
- ❖ the internet (1)

Regarding the question what kind of information distribution/promotional tools the physicians consider to work best in the German health care sector and specifically the epilepsy sector, the following replies were given:

- ❖ personal contact as e.g. meeting self-help groups to report the newest of treatment or working groups) (4)
- ❖ specialized journals (3)
- ❖ publications (2)
- ❖ press statements (2)
- ❖ they do not think that printed media and events work very effectively and that general information via the internet is usually ignored (2)
- ❖ congresses (1)
- ❖ events (1)
- ❖ he/she invited speakers or speak themselves (1)
- ❖ press statements work best (1)
- ❖ an own homepage would be effective (1)
- ❖ television (1)
- ❖ social media (1)

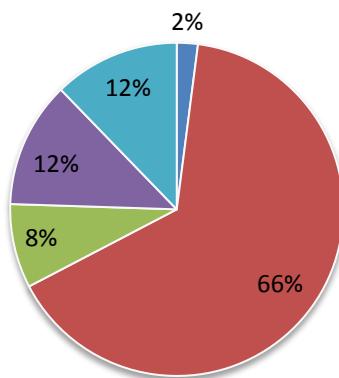
- ❖ emails (not circular mails) (1)

6.1.2 Survey

6.1.2.1 Decision-making

About the outcome of the survey, the percentage of physicians in stationary medical institutions answered in the following way to the question of how the decision making process within his/her institution works in terms of deciding to integrate a new treatment method:

- The head of my institution decides on that (e.g. director of hospital)
- The team decides but the head of my institution has the final responsibility
- It is decided as a team
- I decide on my own (own doctor's office)
- The decision making process works differently (please shortly specify)



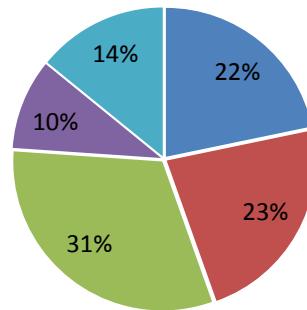
Others (the decision making process works differently):

- I make the decisions, possibly the clinic director and the cooperation partner have 'veto power'
- I am the head
- The head decides about precisely elaborated suggestions (inclusive ideas about financing)
- I decide about the medical reasonableness, if positive, the medicine controlling/management decides about the economic reasonableness
- I decide that on my own but the head has a veto right
- I decide in the department I lead by myself

Note: Two physicians did not answer this question

Moreover, the percentage of physicians in stationary medical institutions answered in the following way to the question of what factors lead to the discussion about whether to add a new treatment method to the treatment protocol:

- The head of my institution thinks the integration is important
- Other medical institutions have integrated the method successfully
- There is currently a lot of information about the method e.g. in specialist journals
- I don't know
- Other reasons

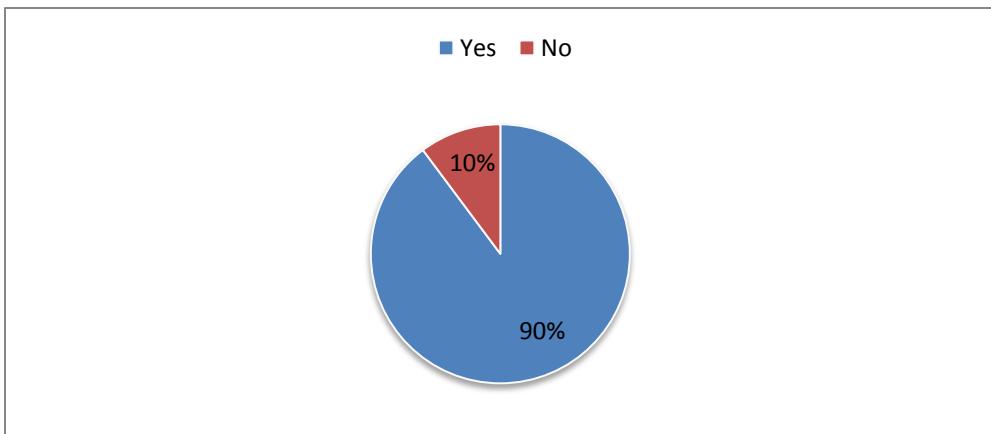


Other reasons:

- There is demand
- Suggestion comes from therapist team and is professionally justified
- Data from studies and personal experience
- It proves to be effective
- I think the integration is important
- Proven benefit in studies
- Convincing proof of efficiency (controlled studies)
- Current studies, guidelines
- Own interest in new treatment methods
- Evidence based studies
- It seems to be researched in a sufficient good way and effective without foreseeable heavy side effects
- Reasonable treatment approach
- Proof of benefit

Note: Two physicians did not answer this question

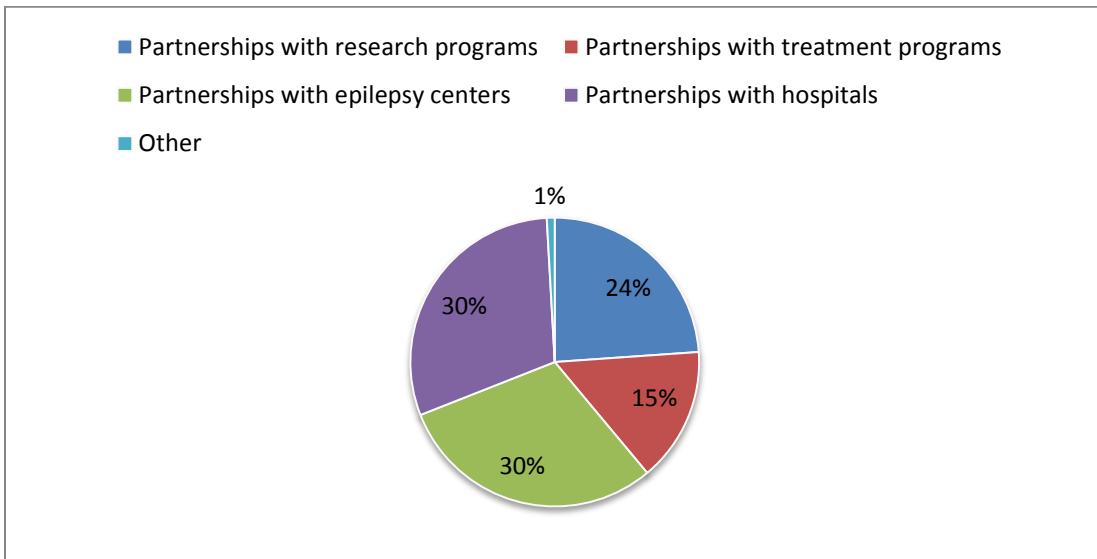
In reference to the question if the hierarchical structure within the physician's institution influences the decision making process, the following outcome can be seen:



Note: Two physicians did not answer this question

6.1.2.2 Partnership building

With respect to the current partnerships that German stationary medical institutions have, as stated by the physicians, the following outcome can be seen:



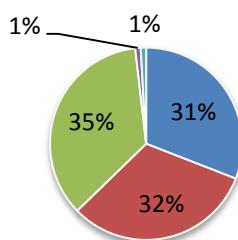
Other:

- Registered physicians

Note: Four physicians did not answer this question

Regarding the specific reasons why physicians of stationary medical institutions would want to partner with an organization, the following outcome resulted:

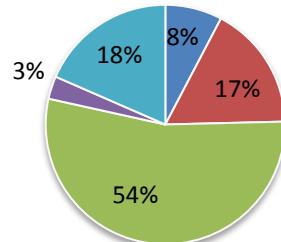
- My institution/I is/am very convinced by the research findings/treatment program
- The patients can profit from this partnership
- Our/My hospital/center/doctor's office can offer a wider treatment offer due to this partnership
- I don't know
- Other



Note: Four physicians did not answer this question

About the requirements that the organization that wants to partner with German stationary medical institutions needs to fill, the following outcome resulted:

- It should have already have other partnerships with other medical institutions
- It should be well known
- It should offer an innovative and new treatment method
- I don't know
- Other



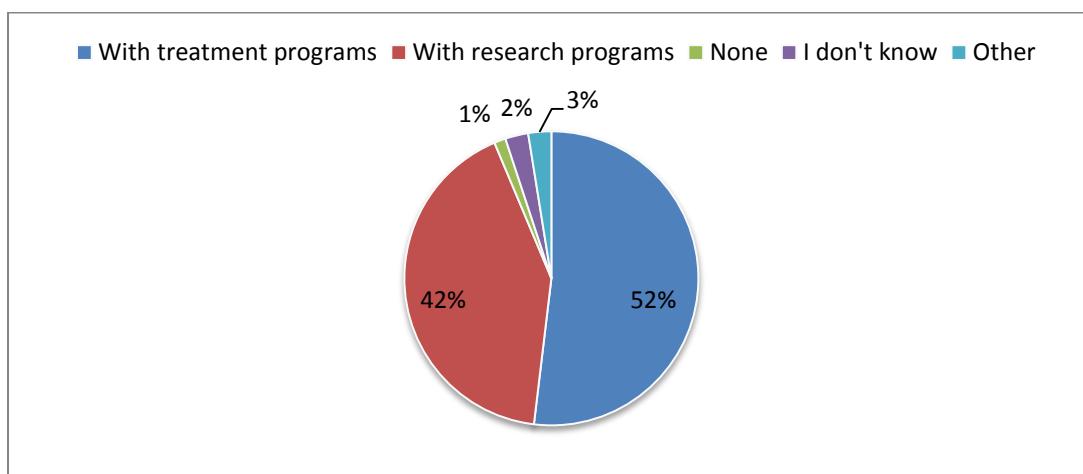
Other:

- Quality
- Convincing work, arguments and ideas
- Integrity, not primarily commercial

- To have a specialized profound background
- Complement to treatment array
- Transparency, reliability, honesty
- It should be convincing
- Convincing publications (controlled studies, peer review, professional journals)
- Reliability
- It should not cost money
- Integrity
- Good and plausible evidence of efficacy of the concept is crucial

Note: Five physicians did not answer this question

Concerning the question of what kind of partnerships German stationary medical institutions desire for the future, the following results can be seen:



Other:

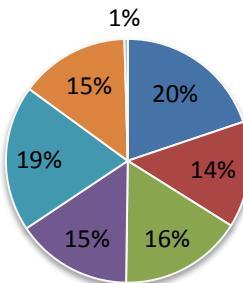
- Consideration of benefit and cost
- Universities with comparable interest

Note: Four physicians did not answer this question

6.1.3.3 Marketing communication

The kind of media that physicians in stationary medical institutions use to inform themselves about new treatment options and innovations in the health care sector, the following outcome resulted:

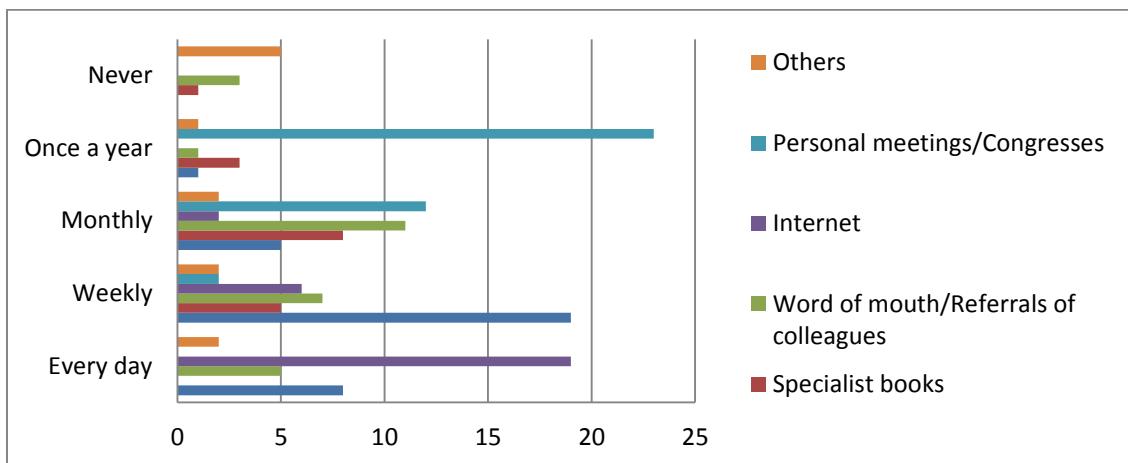
- | | |
|---|--|
| ■ Articles in professional journals
■ Personal meetings
■ Congresses
■ Others | ■ Specialist books
■ Internet
■ Word of mouth/Referrals of colleagues |
|---|--|



Others: Company advisor

Note: Four physicians did not answer this question

Concerning the frequency of use of the prior named media, the following outcome and graphics resulted (x-axis is the number of physicians that chose answer for each option in the y-axis):



Specific publishers and names of the journals and books physicians in stationary medical institutions indicated to use are the following (that got named two or more times):

Names of journals:

- 12 x Nervenarzt
- 11 x Epilepsia
- 10 x Zeitschrift für Epileptologie
- 9 x Aktuelle Neurologie
- 7 x Epilepsy and Behavior
- 5 x Neurology

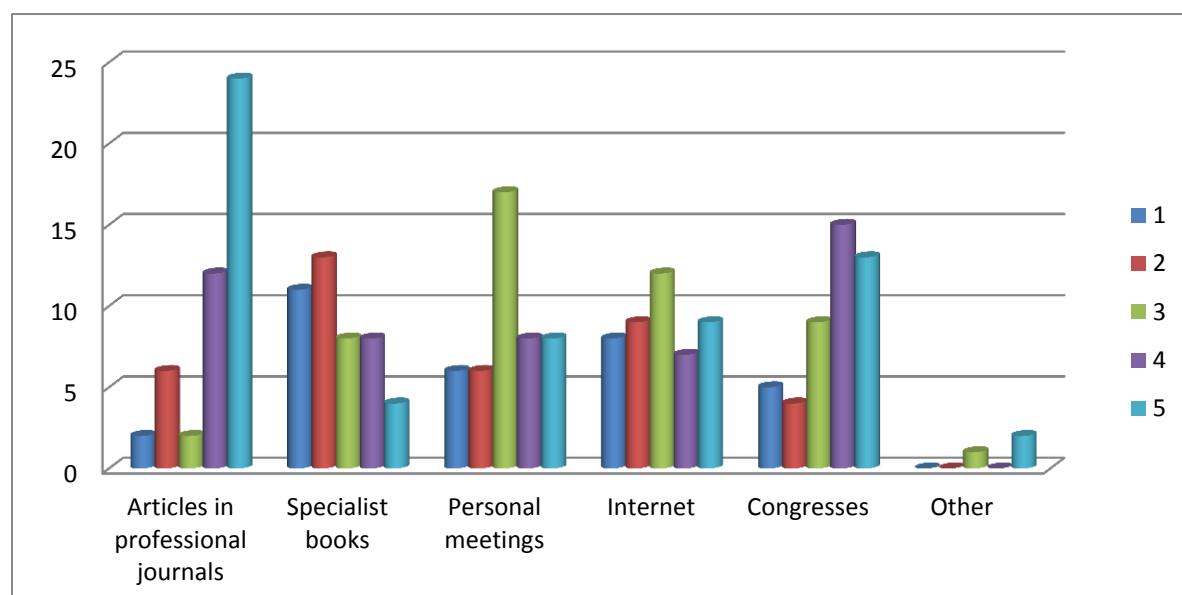
- 4 x Seizure
- 4 x Epilepsy Research
- 4 x Epileptologie
- 3 x Brain
- 3 x Epilepsy
- 2 x Epileptic Disorders
- 2 x Annals of Neurology
- 2 x Lancet Neurology
- 2 x JNNP
- 2 x PubMed

Names of publishers (that got named two or more times):

- 16 x Thieme
- 15 x Springer
- 5 x Elsevier
- 3 x PubMed
- 2 x Schattauer

Note: Ten physicians did not answer this question

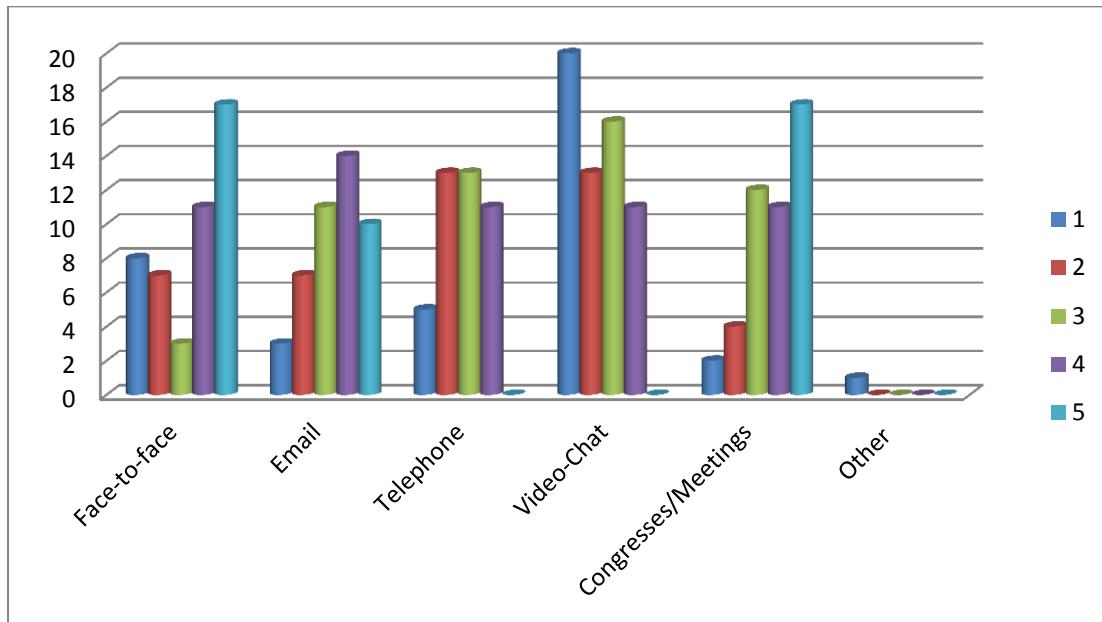
The question about what kind of information distribution tools (promotional tools) are most effective in the German health care sector in terms of reaching potential collaboration partners, specifically the epilepsy sector, resulted in the following outcome (physicians had to rate from 1-5, 1 indicating the least preference and 5 indicating the highest; colors indicate the rank or number and y-axis shows the number of physicians that chose specific number for each tool):



Others:

- Quality circle

The question about what online and offline communication channels physicians of stationary medical institutions prefer to communicate with (and especially with (potential) partners), resulted in the following outcome (physicians had to rate from 1-5, 1 indicating the least preference and 5 indicating the highest; colors indicate the rank or number and y-axis shows the number of physicians that chose specific number for each channel):



6.2 Results of outpatient medical institutions

6.2.1 Semi-structured interviews

6.2.1.1 Decision-making

In connection with the semi-structured interview with physicians of outpatient medical institutions, the following responses were given when describing how the decision making process within their institution works e.g. in terms of deciding to integrate a new treatment method:

- ❖ he/she decides him-/herself because he/she has an own physician's office (2)
- ❖ he/she as the head of the physician's office decides, since he/she is the one medically and economically liable (1)
- ❖ he/she needs to check if he/she can use the treatment or if it is too off label in terms of too expensive or not recommended by insurance e.g. if another clinic recommends a pill (1)

Moreover, as to the factors that lead to the discussion of whether to integrate a new treatment method in their treatment protocols, the physicians stated the following:

- ❖ I recognize a new method (1)
- ❖ somebody talks with me about it (1)
- ❖ I have the impression it could help my patients (1)

Regarding the question about what the drivers of physicians in outpatient medical institutions were regarding the integration of their current treatment methods in their treatment protocol, the following outcome resulted:

- ❖ personal experience, research data, specialist lectures, recommendations from experts and a second opinion from epilepsy centers played a role when deciding on their methods (1)
- ❖ if you work ambulatory you just have a few options e.g. if you want to be licensed and accepted by the health association of statutory health insurance then you can only choose between analytically funded methods or behavioral therapeutic methods (1)
- ❖ because I like them and I have the feeling they help (1)

Concerning the question if the physicians recognize needs/problems of their patients that are not taken care of with their current treatment protocol, the following answers were given:

- ❖ there is no specific protocol and that epilepsy is treated for each case individually taking into consideration several different aspects e.g. age, comorbidities etc. (1)
- ❖ practically no therapist works with only one way of therapy e.g. working only cognitively would not satisfy the patients (1)
- ❖ there are always things I am more satisfied and less satisfied (1)

Apropos the question of what would make outpatient physicians to revise/change their treatment protocol, the physicians responded in the following way:

- ❖ it is an individual decision and that there is no stable plan for this e.g. if there is a new treatment method like a pill he/she implements it sometimes (e.g. when the study results were good or it was recommended by a specialist (1))
- ❖ with epilepsy treatment there is a lot of try and error (1)
- ❖ he/she would focus more on certain kinds of clients but then he/she would have to study into another subject (1)
- ❖ more abilities for me and methods, medication that are less interfering or that help better (1)

As to the question in what way risk and uncertainty influence the decision making about integrating a certain method in their treatment protocols, the physicians answered the following:

- ❖ it does influence, of course and one that you try to be on the safe side (2)
- ❖ usually you wait, observe and check the conditional approval of side effects (1)
- ❖ they wait and make their own experiences with a smaller dose (of e.g. medication) on a few patients, and see how they react to it (1)
- ❖ the influence of risk and uncertainty depends on the diagnosis (1)

Pertaining the factor of uncertainty, the physicians responded in the following way:

- ❖ he/she and his/her team have uncertainty about the current epilepsy treatments but that for the greater part they are satisfied with the results (1)

6.2.1.2 Partnership building

Regarding the topic of partnership building, the outpatient physicians gave the following responses about their current partnerships:

- ❖ he/she has partnerships with epilepsy centers (1)
- ❖ he/she has not really a partnership but that there is a possibility to send patients to other medical institutions e.g. for doing stationary therapies or going to a day hospital. The patients need to pay for themselves and are bound to the permission of their health insurance for the specific therapist they are going to (1)
- ❖ he/she has a partnership through a research program with an university (1)
- ❖ he/she has a partnership with a clinic (1)
- ❖ he/she has a partnership with a physician's office (1)

Concerning the question of how the partnership building process functions in outpatient medical institutions, the physicians responded with the following:

- ❖ their partners, the epilepsy centers, introduce themselves e.g. when a new head physician starts in a center then he introduces himself e.g. through lectures (1)
- ❖ the contact happens via the patients that he/she sends there (1)
- ❖ there is a natural selection e.g. that they look which epilepsy centers sorts out or treats their patients and that the centers look for physicians that have many epilepsy patients and who are no specialists in epilepsy (1)
- ❖ some cooperation happens when there are difficult cases (1)
- ❖ it is not really building up but that partnerships just happen according to the situation e.g. when a patient needs more help and is sent to a day hospital by an outpatient physician and that these structures were already given (1)

- ❖ you work more hand in hand and refer clients to other medical institutions (1)

About the specific reasons of why the interviewed outpatient physicians would want to partner with an organization, they stated the following:

- ❖ the reason would be that they complement each other (1)
- ❖ the reason would be a simple basic or second mindset (1)
- ❖ he/she and his/her team cannot offer some technology that is needed for the treatment and so need a partner to provide their clients with this (1)
- ❖ a reason is the deciding on medication or epileptic surgery because they cannot do that but their partners, in that case epilepsy centers (1)
- ❖ physician's office was established out of clinic (we have partnership with) (1)
- ❖ interested in topic and does cooperative research on it with hospital (1)

With regard to the requirements that the organization that outpatient physicians would partner with needs to fulfill, the following was stated:

- ❖ they need to be qualified (1)
- ❖ that it fits to our concept (1)

Concerning the question of what kind of partnerships the outpatient physicians desire for the future, the following answers were given:

- ❖ he/she is happy with centers themselves but would like to handle some of the barriers that they have to overcome all the time e.g. to get an appointment faster from those they consider their 'partners' (1)
- ❖ At the moment I am satisfied (1)

6.2.1.3 Marketing communication

The question about what kind of media outpatient physicians use to inform themselves about new treatment methods or innovations in the health care sector in general, resulted in the following outcome:

- ❖ he/she uses mostly specialist journals/magazines (3)
- ❖ he/she uses congresses (2)
- ❖ he/she uses professional, psychotherapeutic and psychologic associations (1)
- ❖ he/she uses brochures that are sent every year to inform him-/herself (1)
- ❖ Exchange between colleagues (1)

Concerning the role of word-of-mouth propaganda and recommendations of colleagues, the following answers were given:

- ❖ pharma supports them with the latest news and data (1)
- ❖ there is no real buzz marketing because you do not talk much with colleagues (1)
- ❖ this happens in a quality circle e.g. when physicians show each other what they learned in a specific training (1)

Regarding the question what online and offline communication channels outpatient physicians prefer to communicate with and especially with (potential) partners, they stated the following:

- ❖ with partners he/she communicates in a written form e.g. mostly with letters (1)
- ❖ mobile phone/telephone (1)
- ❖ email (1)
- ❖ internet (1)
- ❖ personal contact e.g. quality circle (1)
- ❖ email is not a suitable medium because it would be too much work spent e.g. answering many emails from patients (1)

The question about what kind of information distribution/promotional tools the outpatient physicians consider to work most effectively in the German health care sector and specifically the epilepsy sector, resulted in the following answers:

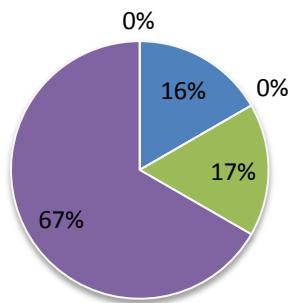
- ❖ he/she thinks that publications in the best established German journals work best and one physician specifically stated that physician's journals like e.g. 'Neurophysiology' work best (1)
- ❖ emails are difficult e.g. because you have to print them (1)
- ❖ following order of importance: personal response, professional journal, congress

6.2.2 Survey

6.2.2.1 Decision-making

Pertaining the outcome of the survey, the percentage of physicians in outpatient medical institutions answered in the following way to the question of how the decision making process within his/her institution works in terms of deciding to integrate a new treatment method:

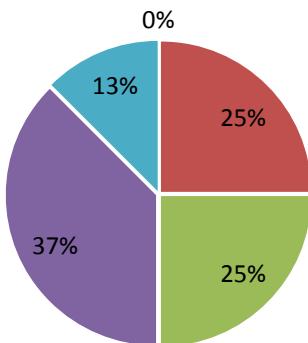
- The head of my institution decides on that (e.g. director of hospital)
- The team decides but the head of my institution has the final responsibility
- It is decided as a team
- I decide on my own (own doctor's office)
- The decision making process works differently (please shortly specify)



Note: Two physicians did not answer this question

With regard to the outcome of the survey, the percentage of physicians in outpatient medical institutions answered in the following way to the question of what factors lead to the discussion about whether to add a new treatment method to the treatment protocol:

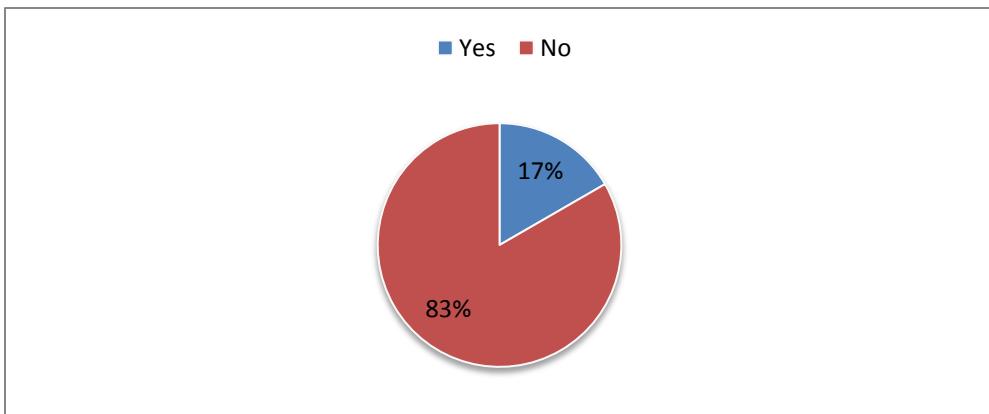
- The head of my institution thinks the integration is important
- Other medical institutions have integrated the method successfully
- There is currently a lot of information about the method e.g. in specialist journals
- I don't know
- Other reasons



Other reasons: Openness towards new therapeutic methods

Note: Two physicians did not answer this question

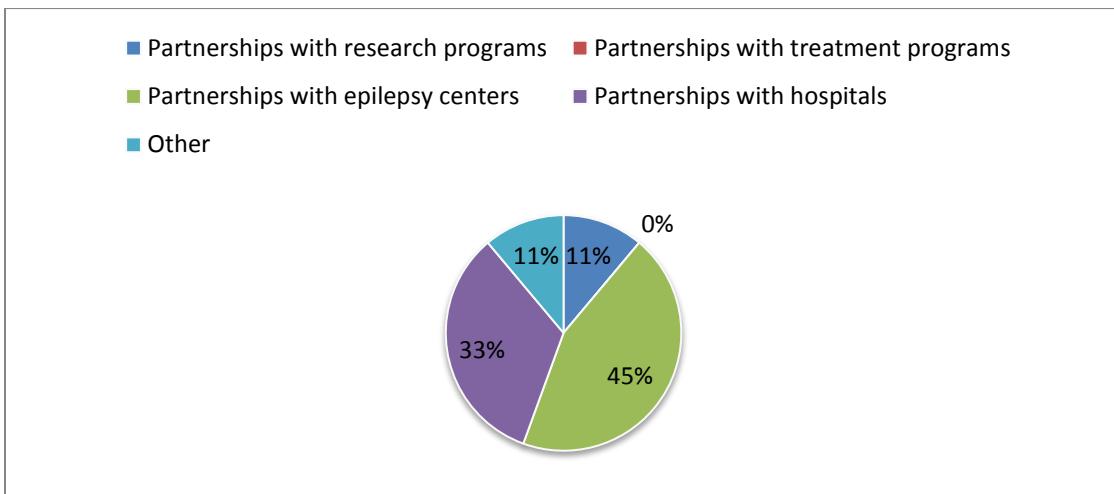
About the question if the hierarchical structure within the physician's institution influences the decision making process, the following outcome can be seen:



Note: Two physicians did not answer this question

6.2.2.2 Partnership building

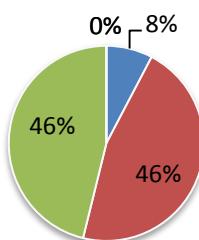
Apropos the kind of partnerships that physicians in outpatient medical institutions have at the moment, the following outcome can be seen:



Note: Three physicians did not answer this question

As to the specific reasons why physicians in outpatient medical institutions would want to partner with an organization, the following outcome resulted:

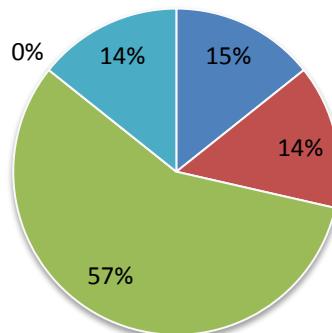
- My institution/I is/am very convinced by the research findings/treatment program
- The patients can profit from this partnership
- Our/My hospital/center/doctor's office can offer a wider treatment offer due to this partnership
- I don't know
- Other



Note: Two physicians did not answer this question

About the requirements the organization that outpatient physicians want to partner with needs to fulfill are the following:

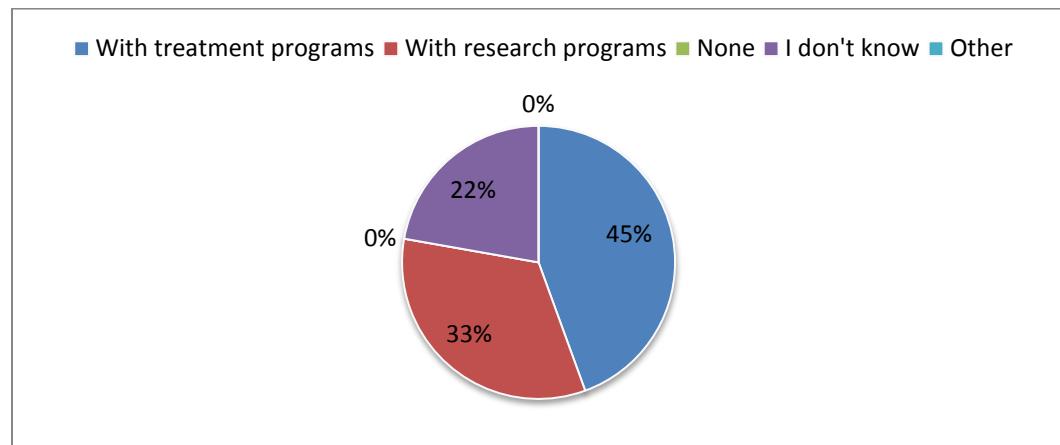
- It should have already have other partnerships with other medical institutions
- It should be well known
- It should offer an innovative and new treatment method
- I don't know
- Other



Other: It should be reputable

Note: Two physicians did not answer this question

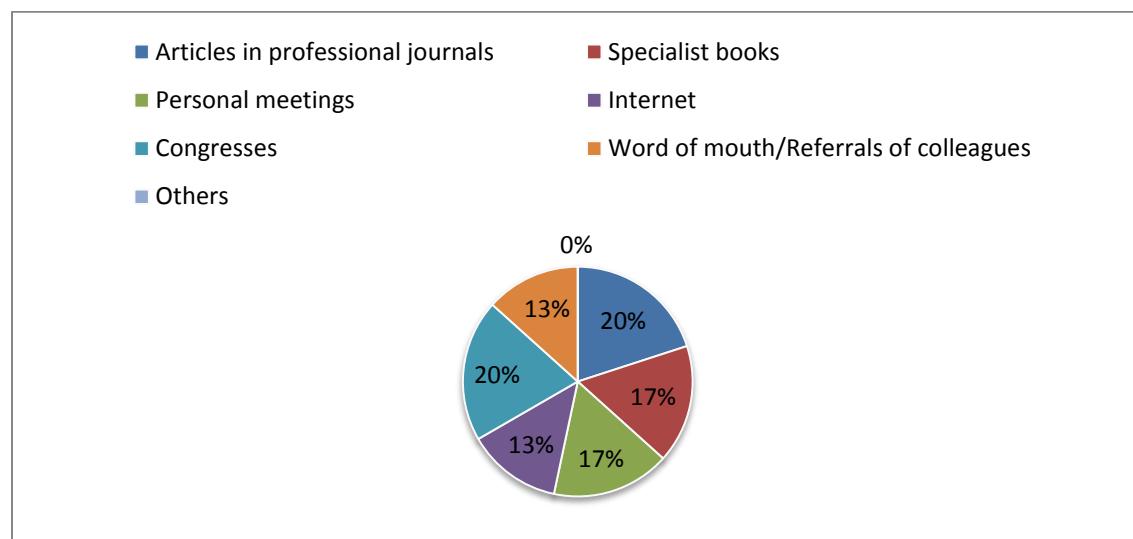
As for the desires of what kind of partnerships outpatient physicians wish for the future, the following outcome resulted:



Note: Two physicians did not answer this question

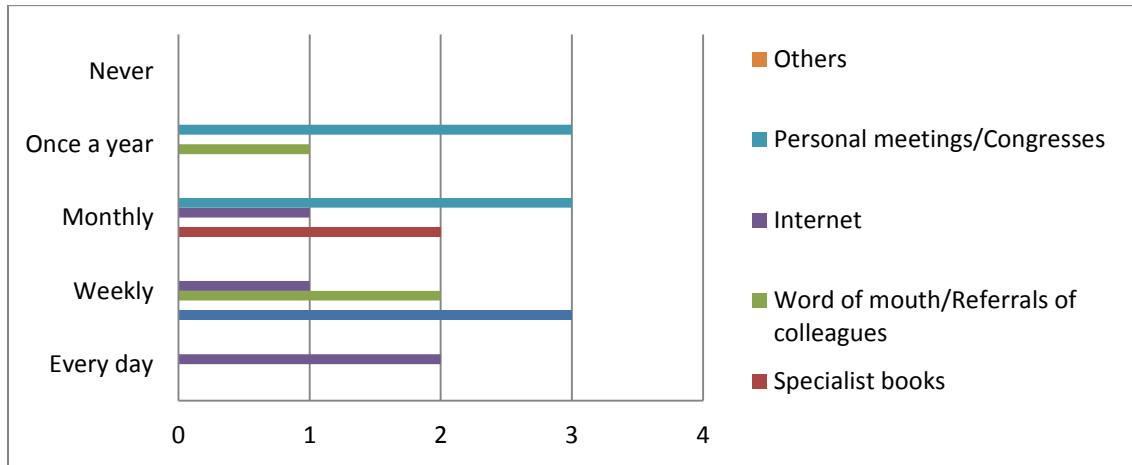
6.2.2.3 Marketing communication

The question of what kind of media outpatient physicians use to inform themselves about new treatment options or innovations in the health care sector, resulted in the following outcome:



Note: Two physicians did not answer this question

The frequency outpatient physicians are using the prior named media is the following (x-axis is the number of physicians that chose answer for each option in the y-axis):



The specific publishers and names of the journals and books the outpatient physicians read, are the following (that got named two or more times):

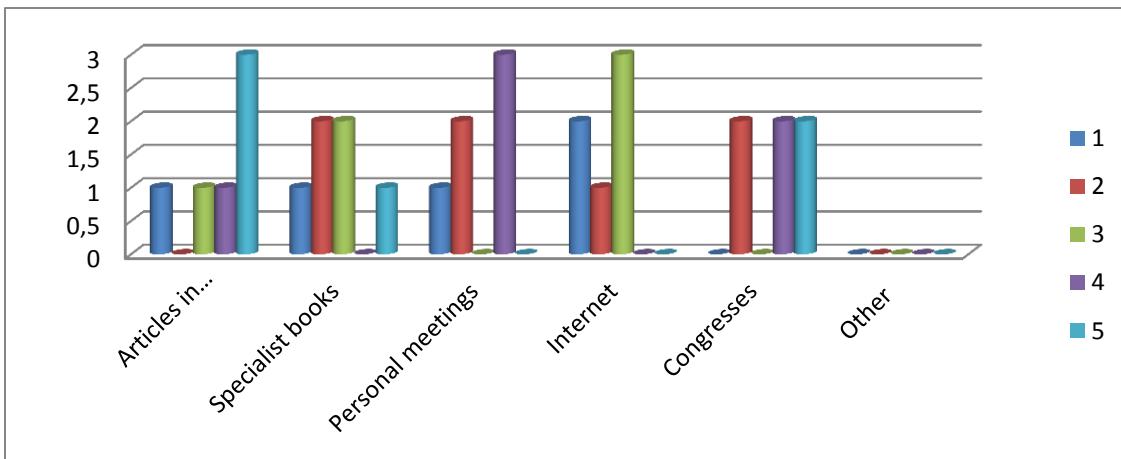
Names of journals:

- 2 x Epilepsia
- 2 x Neurology

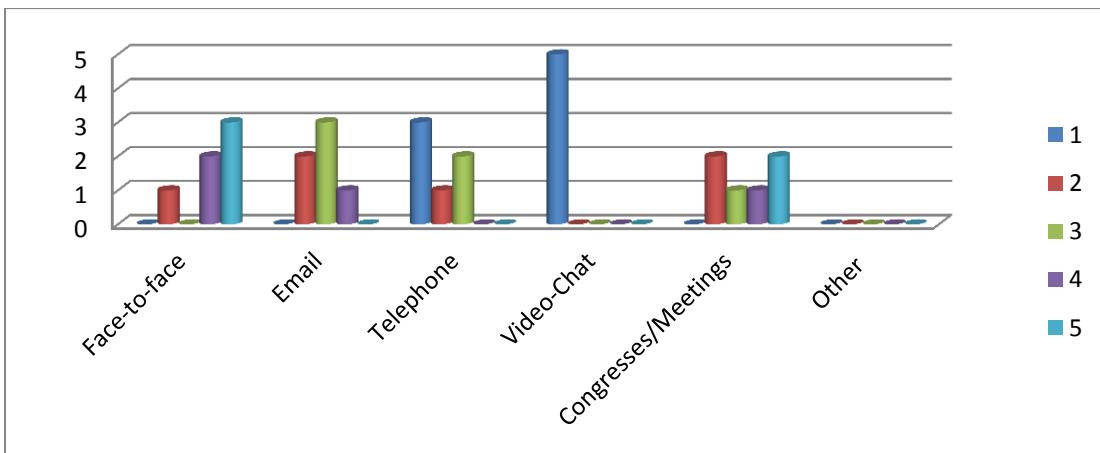
Names of publishers:

- 2 x Schattauer
- 2 x Springer
- Thieme
- Verbandszeitschrift

The question of what kind of information distribution tools outpatient physicians think work best in the German health care sector, specifically the epilepsy sector, resulted in the following outcome (physicians had to rate from 1-5, 1 indicating the least preference and 5 indicating the highest; colors indicate the rank or number and y-axis shows the number of physicians that chose specific number for each tool):



The question about what online and offline communication channels physicians of outpatient medical institutions prefer to communicate with (and especially with (potential) partners), resulted in the following outcome (physicians had to rate from 1-5, 1 indicating the least preference and 5 indicating the highest; colors indicate the rank or number and y-axis shows the number of physicians that chose specific number for each channel):



6.3 Results of in-depth interview with expert

6.3.1 Decision-making

Regarding the decision making of German medical institutions, the expert stated in the interview that 'the hardline neurology oriented colleagues are very skeptical, since they consider [new methods] unscientific, mostly because it is incompatible with the current concept of epilepsy'. Moreover he stated that 'that's why most neurologists think that psychological or psychotherapeutic methods could help in coping with the disease, but it is of no value to stop the seizures'. Also, he stated that 'classic neurologists are very skeptical and withdrawn' (Appendix, in-depth interview, p. 100).

Regarding the drivers of what would actually lead skeptical neurologists to reconsider their treatment protocol and accept new methods, the expert stated that the science term should be disputed e.g. 'how this came actually came to existence'. Moreover, he mentioned that a physician's main task is to provide a diagnosis and when this is finished to work out a treatment for it which is the way 'how medicine works nowadays'. Regarding this the expert states that German medical institutions 'do not even think about how this definition of epilepsy can to be at all'. Also, he states that the factors that could start an argument about this integration of new treatment methods are e.g. that 'we have to clarify how this concept of epilepsy came about'. He explained how the image of epilepsy changed throughout the centuries from being a psychiatric disease to the moment where epileptic people were not stigmatized psychiatrically anymore. Also, he mentioned that the development to treat epilepsy patients with medication and surgeries made physicians be able to help patients and that this 'changed the whole view on the disease'. He concludes this with saying that 'currently we reached a point where the paradigm could change, because I feel that people got disillusioned' and that he hopes that 'there is a breaking point ahead'. Regarding the factor of uncertainty, the expert stated that physicians 'have just too little experience with it' and that 'there's a lot of neurologists that are not trained psychiatrically or psychotherapeutically' and that 'it simply does not fit into their daily schedule'. Moreover, he added in the end that A/R would need more evidence-based studies in order to convince physicians of the method.

6.3.2 Partnership building

Concerning the partnership building of German medical institutions, the expert stated that he guesses that 'a lot of physicians can see that epilepsy patients have a greater need of conversations than other neurologically diseased patients' and 'if there would be something where patients could turn to in that case, it would be a huge relief for neurologists' because 'it would simply simplify their treatment'. Additionally, he stated that he 'can absolutely imagine an interest' in partnerships with programs like A/R.

6.3.3 Marketing communication

Regarding the best ways to promote a treatment method, the expert stated that he thinks German physicians 'are pretty reserved about books' because 'they are usually too big, take too long'. He mentioned that 'journals would definitely be better' and that 'you should describe the method as simple and easy-to-follow as possible'. Specifically, he stated that one should state that 'a cooperation between neurology and psychotherapy is the way to go' in case of the A/R treatment.

He recommended promoting the A/R as an additional treatment and that one 'should not imply that one could ignore medication with this method' and that 'This would simply not work'.

6.4 Limitations

There are some limitations of this research. Firstly, the survey got a reply rate of 14,57 %. To be specific, the participation of physicians of stationary medical institutions was about 17 % and the one of outpatient physicians was 7,62 %. The survey outcome is meant to provide some additional knowledge and insights but the conclusions and the advice are mainly focused on the outcome of the several interviews since they are more representative. Secondly, due to the tight schedule of the German physicians it was not possible to conduct more than eleven interviews with these in the project timeframe. Lastly, ten out of the eleven interviews were conducted via phone since the physicians lived too spread out to meet in person. In order to collect also nonverbal cues, face-to-face interviews would have had to be conducted.

7. Conclusions

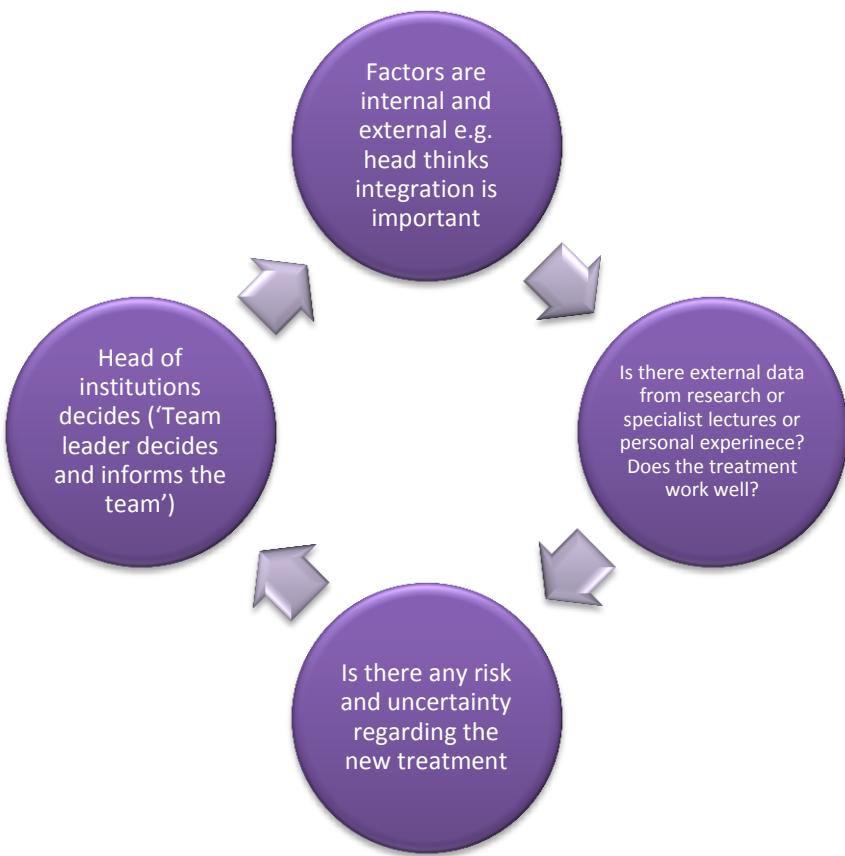
The aim of this research project was to research the characteristics of health care decision making, partnership building in health care and health care marketing communication in Germany with potential strategic partners. Based on that, the following conclusions about the characteristics of each of these aspects are presented:

Conclusions about the characteristics of health care decision making

Stationary:



Outpatient:



- a. The **decision making process** in stationary and outpatient medical institutions in Germany functions as follows: In stationary medical institutions the decisions are made as a team but the head of the institution has the final responsibility. Also, based on the theoretical model of J. Stein (2014), namely the 'decision-making model', it can be stated that the way decision making works in German stationary medical institutions is (c) 'consensus decisions'. In outpatient medical institutions the head of the institution decides which fits to J. Stein's type (a) 'Team leader decides and informs the team'.
- b. The **factors** that lead stationary physicians to the discussion of whether to integrate a new treatment method in their treatment protocols are of external nature e.g. they get ideas when visiting other centers or if they would learn something new in literature. This fits to the theoretical model of A. Goepfert & C. Conrad (2013) called 'steps in decision making' because they state that the more complex the circumstance that is decided on, the more necessary is valid information from the decision environment that is the second step in their model. Moreover, the authors state that the know-how, job and life experience of the decision maker in a medical institution like the hospital plays an important role (A. Goepfert & C. Conrad, 2013, p. 144-5). Therefore, the findings of this research fit to the model because the physicians try to gain knowledge and experience before making decisions. The model applies to decision making in German hospitals which is a stationary

medical institution. The factors that lead outpatient physicians to the discussion about adding a new treatment method to their protocol internal and external ones such as that the head of their institution thinks the integration is important that other medical institutions have integrated the method successfully. An external factor would be that there is currently a lot of information about the method. Also the expert stated in the in-depth interview that 'classic neurologists are very skeptical and withdrawn' which would influence the step three of the 'steps in decision making' model, namely 'determination of alternative/variants'. Since the physicians might be skeptical, they will not even consider the A/R treatment as an alternative when making decisions about their treatment methods.

c. The **drivers** that made the stationary physicians integrate their current treatment methods are that the patient will profit from the treatment and the therapeutic chances will rise as well as that the method must be proven to be successful and efficient e.g. based on scientific data and studies. The drivers of outpatient physicians were external data from research or specialist lectures as well as their personal experience, recommendations and opinions from other medical institutions and that they simply like them and think they help. Moreover, outpatient physicians mentioned that they do not have many options due to their dependency on the standards of health insurances. When applying the 'Expected Utility Theory' to this topic, Schöffski & van Schulenburg (2012) state that in evaluation studies not only the costs but also the medical result of an intervention or outcome is considered (p. 52-3). This means for A/R that it has to present external information e.g. articles in journals that show the success and efficiency of their treatment and, in order to reach outpatient physicians, firstly convince the German health insurances of their method.

d. The only **needs/problems** that stationary physicians realize to have in their treatment protocol are that they have a limited capacity to ambulatory treat patients and that mostly patients that are not treated stationary have needs. On the other hand, stationary physicians have an overwhelming offer of treatment methods and feel like they do not miss any kind of treatment. Outpatient physicians do not really have problems with their treatment protocol itself since they state they either do not even have a specific protocol but that patients are treated on an individual basis. On the other hand, the outpatient physicians stated that no therapist works with only one way of therapy, therefore it becomes clear that outpatient physicians work on a basis where they adapt their treatments to each individual case but do not have treatment protocol they use for each patient in the same manner.

e. **Reasons** why stationary physicians would **revise/change** their treatment protocol are either new therapy methods and programs or needs, complaints and responses of patients. The outpatient physicians, as seen before, have no stable plan for this and would decide on this issue individually

even if one mentioned that he/she would like to have better methods and medication. Moreover, they use the system of try and error when deciding on revising/changing their protocol, so when a treatment works well it is considered to be integrated and the other way around. It also became clear that outpatient physicians often would have to get additional training in order to offer new treatment methods which is considered as an extra effort and therefore not very motivating for them.

f. Regarding the **influence of risk and uncertainty** on the decision making of stationary physicians, Hofstede's cultural dimensions were taken into account: Stationary physicians stated that risk and uncertainty influence their decision making a lot. Also outpatient physicians mentioned that risk and uncertainty influence their decision making and that they try to make sure not to have any negative surprises with their treatment. This fits to Hofstede's dimension of uncertainty avoidance of Germans. The German culture got a score of 65 in Hofstede's scoring system (0-100) which indicates a high uncertainty avoidance of Germans (Nunez et al, 2009, p. 48). Moreover, A. Oliveria (2007) explicitly states that 'literature shows a relationship between culture and decision-making' (p. 15) and therefore even more stresses the connection indicated above. In addition to this aspect, Higgs et al (2008) state that two factors that influence 'the decision-making process' are certainty and risk. Also, D. Briley (2007) states that 'people with different cultural backgrounds have different expectations, norms and values, which in turn have the potential to influence their judgments and decisions. Therefore, the German culture of the physicians has to be considered in this aspect when trying to build up strategic partnerships with them.

g. When relating Hofstede's dimensions called power distance to the findings on how **hierarchy** influence the decision making of the two groups of physicians, the following can be concluded: Stationary physicians stated that the head of their division or institution always has the final word. Moreover, stationary physicians stated that the hierarchical structures influence their decision making process. Outpatient physicians stated that they do not. When applying Hofstede's scoring system (0-100), the German culture scored a 35 which is considered as a low power distance. This does not fit to the findings of this research about stationary institutions but about outpatient ones.

h. Concerning the factor of **uncertainty** related to the physician's current epilepsy treatments, the 'Expected Utility Theory' by Hellinger (1989) got applied. The theory is the 'standard method to predict people's choices under uncertainty' (Hellinger, 1989). Stationary physicians showed that they feel absolutely uncertain about the current epilepsy treatments and indicated that there are always insecurities about these. Also outpatient physicians stated that they have uncertainty about their current methods. Even the expert stated that, regarding uncertainty, that physicians lack experience

with methods like A/R's and that they lack the training in these. Regarding economic evaluation, the topic of the theory, Drummond et al (2005) state that the features of decision analysis are the 'identification of a preferred option based on the expected values of the alternatives' and 'an explicit acceptance that decisions will always be taken under conditions of uncertainty' (p. 279). This means that even if physicians have uncertainty, this does not mean that they will not accept this when making decisions since it is always part of them.

Conclusions about the characteristics of partnership building in health care

- i. The **current partnerships** stationary physicians have at the moment are mainly (university) clinics, hospitals and epilepsy centers. The outpatient physicians mainly have partnerships with epilepsy centers.
- j. The way **how partnership building works** in stationary institutions is that there are annual meetings and a regional connection e.g. that physicians talk about specific cases together. It can be seen that stationary institutions actively engage in the partnership building process. In contrast, outpatient institutions are not as proactive since they stated that partnerships 'just happen' according to certain situations and that there is e.g. a natural selection rather than an active search for partners. Only one physician mentioned that she/he wants to research some topics with her/his partners. Also, the contact between outpatient physicians and their partners is mainly based on the links their patients create when they refer them to other medical institutions. The theory about the 'four types of partnerships' by Carnwell & Carson (2008) applies here since it can be concluded that both groups tend to have 'problem oriented partnerships' that are 'formed to meet specific problems'. Also, when applying D. Wilcox (2000) 'five levels of partnership involvement' to this aspect, it can be clearly concluded that stationary institutions prefer to have partnerships on the 'acting together' stage where partners carry out decisions together and outpatient prefer to have them on the 'deciding together' stage where partners simply decide together but do not carry out the decision as partners e.g. that the outpatient physician refers her/his patient to an epilepsy center and they decide what treatment the patient should get but the outpatient physician from that point on does not carry out the decision together with the center anymore.
- k. The **main reasons** why stationary institutions **would want to partner** with an organization would be that this organization has more technical possibilities, more capacity and the ability to offer services/methods that the other cannot offer. Another main reason would be that the patients can profit from this partnership. The outpatient institutions have exactly the same reasons. This conclusion is supported by literature in the way that Tecklenburg et al (2013) state that no (university) hospital covers the entire range of supplies as a single entity (p. 135) and that the goal of

a cooperation or network in health care should be to use the chance for the own corporation e.g. to develop quality oriented therapeutic procedures. Moreover, 'The Partnership Model' by Lambert et al (2010) can be applied since one of its components is called 'drivers' that are the 'compelling reasons to partner'. The model shows that when this component is clarified, it leads to the 'decision to create or adjust a partnership' as well as it sets the 'expectations of outcomes' of the partnership. Therefore, it is clear that A/R's treatment method has to be a method that these physicians consider to be a benefit for their current treatment array in order for them to make the decision to create a partnership with A/R.

I. The **requirements** that stationary institutions have for their partners are expertise, interest in epilepsy and the patients as well as subject-specific requirements. Moreover, stationary institutions require that their partner offers an innovative and new treatment method. Outpatient institutions require that the partner is qualified, fit to their concept and, as the stationary ones, that it offers an innovative and new treatment method. This means for A/R that they need to proof their potential partners that they are qualified, have expertise and meet the subject-specific requirements. Moreover, A/R's treatment has to be considered as an innovative and new one in order to be attractive for potential partners.

m. Stationary medical institutions **desire** to expand their international partnerships and to have a better networking in general. Specifically, they want to have partnerships with treatment and research programs. Outpatient medical institutions are satisfied with their current partnerships and are very uncertain about what kind of partnerships they would desire. Also the expert 'can absolutely imagine an interest' of German physicians in partnerships with programs like A/R. This shows that stationary medical institutions generally desire to have a partner like A/R since it is both a research and a treatment program and in addition an international one.

Conclusions about the characteristics of health care marketing communication

n. Regarding Kotler & Clarke (1987), in order for health care marketing to be effective, it should be **targeted at physicians** and not at patients since their physicians choose the hospitals they go to, not they themselves. This means for A/R that, as decided beforehand, their marketing and communication efforts, as a help to create partnerships, should be targeted at the physicians in the two groups (B2B) and not to the patients directly (B2C). Moreover, Corbin et al (2000) state that 'physicians can successfully use the fundamental service marketing principles proven by other service industries' (p. 1) which e.g. supports the use of the 'Marketing Communication Mix' by Kotler & Armstrong (2010). Additionally, Corbin et al (2000) mention that 'healthcare organizations and practitioners have found the importance of promoting their services', that service marketing 'is and

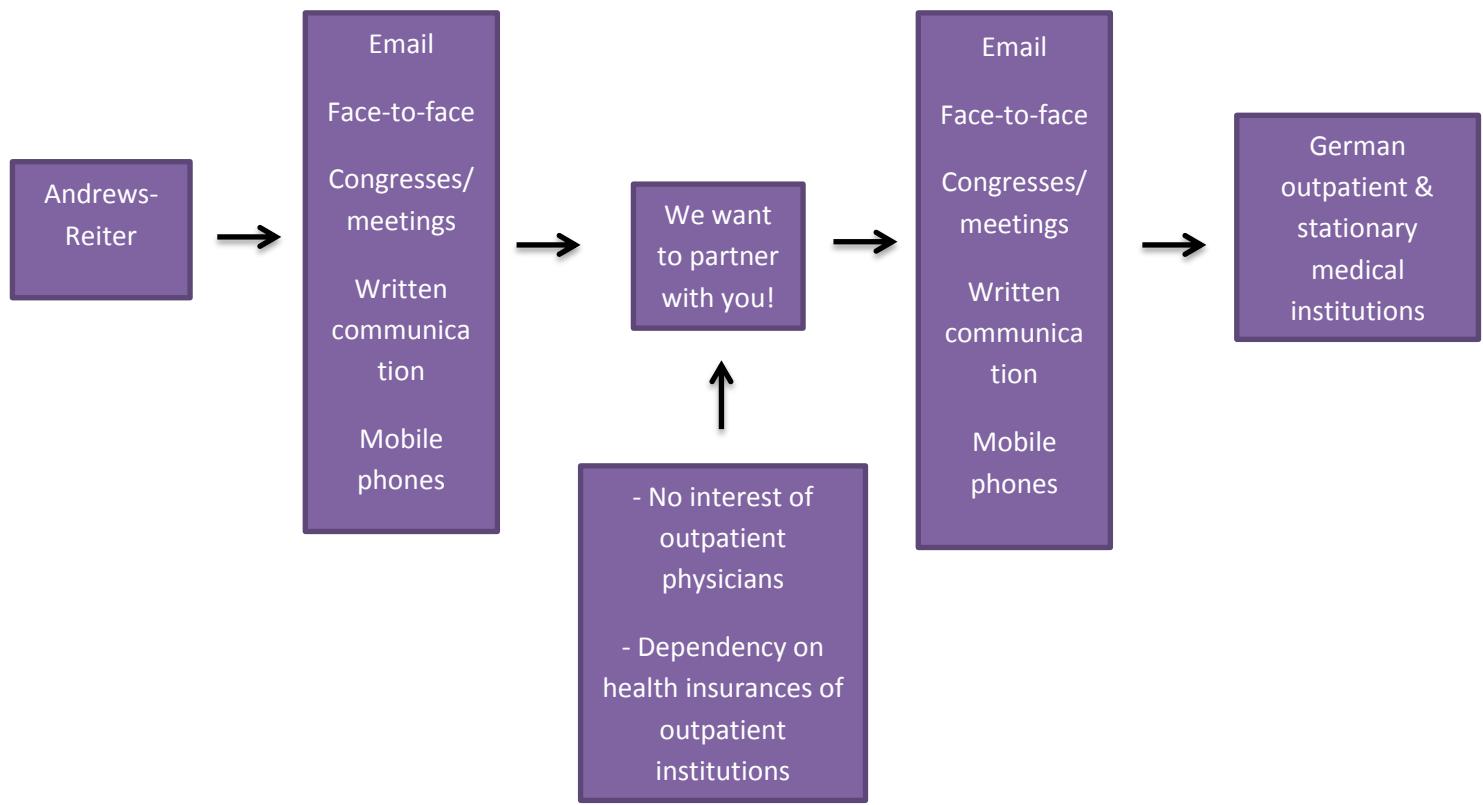
will continue to be a topic of major importance' and that 'the practice of medicine has become a business' (p. 7).

o. Stationary medical institutions use digital media, congresses and specialist journals to **inform themselves about new treatment methods or innovations in the health care sector**. Outpatient physicians use exactly the same media in addition to specialist books. The frequency of the use of these media shows exactly the same outcome. When applying the 'Marketing Communication Mix' of Kotler & Armstrong (2010), it can be concluded that advertising via digital media and specialist journals as well as personal selling in terms of promoting the A/R treatment on congresses are most effective. Also De Pelsmaker et al (2010) state that 'advertising is a good marketing communications tool to inform and persuade people, irrespective of whether a product, a service or an idea is promoted' (p. 213) and that 'personal selling is an important element of the marketing communications mix, especially for business-to-business communications' (p. 529).

p. For stationary physicians **word-of-mouth propaganda and recommendations of colleagues** plays a big role. For outpatient physicians it does not really play a big role since they stated that there is no real buzz marketing or that they get information from pharma or quality circles. For A/R this means that it makes only sense to influence the word-of-mouth propaganda in stationary institutions since outpatient institutions do not get influenced by it that easily.

q. Stationary physicians prefer to use the online **communication channel** email, face-to-face and congresses/meetings. Outpatient physicians prefer written communication, email, internet, mobile phones, face-to-face and congresses/meetings. This outcome can be further supported by the 'Media Richness Theory' by R. Daft & R. Lengel (1986) which states richer media is defined as direct contact between communicators such as face-to-face and congresses/meetings. Therefore, it can be seen that the communication channels that work best to reach stationary physicians are richer media and to reach outpatient it is more a mix of richer and less rich media. Moreover, when applying the concept of 'multi-channel marketing', it can be seen that this research outcome fits to the statement made in this concept about the fact that physicians tend to use more online communication channels. When applying the 'Shannon and Weaver Model of Communication' that 'the communication channel' that sends the message from A/R to the potential partners should be either via mail, face-to-face, congresses/meetings and/or written communication and mobile phones so the receiver, the partners, can decode the message in the way A/R intends it. To support this conclusion, it can be stated that W. Evans (2006) states that 'communication channels for health information have changed greatly in recent years' and that 'one-way dissemination of information has given way to a multimodal transactional model of communication' (p. 1207). This even more stresses the

importance of interaction between A/R and their potential partners, being two communicators, through e.g. face-to-face contact and meetings.



Based on Shannon & Weaver, 1964 p. 8

r. The **information distribution/promotional tools** that work best in the German health care sector, according to stationary and outpatient physicians, are the following: Personal contact, congresses and specialist journals for both group and for outpatient additionally specialist books. Also the expert recommended using journals when promoting the treatment method. When applying the 'Marketing Communication Mix' of Kotler & Armstrong (2010), this indicates that personal selling and advertising via journals and books is the most effective way for A/R to reach the potential partner groups.

s. The **most used journals** of the two groups are the following: Epilepsia, Epilepsy and Behavior, Zeitschrift für Epileptologie ('Journal for Epileptology'), Aktuelle Neurologie ('Current Neurology'), Seizure, Epilepsy Research, Neurology, Epileptologie ('Epileptology') and Brain.

t. The **publishers** were the two groups prefer to read articles from are the following: Springer, Thieme, Elsevier, PubMed and Schattauer.

u. The **most important similarities and differences** between German outpatient and stationary medical institutions regarding the characteristics of decision making, partnership building and marketing communication in health care crucial to consider for A/R's market entry, are the following:

Regarding the characteristics of *decision making*:

Similarities

- ❖ In the interviews, the majority of stationary physicians said that the decision making works in the way that it is decided as a team or that the head decides in terms of having the final decision. The majority of outpatient physicians stated that they decide on their own or that the head, in their case themselves, decides. Some also stated that the decision making works in the way that decisions are made as a team.
- ❖ The majority of stationary physicians stated in the interviews that risk and uncertainty influence their decision making a lot. Also, all interviewed outpatient physicians said that these factors influence their decision making.
- ❖ Several stationary physicians stated in the interviews that they feel absolutely uncertain about the current treatment methods of epilepsy. Also one outpatient physician stated that he/she has uncertainty even if he/she is mostly satisfied with the current methods.

Differences

- ❖ The stationary physicians stated in the interviews as factors that lead to the discussion about the integration of new treatment methods that they get ideas when they visit other centers, do continued education or from colleagues or if they learn something new on a congress, from publication and literature (each time two physicians mentioned these in the interviews). In the interviews, the outpatient physicians did not mention as factors that they recognize a new method, somebody talks about it with them or that they think it can help their patients. Also in the survey, stationary physicians mainly mentioned as factors that there is currently a lot of information about the treatment method. In contrast, the outpatient physicians answered in an equal number that either 'the head of my institution thinks the integration is important', 'other medical institutions have integrated the method successfully', 'there is currently a lot of information about the method' and with 'I don't know'.

- ❖ In the interviews, the majority of the stationary physicians stated as a driving factor about why they integrated their current treatment methods that patients will profit. The outpatient physicians mentioned in the interviews aspects like personal experience, research data, specialist lectures and recommendations from experts. Moreover, they mentioned second opinion from epilepsy center or that they have just a few options when working ambulatory as well as that they like their methods and think they help.
- ❖ The needs and problems that the physicians think their patients have and that are not covered by their current treatment protocol: The stationary physicians gave other answers as the outpatient as e.g. that there is not enough capacity to ambulatory treat patients, that they offer everything and do not oversee anything as well as that the psychiatric treatment of patients could be improved. The outpatient physicians mentioned regarding needs and problems e.g. that there is no specific protocol and that practically no therapist works with only one way of therapy. Also, they stated that they are sometimes more and sometimes less satisfied with them.
- ❖ The reasons of the two groups that they would need to revise/change their treatment protocol: The stationary physicians stated new therapy methods and programs as reasons and named needs and complaints of patients as the main reasons. In comparison, the outpatient physicians named individuals decision (try and error) as a reason as well as that they would focus more on certain kinds of clients. Also, they stated that they would wish to have more abilities for them and methods, medication that interferes less and helps better.
- ❖ The majority of stationary physicians stated in the survey that hierarchy influences their decision making. The majority of outpatient physicians stated that it does not.

The most important similarities and differences between the two groups regarding the characteristics of *partnership building* are the following:

Similarities

- ❖ In interviews both stationary and outpatient physicians stated that they have current partnerships with epilepsy centers. Also in the survey both groups mentioned that they have mainly partnerships with epilepsy centers and hospitals.

- ❖ The reasons to partner are similar: In the interviews stationary and outpatient physicians both stated that the reasons to partner are based mainly on complementary technology. Also the results of the survey show that the two main reasons of both groups is that patients can profit from the treatment and that their institution can offer a wider array of treatments.
- ❖ The requirements: Stationary and outpatient physicians both stated that the desired partners should have expertise and should be qualified. Also the survey outcome shows in both groups that the main requirement is that 'it should offer an innovative and new treatment method'.

Differences

- ❖ The partnership building works different in the two groups: the stationary physicians stated in the interviews that they have annual meetings, regional connections and visit each other. In contrast, outpatient physicians mainly stated that the epilepsy centers introduce themselves, that there is some kind of natural selection, that cooperation happens in difficult cases and because they were interested to discover research topics together with their partners.
- ❖ The desires of the two groups are different: In the interviews stationary physicians stated that they want to expand their international partnerships and want to have a better networking and working in groups. The outpatient physicians mentioned that they are happy with their epilepsy center partnerships. Also in the survey the stationary physicians stated that their main desires are partnerships with treatment and research programs. In contrast, the majority of the outpatient physicians stated that they 'don't know'.

The most important similarities and differences between the two groups regarding the characteristics of *marketing communication* are the following:

Similarities

- ❖ The media they use to inform themselves about new treatment methods and innovations: The stationary physicians mentioned in the interviews and the survey that they prefer using congresses, specialist journals and digital media. Outpatient physicians mentioned as well in both interviews and the survey that they prefer specialist journals, articles in professional journals, congresses and the internet (in addition to specialist books and personal contact).

- ❖ The frequency of their use of the media to inform themselves: The majority of stationary physicians use the internet every day in addition to articles in journals and personal meetings once a year. Also outpatient physicians stated that they use the internet every day and personal meetings and congresses once a year.
- ❖ The online and offline communication channels: Stationary physicians prefer personal contact, face-to-face and congresses/meetings and email as stated in interviews and survey. Also outpatient physicians like to have face-to-face contact, email and congresses/meetings (and written communication or mobile phones/telehpne in addition).
- ❖ Information distribution/promotional tools the groups consider important: Stationary physicians prefer personal contact, specialist journals, congresses and articles in professional journals (as stated in interviews and survey). Outpatient physicians also prefer publications in journals, congresses, articles in professional journals, personal contact (and in addition specialist books)
- ❖ Names of the publishers and journals that the physicians out of both groups use overlap several times.

Differences

- ❖ The role they attach to word of mouth is different: Stationary physicians stated that it plays a big role. In contrast, outpatient physicians stated that there is no real buzz marketing and that pharma supports them with the latest news and data or that they use a quality circle for that.
- v. Regarding the conclusion **which of the two groups**, German outpatient or stationary medical institutions, is **most suitable to target** by A/R in their mission to build up collaborative parnterships in Germany, why and what the main barriers that most hinder A/R to target the other, not most suitable group, are, the following can be concluded:

Based on the research results, it can be stated that the group of stationary medical institutions is most suitable for A/R to target based on several reasons:

- ❖ Stationary physicians showed more interest in participating in this research compared to outpatient physicians, which can be seen in the number of interview participants and the number of replies to the survey.
- ❖ In contrast to stationary medical institutions, outpatient medical institutions are very dependent on the regulations of the health insurance of their patients. As one outpatient physician stated in the interview, e.g. if you work ambulatory, 'you just have a few options e.g. if you want to be licensed and accepted by the health association of statutory health insurance then you can only choose between analytically funded methods or behavioral therapeutic methods. This means that the outpatient physicians are very dependent on the treatment guidelines the health insurances have.
- ❖ Several stationary physicians stated explicitly in the interviews that they have problems like e.g. that the psychiatric treatment of patients could be improved (psychological and medical psychotherapeutic assistance). This directly fits to the epilepsy treatment offer of A/R since they offer a psychobehavioral treatment method e.g. therapeutic treatment of epilepsy. One outpatient physician, in contrast, indicated that there is not even a specific treatment protocol.
- ❖ A majority of stationary physicians explicitly stated that they are absolutely feeling uncertain about the current epilepsy treatments e.g. that they have insecurities about the quality of evidence level and are sure that every offered method can be improved. Though there was also an outpatient physician who stated that he/she and his/her team have uncertainty about the current treatment methods, he/she also stated that for the greater part they are satisfied with the results. This makes it easier for A/R to target stationary physicians since the level of uncertainty seems to be way higher than in the outpatient group of physicians.

The **main barriers** that most hinder A/R to target outpatient medical institutions are:

- ❖ In order to target physicians of outpatient medical institutions, in terms of creating a partnership with them, A/R's treatment method needs to be recognized by German health insurances so outpatient physicians are allowed to practice them. A/R then first needs to convince the health insurances about their treatment method before even starting to create partnerships with outpatient physicians.

- ❖ Outpatient physicians do not always have partners but also simply refer patients to hospitals or epilepsy centers for instance. Therefore they do not always have the need or desire to create partnerships because they simply do create any. Also here, when outpatient physicians refer their patients to certain hospitals or treatments, the patients are bound to the permission of their health insurance for the specific therapist they are going to.
- ❖ Outpatient physicians seem to be less pro-active in searching for partners. Several questioned outpatient physicians mentioned that there is a natural selection when creating partnerships and that there is no real building up of partnerships but that partnerships just happen according to the situation.

8. Advice

The advice has the purpose to help A/R to overcome and solve their problem which is the following: Being unsuccessful in building collaborative partnerships in Germany. The main conclusions of the advice are that A/R should focus on stationary physicians, use personal communication, communicate with the heads of the medical institutions but still consider the team behind him/her, take into account the uncertainty and feelings of risk of stationary physicians and focus on marketing in using advertising and personal selling. Lastly, A/R should make sure their potential partners are qualified enough to actually be a valuable partner.

1. First concentrate on building up partnerships with German stationary medical institutions

(Relates to conclusions h, i, m, n, u, v)

As mentioned before, stationary medical institutions are more suitable partners for A/R when trying to enter the German market because of several reasons: Firstly, stationary institutions want to have international partnerships and showed specific interest in partnerships with treatment and research programs, both of which A/R embodies. Moreover, as already discussed in the analytical findings, stationary physicians showed more interest in A/R's method based on their participation rate in this research. Furthermore, stationary physicians explicitly expressed that they desire improvement of the psychiatric treatment of their patients e.g. psychological and medical psychotherapeutic assistance. These are key characteristics of the A/R treatment which shows that there is a big chance of the A/R to fulfill these physician's desire. Moreover, stationary physicians are way more uncertain about their current epilepsy treatment methods and that makes it easier for A/R to try to promote their treatment to them. Lastly, outpatient physicians are very dependent on the regulations of the health insurances of their patients which means that first the insurances would have to be convinced of the A/R treatment before outpatient physicians would even be allowed to offer it. As an additional hint, it should be added that even if theory as Hofstede's cultural dimension called power distance state that the German culture has a low power distance, this research showed that there is a strong hierarchy in German medical institutions which should not be underestimated. Moreover, A/R is advised not to target provision hospitals because it became obvious that these just provide general medical care and do not have the purpose to provide any adjunct treatments. When reaching stationary institutions, outpatient ones will be effected indirectly since they refer their patients to stationary ones which makes them receive the treatment in this way.

2. Use personal communication with stationary institutions since it is their preferred method of communication

(Relates to conclusion j)

Stationary institutions actively engage when building up their partnerships. They meet, visit and talk to each other and prefer to have strong connections with their partners with a lot of contact between them. They prefer to communicate face-to-face, in meetings/personal contact, via email and on congresses. Therefore, A/R should have several follow up meetings with their potential partners, communicate through their desired channels with them and devote much time to it.

3. Primary communication should be with head of the institutions but the team behind her/him should be considered as well

(Relates to conclusions a, g)

The research clearly showed that the head of stationary institutions has the final word in deciding about the integration of new treatment methods but that the team takes part in the decision making process as well. This means for A/R that it should concentrate its promotional efforts and communication on the head but should definitely include the team behind this as well e.g. in doing open presentations about the A/R treatment in front of both the head and the team or include the whole team in personal visits/meetings at first and then later on do individual meetings with the head of the medical institution.

4. Develop communication tools to lower the uncertainty and fear of physicians about new epilepsy treatment programs

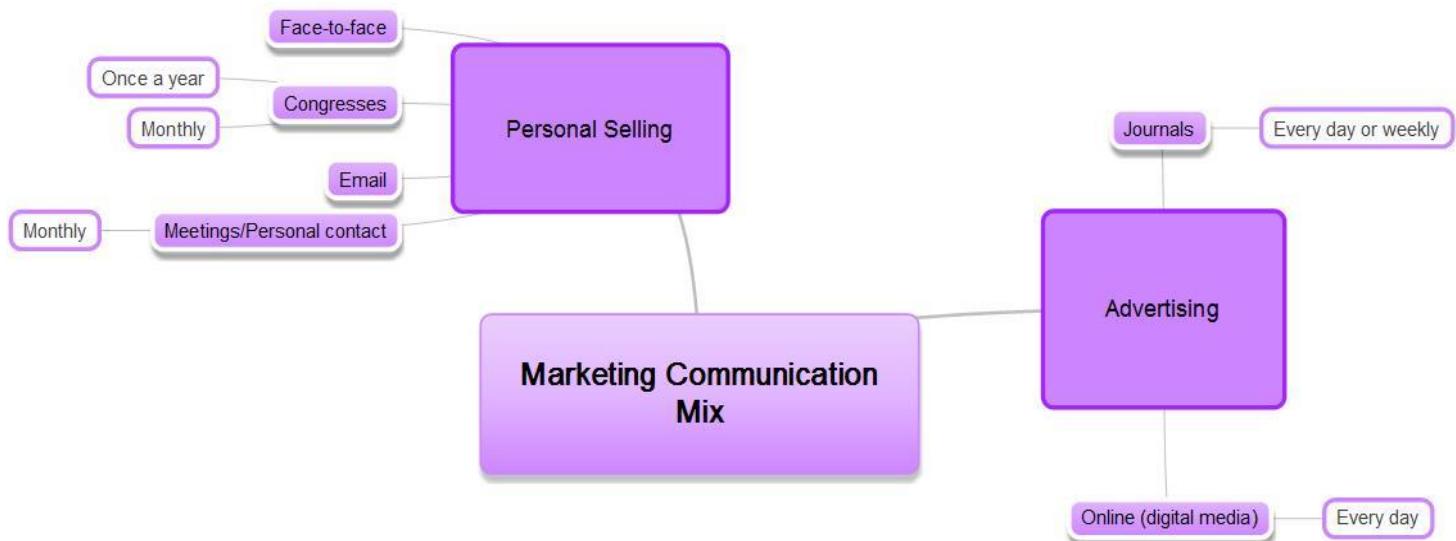
(Relates to conclusions f, h)

In this research, the stationary physicians showed a high uncertainty and fear of risk when considering the integration of new treatment methods. This fits to Hofstede's cultural dimension called uncertainty avoidance that indicated that Germans have high uncertainty avoidance. A/R can release the stationary physicians from this uncertainty in their aim to convince them of their method in the way that they publish studies/scientific data that show the success and effectiveness of the A/R treatment and which proof that the treatment contains no significant risks for its patients. Through what kind of marketing and communication channels this should be done will be illustrated in the next part.

5. Use advertising and personal selling from the ‘marketing communication mix’ to promote and inform

(Relates to conclusions b, c, d, e, k, l, o, p, q, r, s, t)

Advertising and personal selling were the two parts of the ‘marketing communication mix’ by Kotler & Armstrong (2010) that proved to be most effective for A/R’s market entry approach. The following marketing mix was developed based on the research findings:



The graphic above shows the two aspects of the ‘marketing communication mix’ advisable to use for A/R, its specific online/offline promotion and communication tools and the recommended frequency of use for A/R.

Advice for using advertising:

- Stress that the A/R method is valuable to add to the stationary physicians’ treatment protocols since they think that they already have an overwhelming offer. Use successful patient stories to show the response of them to the A/R treatment because stationary physicians stated complaints and responses of patients as a reason to revise/change their treatment protocol.
- Stationary institutions factors that lead them to integrate a new treatment method like A/R’s method come from external sources as e.g. literature. Therefor A/R should publish articles

and content in journals and online via digital media to give stationary physicians the possibility to gain more knowledge about the A/R treatment from these sources.

- Advertise that the patients will profit from the A/R treatment, that the therapeutic chances rise will rise and that it is successful and efficient e.g. with success stories or scientific data in articles published in journals, because this is a main reason why stationary medical institutions integrated the treatment methods they have right now and reasons of why they would partner with an organization.
- Proof A/R's expertise and that it is an innovative treatment through e.g. articles and studies in journals.
- Publish articles in the following journals: Epilepsia, Epilepsy & Behavior, Zeitschrift für Epileptologie ('Journal for Epileptology'), Aktuelle Neurologie ('Current Neurology'), Seizure, Epilepsy Research, Neurology, Epileptologie ('Epileptology') and Brain. These are the most read journals by the stationary physicians.
- Let your articles get published by the following publishers: Springer, Thieme, Elsevier, PubMed and Schattauer. These publishers are the most popular of stationary physicians.
- Update your website (design) in order to appeal to potential follow-up searches by German physicians.

Advice for using personal selling:

- Use emails, meetings/personal contact, congresses and face-to-face communication when promoting the A/R treatment and communicating with stationary physicians. These are the channels and media they most prefer and use.
- Regarding face-to-face communication, it became obvious that stationary physicians consider word of mouth and buzz marketing to play a big role in their profession. Therefore, A/R is advised to convince more people in a stationary institution (physicians) of their treatment in order to support word of mouth marketing within this institution. As a result, colleagues of the head of the institution might spread the word about the A/R treatment and so deliver the message to the final decision maker.

6. Only choose stationary partners themselves provide good quality services and get them certified

It is of major importance to advise A/R at this point that it should also test their potential partners themselves regarding the quality of their services. A/R has to make sure that their partners, in other words the ‘distribution channels’ of their treatment in Germany are delivering high quality services in order to no provide A/R with a bad reputation in the end.

7. Design a B2B communication plan as a next step

As a next step after this diagnosis, it is recommended to create a B2B communication plan in order to effectively use this advice and to build up communication between you, A/R, and German stationary medical institutions. A/R should e.g. set up a list of the specific communication tools they want to use for the German physicians, based on this advice, and a specific timeframe in which to use these to reach out to the German physicians.

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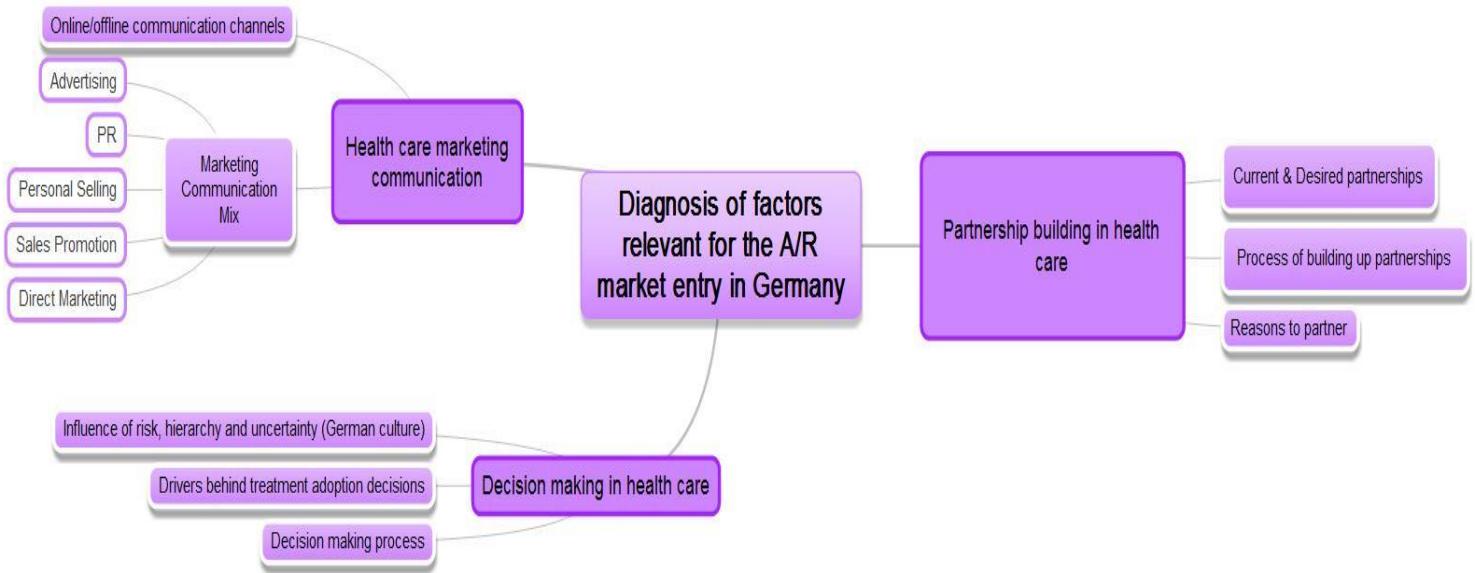
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10. Appendix

1. Planning for research proposal

	Week 1 (Feb 1-7)	Week 2 (Feb 8-15)	Week 3 (Feb 16-22)	Week 4 (Feb 23-Mar 1)	Week 5 (Mar 2-Mar 9)
Project Context					
Project Organisation					
Theoretical Framework					
Research Objective					
Research Framework					
Research Questions					
Research Strategy & Methodology					
Research Planning & Feasibility					
Arranging interviews					
Compiling Appendix					
Handing in draft version for feedback					
Editing, rewriting & handing in final version					

2. Research topic web



This research topic web shows the three different main topics and their related subtopics. The three main topics were built up on the overall aim of this research project, namely the diagnosis of factors relevant for the A/R market entry in Germany.

3. Definition of concepts

❖ Characteristics

Characteristics describe the essential distinguishing features that decision making, partnership building and marketing communication in health care have.

❖ Current and desired partnerships

The partnerships that the two groups of potential collaboration partners have at the moment are going to be researched as well as the partnerships they desire for the future. This will help to make recommendations to A/R on how to improve their German market entry approach by knowing what kind of partnerships the German potential collaboration partners actually desire.

❖ Decision making in health care

Decision making in health care describes how medical institutions in Germany make decisions on adapting treatment options or not.

❖ Decision making process

The decision making process is meant to be researched within the framework of German outpatient and stationary medical institutions. It is going to be researched why and how certain decisions are made.

❖ Diagnosis of factors relevant for the A/R market entry in Germany

With diagnosis of factors relevant for the A/R market entry in Germany, the factors that might be currently hindering A/R from doing so are meant to be analyzed. A/R knows that they have a problem because they are unable to build up collaborative partnerships in the German epilepsy sector but they have only assumptions about why this is the case. The diagnosis has the purpose to systematically conduct research in the two groups of potential collaboration partners in the German epilepsy sector in order to make recommendations to A/R in how to improve their market entry approach.

❖ Drivers behind treatment adoption decisions

Drivers behind treatment adoption decisions describe the specific reasons why certain treatment options are used by German medical institutions which are going to be research within this study.

❖ **Health care marketing communication**

With health care marketing communication the elements of marketing communication used in the health care sector are meant e.g. the promotion of medical treatments or communication channels used in the health care sector.

❖ **Influence of risk, hierarchy and uncertainty (German culture)**

The influence of risk, hierarchy and uncertainty in relation to the German culture will be researched in order to understand how these factors influence decision making in health care e.g. by using Hofstede's cultural dimensions to assess how the extent of power distance and uncertainty avoidance in the German culture influence the decision making of German medical institutions.

❖ **Offline communication channels**

Offline communication channels are channels for which an internet connection is not needed. Examples for offline communication channels are articles in journals, books, congresses/networking events and face-to-face communication.

❖ **Offline tools**

Similar to offline communication channels, offline tools describe the promotional awareness tools of the marketing communication mix (and beyond) that do not need an internet connection in order to be used. Examples for these tools are personal selling (face-to-face), direct marketing (non-electronic mail) and advertising in hospitals.

❖ **Online communication channels**

Online communication channels are channels that are only possible to use if there is an internet connection possible. These communication channels can be found online as for instance social media, video-chat or websites.

❖ **Online tools**

Similar to online communication channels, online tools describe the promotional awareness tools of the marketing communication mix (and beyond) that need an internet connection in order to be used. Examples for these tools are advertising on websites, online PR releases or online sales promotions.

❖ **Outpatient medical institutions**

Outpatient medical institutions are institutions that are not hospitals or incorporated in hospitals but (private) practices and physician's offices. This group includes for example psychotherapeutic psychologists, neurologists, epileptologists and neuropsychologists. The selection of the outpatient medical institutions mentioned is based on preliminary research conducted and can be found in the sources mentioned in the list.

❖ **Partnership building in health care**

Partnership building in health care describes the process when a medical institution decides to partner with another institution based on mutual benefits of this partnership.

❖ **Reasons to partner**

The reasons to partner describe the specific motivators for the formation of partnerships of the German outpatient and stationary medical institutions.

❖ **Process of building up partnerships**

With the process of building up partnerships the way in which partnerships are developed in the German health care sector, specifically the German outpatient and stationary medical institutions, is described.

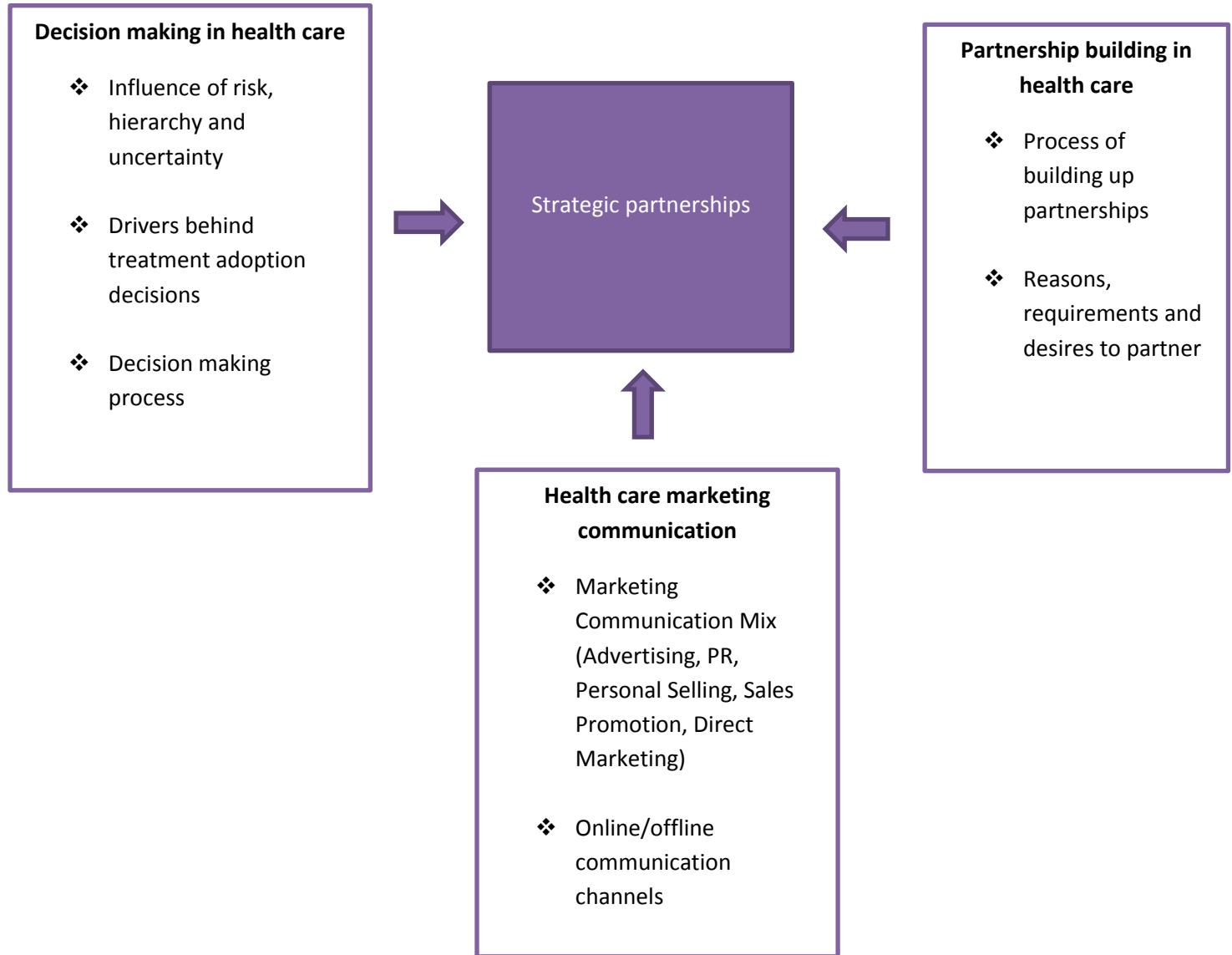
❖ **Marketing Communication Mix**

The marketing communication mix is a mix of several different tools being advertising, PR, personal selling, sales promotion and direct marketing (Kotler & Armstrong, 2009). Based on the mix, it will be figured out which promotional tools are most effective in reaching out to the potential collaboration partners.

❖ **Stationary medical institutions**

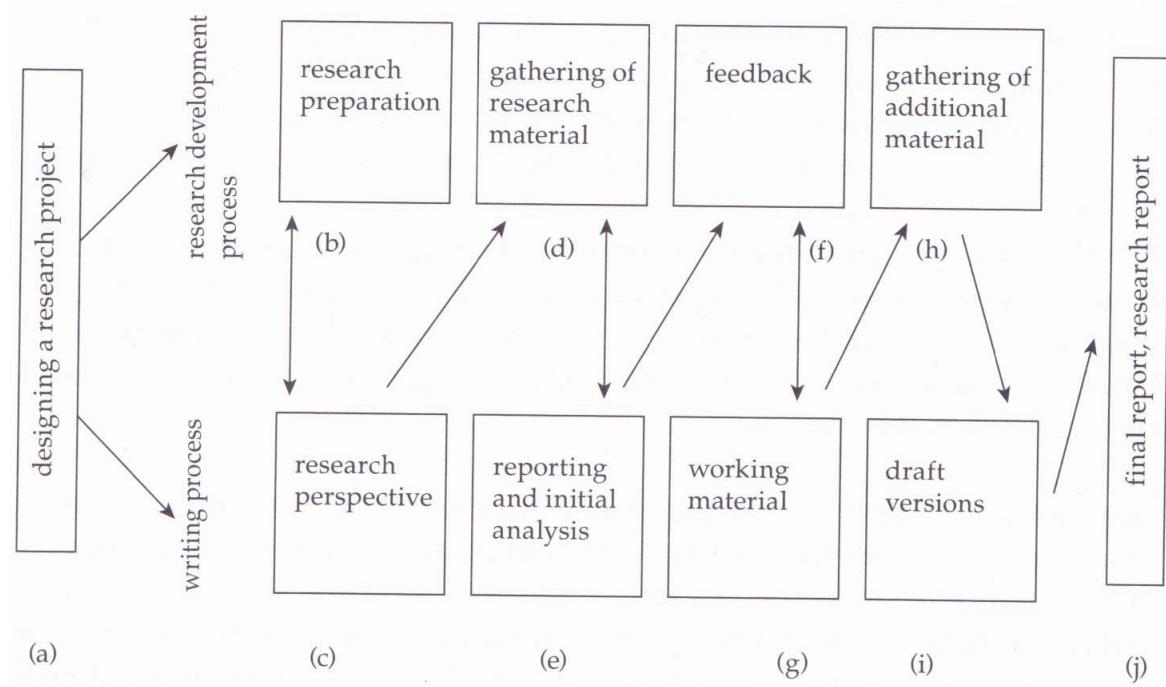
Stationary medical institutions are institutions that are condensed in hospitals as for example the general department of neurology in hospitals or epilepsy centers. The selection of the stationary medical institutions mentioned is based on preliminary research conducted and can be found in the sources mentioned in the list.

4. Conceptual model



5. Research Planning

5.1 Activity plan



Graphic based on V&D (2010)

The first steps in this research project were (a) *the design of the research project*, (b) *the research preparation* and (c) *the research perspective* (V&D, 2010). These three steps belonged to the beginning of the process of developing a proposal which was done within the first five weeks of the project. During these first steps an overall view on the research project was gathered, the research project was prepared and it was decided on the research perspective (in creating conceptual model).

Working time: 5 weeks. Turnaround time: 5 weeks.

The next step was (d) *the gathering of the research material* (V&D, 2010). This step included on the one hand a literature survey as desk research tool as well as the conduction of in-depth and semi-structured interviews. Furthermore, this step included the use of structured interviews being questionnaires.

Working time: 5-6 weeks (included time for respondents to answer questionnaire). Turnaround time: 6 weeks.

The next step was (e) *reporting and initial analysis* (V&D, 2010). In this step the results of the conducted research were examined. The reporting and analyzing of the gathered research material started in the 5th week of data gathering, since these two steps were closely connected.

Working time: 2 weeks. Turnaround time: 4 weeks.

The following step was *(f) feedback* (V&D, 2010). This describes the step where the first version of the draft advice report was handed in to the Hanze University supervisor to get feedback on it. Furthermore, the client A/R was supposed to give feedback on the satisfaction of progress made by the researcher and her research findings.

Working time: 2 days. Turnaround time: 1 week.

The next step was *(g) working material* (V&D, 2010). In this step the feedback of the Hanze supervisor and the client A/R was implemented in the processing of the research findings. By processing the research findings the researcher should have a continuous look at the research questions and tried to fully answer them with the findings made during the entire project. Any kind of gaps discovered during this stage needed to be identified.

Working time: 1-2 weeks. Turnaround time: 2 weeks.

In the step called *(h) gathering of additional material* the gaps identified in step (g) needed to be clarified. Additional data had to be gathered in order to fully answer the research questions and fill the identified gaps (V&D, 2010).

Working time: 1-2 weeks. Turnaround time: up to 3 weeks.

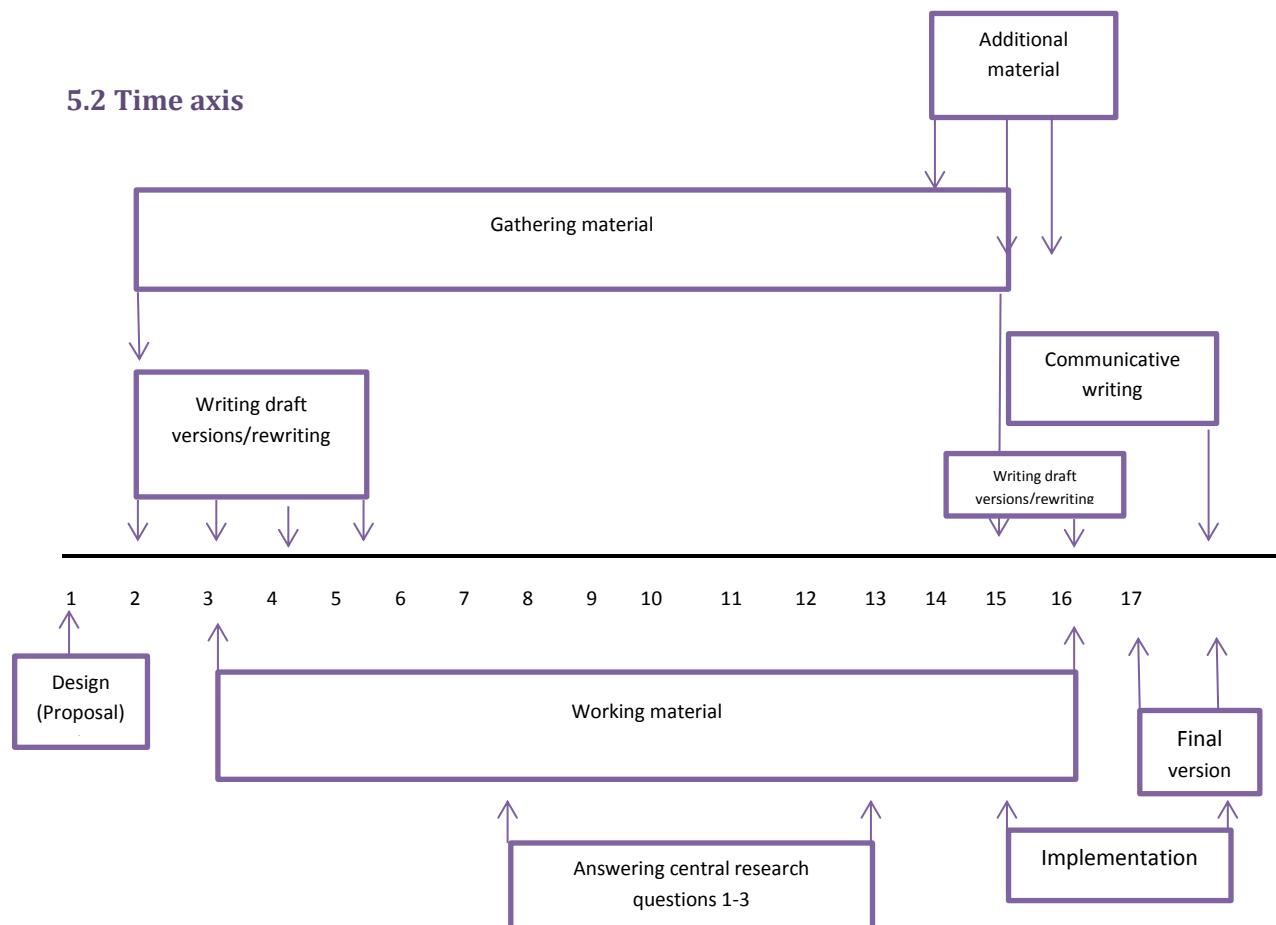
The step of *(i) draft versions/rewriting* is a simultaneous process to receiving feedback, working material and the 'gathering of additional material' (V&D, 2010). In this step the first draft of the advice report was rewritten/revised based on the new insights gathered in the previous steps. Simultaneously to this step, the *implementation* of the research results took place in form of working towards the final advice report.

Working time: 2-3 weeks. Turnaround time: 3 weeks.

The final step *(j) final report, research report* was where the final advice report was created. Due to revising and working on the draft version several preceding weeks, this step did not take a long time. In this stage the advice report got its design and a thorough screening based on grammar and the quality of English language.

Working time: 1 week. Turnaround time: 1 week.

5.2 Time axis



5.3 Gantt Chart/Histogram

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8	Week 9	Week 10	Week 11	Week 12	Week 13	Week 14	Week 15	Week 16	Week 17
(a) research project design																	
(b) research preparation																	
(c) research perspective																	
(d) gathering research material																	
Desk research (theory research)																	
Field research (interviews, questionnaire & others)																	
(e) reporting and initial analysis																	
(f) feedback																	
(g) working on material (feedback)																	
(h) gathering of additional material																	
(i) draft versions/rewriting																	
(j) final research report					Proposal												Report - Advice
Implementation																	
Hanze supervisory moments & updates																	
Company supervisory moments & updates																	

Gantt chart is based on activities presented by Verschuren & Doorewaard (2010), Ch. 8 'Research Planning'

GA Proposal

GA Report – Advice

Start (week 1): 1st February 2014

End (week 17): 31st May 2014

6. Interviews

6.1 Intake interview Andrews-Reiter

General information

Company name:	Andrews-Reiter Epilepsy Research Program, Inc.
Postal address:	19265 Deer Hill Rd. Hidden Valley Lake, CA 95467
Visiting address:	19265 Deer Hill Rd. Hidden Valley Lake, CA 95467
Telephone at work:	(707) 987-9035
Mobile:	/
Fax:	(02330) 62-3367
E-mail:	djandrews@andrewsreiter.com
Company website:	http://www.andrewsreiter.com/
Contact person	Rosa Michaelis
E-mail of contact person:	rosamichaelis@posteo.de
Business definition:	Epilepsy Treatment/Research Program, Inc.
Number of employees:	8
Turnover/export:	/

Details about company & product/service

➤ *Description of your product/service:*

The A/R treatment should be referred to as a service.

A/R works with individuals with epilepsy and helps them to explore the extent to which they can take control over their seizure procedure by helping them to identify seizure triggers, seizure factors and seizure warning signs and then guiding them through the development of proactive strategies to avoid seizure occurrence. This behaviorally informed process is based on a manual called 'taking control of your epilepsy'.

➤ *In what sectors/areas/industries is your product/service used in?*

Health care

➤ *Describe the type of customer who would buy the product/service and the end-user:*

Since A/R is involved in treatment and training, customers can be doctors who are trained to apply the approach to their patient population or patients mainly with medically intractable epilepsy who seek an adjunctive treatment option. The end-users are the patients.

➤ *What are the USP's (unique selling points) of your product/service? What is special about it? What would be interesting for possible business partners?*

The USP's of the service is that the service explores self-efficacious treatment options. The conventional approach simply focuses on pharmaceutical and surgical treatment options and disregards the strategies that can be employed by the individual to increase the sense of self control of his or her seizures. Literature has shown that the degree of depression one year after diagnosis correlates with the level to which an individual experiences loss of self-control

and not the actual number of seizures. That means that worries about the real occurrence of seizures are far more disabling than the actual seizures. So one could say in a provocative way that the real problem is not addressed by the conventional medical approach but by the A/R approach. Furthermore, one third of individuals with a seizure disorder do not become seizure free with medication and only a small fraction of those individuals are surgical candidates. That means a significant portion of individuals with seizures may not become seizure free with the conventional approach.

Psychotherapeutic psychologists, neurologists and epileptologists, psychotherapeutic doctors, psychiatrists, institutions like epilepsy centers could be possible business partners. Interesting for business partners can be offered treatment options that systematically address psychosocial dimension of seizure disorders and psychiatric comorbidities (e.g. depression and anxiety disorders), offer adjunct treatment option to individuals where seizures cannot be controlled by medical or surgical approach.

➤ *Please mention some of your largest projects and customers:*

Latest project was collaboration with Doctor Kurt LaFrance which was revision of work book to publish the work book as 'taking control of your seizures' by Oxford University Press and treatment of patients. Another project was the introduction of work book within special interest group ('Cognitive and behavioral interventions for epilepsy') within the framework of the annual meeting of the American Epilepsy Society.

➤ *Do you already have any preferences for potential business partners in Germany?*

Epilepsy Centers. We want to establish this approach as one of the pillars of epilepsy treatment to be included in the care of individuals with epilepsy right after diagnosis. That's our goal.

➤ *Are there any requirements the potential business partners must fulfill?*

The business partners need to have employees who are licensed to apply psychotherapy.

➤ *Do you have any experience in exporting your product/service?*

We have been in touch with major epilepsy centers. Some of them were interested, some of them weren't. And the epilepsy centers which were interested then indicated that they don't have the resources to allow their employees to receive further training in the application of this approach to then have their employees train the patients with this approach. One of them was at the UCLA (California, US), Bonn (Germany) and Freiburg (Germany). In Bonn they were not interested and in Freiburg they did not follow up. At the UCLA they were interested but they have major delays due to internal slowness.

➤ *What are the goals you want to achieve in the next 5 years?*

In the next five years our goal is to lay the scientific foundation for the broad acceptance and implementation of this approach which means recruit funding for a large multicenter randomized controlled clinical trial. At this point in time we prefer to conduct this trial in Germany.

- *Do you only plan a market entry in Germany or do you plan to expand afterwards?*
- Approximately 1% of the world population suffers from seizures. The fraction for medically intractable seizures is the same worldwide so there is a global need for our service. Employees of A/R treatment program already treat individuals globally but the goal is to have trained employees in all countries.
- *Why are you planning to bring your product/service to Germany? What are your expectations?*
- I am licensed to be a doctor in Germany (Rosa Michaelis) and I have found a network of like-minded people in Germany and therefore I suspect that the chances of implementing the above plan are best in Germany at this point in time. Germans are very critical people so if we find a strategy to incorporate this treatment in standard care in Germany, we are very optimistic that we could make it anywhere in the world. Also this approach can be applied to other chronic conditions like chronic inflammatory bowel disease and migraines in a modified manner.
- *Have there been tries before to enter the German or European market in general?*
- The approach has been presented at various conferences and people are usually quite interested in the approach but then fail to follow through with the release of the necessary resources to follow through.
- *To what extend is the approach already established in Germany?*
- In Germany there is one psychologist who does behavioral treatment with individuals with epilepsy that are paid for by insurances but the justification for treatment is not the diagnosis of epilepsy but a psychiatric comorbidity because the treatment is not accepted as a treatment for epilepsy yet. Then there are a couple of epilepsy centers, I think four, that employ a psychological intervention in the in-patient setting but they mainly focus on individuals with psychogenic non-epileptic seizures. There is one treatment program called 'Famoses' ('Moses' is for adults and 'Famoses' is for children) and that covers mainly educational aspects and imparts very little knowledge about little seizure self-control mechanisms. This approach is group-based, not individual-based.
- *What makes your organization different from other epilepsy research programs?*
- There are very few other epilepsy research programs who investigate a comprehensive behavioral informed treatment program and there is no other program that has as much experience in the application of this treatment option.
- *How is the current situation of the organization?*
- We are relatively small but there is a huge potential for our growth. Since we are relatively small we think that it should not be our primary goal to recruit more patients for treatment but to focus on training healthcare professionals to have them deliver this treatment within their therapeutic setting.

- *Please describe the strengths and weaknesses of your organization:*

Strengths: loyalty; conviction that we offer a unique sustainable humanistic treatment option that allows individuals to increase quality of life more than any other conventional treatment option; huge sense of responsibility regarding the goal to implement this treatment option in standard healthcare worldwide.

Weaknesses: small; lacking the effective and efficient communication strategy to raise awareness of our mission within the professional community.

Our treatment option is based on a completely new paradigm of epilepsy. The medical profession widely thinks that there is such a thing as an unprovoked seizure. We disagree. We suspect and this is in keeping with the most recent scientific results, that any seizure is caused by either single or combined seizure triggers or seizure risk factors that induce the accumulation of seizure activity. When the seizure threshold is reached, a seizure occurs. It takes a long time to change a paradigm within the medical world. To establish common sense treatment options those safe lives, it has been showed in the past that it takes 50 years. We need a plan to communicate our treatment paradigm in a way that makes it acceptable to healthcare professionals in powerful positions without being offensive.

- *Do you have any kind of promotional material that could be used for attracting potential business partners?*

We have a website and the workbook. The most important advertisement material in the medical community is scientific papers that we have. But we have so far only uncontrolled prospective and retrospective studies and controlled trials would be the gold standard.

- *For what kind of partnerships are you looking for? Long-term or project-based?*

We thought that our first strategy would be to look for project-based partnerships, that means collaborators for a controlled clinical trial, so that treatment centers would have the opportunity to observe the results of this treatment option first hand and then to become long-term business partners.

- *What is the price of your product/service?*

For individuals it costs \$ 5,078 and 23 cents to receive medical treatment. We have not yet determined the price for treatment.

- *Do you have employees assigned to manage the German market after entry?*

Yes, for example myself (Rosa Michaelis).

- *Please explain the organizational structure of your organization (who is responsible for what):*

Donna Andrews and I (Rosa Michaelis) are responsible for treatment and training. Our board is responsible for example managing the copyright of the workbook, account management and watching over legal and financial issues as well as insurance.

➤ *Any other comments?*

Altogether, our service is different in that it employs individual-based sessions in an out-patient setting that focuses entirely on individuals with epileptic seizures and mainly on seizure self-control options.

Some epilepsy sectors offer a so-called ‘complex epilepsy therapy’ which focuses mainly on individuals with long-standing uncontrolled seizures that means individuals in which all other treatment options have failed and who usually have a severe comorbidities including cognitive and physical disabilities and psychological care plays only a minor role during those time-limited in-patient interventions.

➤ *Did you already conduct research on the German market and/or potential business partners?*

We did not conduct any systematic research. We only contacted individuals and therefore we have only a selection of individual opinions but we do not know to what extent this represents the general market situation. We know that directors of conventional medical centers are somewhat interested in the topic but they seem to lack the resources and the motivation to further pursue this interest. We have the impression that one strategy to get interest of the medical centers could also be to increase the demand of patients. And in an interview the director of the epilepsy center in Bonn, said that behavioral treatment of epilepsy does not work. Unfortunately, he is one of the major mind makers in Germany. The recommendation to further investigate the efficacy of psycho behavioral therapy was still part of the treatment guidelines in 2008. Unfortunately it disappeared from the most recent guidelines but it is recommended by the most recent targeted review article.

➤ *What is exactly your problem and how would you define it?*

We are facing massive ignorance regarding the potential of psychobehavioral therapy as an adjunct treatment option, those among professionals in epilepsy and among patients (individuals with epilepsy). One could say that individuals with epilepsy are trained by medical professionals to think that they cannot influence their seizure. So we want to increase awareness of the therapeutically potential both among medical professionals as well as patients. Since psychobehavioral interventions have a long and strong tradition in Germany which has resulted in a ‘psychological treatment subculture’ that has not yet led to an awareness of a real treatment gap within the conventional medical system, makes us think that our efforts to integrate psychological interventions can potentially build on a strong network of partners with similar motives.

➤ *What do you expect of this research project?*

We expect a concrete list of activity that will help us to achieve the goal as named above including potential German collaboration partners as well as a media based tool to increase awareness including the identification of suitable publishers in Germany for our workbook and workbook related literature f.e. a training guide for medical professionals.

Additional questions to A/R added during the development stage of the research proposal:

- *Why do you think that if you can establish your treatment method in Germany that you can then expand also to other countries?*
Germany is the 2nd most important source of mind makers in the area of epilepsy right after the US. Therefore other countries pay attention to what happens in Germany.
- *What is the basis for you to assume that your treatment method is good and better than the ones that the epilepsy patients in Germany are currently treated with?*
Our research shows that individuals who do not achieve seizure freedom with a surgery and medication, which is the conventional treatment approach, achieve seizure freedom with the help of our behavioral approach.
- *Can you define the strategic goal you have?*
The strategic goal is to establish our treatment method as part of the guideline in Germany so that in the long run every epilepsy center has to offer this treatment.
- *What have you already tried as a communication strategy and has it been analyzed?*
We have discussed this treatment method face-to-face with the directors of four different epilepsy centers. In three cases there was an initial indication of interest and in two of these cases there was no follow-through after initial interest and in one case the director clearly indicated that it is structurally too much effort to implement this treatment method.
Moreover, we have published articles in international recognized journals. Furthermore, we have offered a session on psychobehavioral therapy at the annual meeting of the American Epilepsy Society in knowing that professionals from Germany would also be present during that meeting. The strategy has not been systematically analyzed yet.
- *What is your current approach in entering the German market?*
First, we have to translate our workbook into German and culturally adapt it. Second, we successfully submitted an abstract so we can present on psychobehavioral therapy at a meeting of the International League against Epilepsy. Also, we plan to offer workshops for professionals that are interested in adapting training in this approach. We tried to impact German treatment guidelines by developing international standards that could also be binding for Germany.
- *Why do you think that partnership building is the right way to go to enter the German market?*
Traditionally, the A/R protocol is set up as a collaboration between the A/R therapist, the treating neurologist/epileptologist and the patient. In order to facilitate the implementation of this therapeutic "trio" in an efficient manner it seemed natural to collaborate with medical institutions. All patients are being treated by neurologists/epileptologists. We want all patients to systematically get informed that A/R is an adjunctive treatment option as part of the usual education about epilepsy that they receive from their doctors. Hence we think that partnering with medical doctors will ensure that this education and knowledge translation is going to happen.

- *When did you enter the German market for the first time?*

In 2012 I had my first meeting with the directors of major epilepsy centers.

- *Do you plan to expand after entering the German health care market?*

We want to spread to other countries. First: Switzerland, Austria (whose epilepsy chapters will i.e. be part of the next epilepsy conference in 2015).

6.2 English interview outline (versions 1 & 2)

Version 1:

Questions for semi-structured interview

1. Which medical/non-medical epilepsy treatment methods do you offer?

1.1 How do you identify parts of your institution that need improvement and how do you develop strategies approach this need?

1.2 Do you offer an epilepsy complex treatment?

1.2.1 What are the components of this epilepsy complex treatment?

1.2.2 Which patients do you think profit the most of this epilepsy complex treatment?

1.3 What were the reasons why you integrated the treatment methods you have at the moment in your treatment protocol?

1.4 Do you recognize needs/problems of your patients that are not taken care of with your current treatment protocol?

1.5 What are the reasons why you adapted your current treatment methods in your treatment protocol?

1.6 What makes you revise/change your treatment protocol?

2. How does the decision making process within your institution work in terms of deciding to integrate a new treatment method?

2.1 What are the factors leading to this discussion of whether to integrate a new treatment method in your treatment protocol?

2.2 How does the hierarchy in your institution look like? Does it influence decision making and if yes how? Who has the final say in that matter?

2.3 In what way do risk and uncertainty, e.g. involved in the evidence level and the by-effect profile, of a new treatment method, influence your decision making about integrating this method in your treatment protocol?

2.4 Do you feel any kind of uncertainty about your current epilepsy treatments?

3. What are your current partnerships?

3.1 How does partnership building work in your institution?

3.2 What are the specific reasons why you would want to partner with an organization (e.g. research program)?

3.3 What are the requirements the organization you partner with needs to fulfill?

3.4 What kind of partnerships do you desire for the future?

4. What kind of media do you use to inform yourself about new treatment methods or innovations in the health care sector in general?

4.1 What role do word-of-mouth propaganda and recommendations of colleagues play?

4.2 What are the online and offline communication channels you prefer to communicate with and especially with (potential) partners? Why?

4.3 In your opinion, what kind of promotional tools work best in the German health care sector, specifically the epilepsy sector?

Version 2:

Questions for semi-structured interview

1. What were the reasons why you integrated the treatment methods you have at the moment in your treatment protocol?

1.1 Do you recognize needs/problems of your patients that are not taken care of with your current treatment protocol?

1.2 What makes you revise/change your treatment protocol?

2. How does the decision making process within your institution work in terms of deciding to integrate a new treatment method?

2.1 What are the factors leading to this discussion of whether to integrate a new treatment method in your treatment protocol?

2.2 How does the hierarchy in your institution look like? Does it influence decision making and if yes how? Who has the final say in that matter?

2.3 In what way do risk and uncertainty, e.g. involved in the evidence level and the by-effect profile, of a new treatment method, influence your decision making about integrating this method in your treatment protocol?

2.4 Do you feel any kind of uncertainty about your current epilepsy treatments?

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3.1 How does partnership building work in your institution?

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3.3 What are the requirements the organization you partner with needs to fulfill?

3.4 What kind of partnerships do you desire for the future?

4. What kind of media do you use to inform yourself about new treatment methods or innovations in the health care sector in general?

4.1 What role do word-of-mouth propaganda and recommendations of colleagues play?

4.2 What are the online and offline communication channels you prefer to communicate with and especially with (potential) partners? Why?

4.3 In your opinion, what kind of information distribution/promotional tools work best in the German health care sector, specifically the epilepsy sector?

6.3 German interview outline (versions 1 &2)

Version 1:

Fragen für semi-strukturiertes Interview

1. Welche/n medikamentösen/nicht-medikamentösen Behandlungsmethoden für Epilepsie bieten Sie an?

1.1 Wie identifizieren Sie die Bereiche in Ihrer Institution, die Verbesserung brauchen und wie entwickeln Sie Strategien um dieses Bedürfnis anzugehen?

1.2 Bieten Sie eine Epilepsie-Komplex-Behandlung an?

1.3 Was ist Bestandteil Ihrer Epilepsie-Komplex-Behandlung?

1.4 Was denken Sie, welche Patienten profitieren am meisten von der Epilepsie-Komplex-Behandlung?

1.5 Was sind die Gründe warum Sie Ihre derzeitigen Behandlungsmethoden in Ihr Behandlungsprotokoll aufgenommen haben?

1.6 Sehen Sie Bedürfnisse/Probleme bei Ihren Patienten, die durch das gegenwärtige Behandlungsprotokoll nicht berücksichtigt werden?

1.7 Was würde Sie dazu veranlassen Ihr Behandlungsprotokoll zu überarbeiten bzw. zu ändern?

2. Wie läuft die Entscheidungsfindung bezüglich der Integration neuer Behandlungsmethoden in Ihrer Institution ab?

2.1 Was sind die Faktoren, die zu der Diskussion über die Integration einer neuen Behandlungsmethode in Ihr Behandlungsprotokoll führen?

2.2 Wie sehen die hierarchischen Strukturen in Ihrer Institution aus? Beeinflusst diese die Entscheidungsfindung und falls ja, wie? Wer hat das ‚letzte Wort‘?

2.3 Inwieweit beeinflussen das Evidenzlevel und das Nebenwirkungsprofil, in Bezug auf eine neue Behandlungsmethode, Ihre Entscheidungsfindung darüber, ob Sie diese in Ihr Behandlungsprotokoll aufnehmen?

2.4 Haben Sie Ungewissheiten bezüglich der derzeitigen Behandlungsmethoden von Epilepsie?

3. Was für Partnerschaften haben Sie momentan?

3.1 Wie funktioniert der Aufbau von Partnerschaften mit anderen Institutionen in Ihrer Institution?

3.2 Was sind die spezifischen Gründe warum Sie mit einer Organisation (z.B. einem Forschungs- oder Behandlungsprogramm) eine Partnerschaft aufbauen würden?

3.3 Was sind die Kriterien, die Ihre Partnerschaftsorganisation erfüllen müsste?

3.4 Was für Partnerschaften wünschen Sie sich für die Zukunft?

4. Was für Medie benutzen Sie um sich über neue Behandlungsmethoden und Innovationen im Gesundheitswesen zu informieren?

4.1 Was für eine Rolle spielen Mundpropaganda und Empfehlungen von Kollegen?

4.2 Was sind die online und offline Kommunikationskanäle mit denen Sie am liebsten kommunizieren, spezifisch mit Ihren (potentiellen) Partnern? Warum?

4.3 Welche Arten von Informationsverbreitungsmittel/-kanäle sind, ihrer Meinung nach, am effektivsten im deutschen Gesundheitswesen und spezifisch im Epilepsiesektor?

Version 2:

Fragen für semi-strukturiertes Interview

1. Was sind die Gründe warum Sie Ihre derzeitigen Behandlungsmethoden in Ihr Behandlungsprotokoll aufgenommen haben?

1.1 Sehen Sie Bedürfnisse/Probleme bei Ihren Patienten, die durch das gegenwärtige Behandlungsprotokoll nicht berücksichtigt werden?

1.2 Was würde Sie dazu veranlassen Ihr Behandlungsprotokoll zu überarbeiten bzw. zu ändern?

2. Wie läuft die Entscheidungsfindung bezüglich der Integration neuer Behandlungsmethoden in Ihrer Institution ab?

2.1 Was sind die Faktoren, die zu der Diskussion über die Integration einer neuen Behandlungsmethode in Ihr Behandlungsprotokoll führen?

2.2 Wie sehen die hierarchischen Strukturen in Ihrer Institution aus? Beeinflusst diese die Entscheidungsfindung und falls ja, wie? Wer hat das „letzte Wort“?

2.3 Inwieweit beeinflussen Risiko und Ungewissheit, z.B. in Bezug auf das Evidenzlevel und das Nebenwirkungsprofil, einer neuen Behandlungsmethode, Ihre Entscheidungsfindung darüber, ob Sie diese in Ihr Behandlungsprotokoll aufnehmen?

2.4 Haben Sie Ungewissheiten bezüglich der derzeitigen Behandlungsmethoden von Epilepsie?

3. Was für Partnerschaften haben Sie momentan?

3.1 Wie funktioniert der Aufbau von Partnerschaften mit anderen Institutionen in Ihrer Institution?

3.2 Was sind die spezifischen Gründe warum Sie mit einer Organisation (z.B. einem Forschungs- oder Behandlungsprogramm) eine Partnerschaft aufbauen würden?

3.3 Was sind die Kriterien, die Ihre Partnerschaftsorganisation erfüllen müsste?

3.4 Was für Partnerschaften wünschen Sie sich für die Zukunft?

4. Was für Medien benutzen Sie um sich über neue Behandlungsmethoden und Innovationen im Gesundheitswesen zu informieren?

4.1 Was für eine Rolle spielen Mundpropaganda und Empfehlungen von Kollegen?

4.2 Was sind die online und offline Kommunikationskanäle mit denen Sie am liebsten kommunizieren, spezifisch mit Ihren (potentiellen) Partnern? Warum?

4.3 Welche Arten von Informationsverbreitungsmittel/-kanäle sind, ihrer Meinung nach, am effektivsten im deutschen Gesundheitswesen und spezifisch im Epilepsiesektor?

6.4 English interview transcripts

6.4.1 In-depth interview with expert

I: So, what could you tell me about your experiences about the way German doctors, like neurologists, psychologists and so on, make decisions regarding new treatment methods for epilepsy?

E: You mean if they are deciding for it or not?

I: Exactly. Like, if they have a positive or negative attitude about new methods. What you experienced so far.

E: Well, if we talk about psychological methods, the hardline neurology oriented colleagues are very skeptical, since they consider them unscientific, mostly because it is incompatible with the current concept of epilepsy. Where it is said, that the appearance of seizures has nothing to do with the life circumstances of the person, you know? That is what the definition of epilepsy states, too.

I: Hm.

E: And that's why most neurologists think that psychological or psychotherapeutic methods could help in coping with the disease, but it is of no value to stop the seizures.

I: Okay.

E: Psychosomatic oriented physicians may think different about it, because they also use a different way of questioning the patients, but I would say that the classic neurologists are very skeptical and withdrawn.

I: Okay. And what do you think, what would make those skeptical neurologists reconsider their treatment protocol? Like, what would convince them to alter their protocol and accept these methods? Or do you think it is very unlikely this ever happens?

E: Well, I mean, we should actually dispute this science term, like, how this actually came to existence. Most people do not reflect this at all.

I: Hm.

E: Because, the main task of a doctor is to diagnose, and as soon as he finished his diagnosis, a treatment is worked out for it.

I: Yes.

E: Right? And that's how medicine works nowadays. And they do not even think about how this definition of epilepsy came to be at all. That's my experience. They just assume that's all neuro-stuff and that's that. No second thought. And, you know, I wrote a dissertation about this, where I criticize that, because a certain presumption is made, they do not talk with the patients anymore about what could actually have furthered their seizures. And there's not a word about aura-disruption, or about aura at all, with this perspective that there is an aura that could be disrupted. The only reason they talk to the patient is to diagnose epilepsy. So there's no facing of the potential of psychotherapeutic treatments anymore. It is just cut off. A lot of patients are irritated by these conversations. They want to explain what could be the reason this seizure happened, and many neurologists just say "Nevermind, this is immaterial for epilepsy." Some even actively dissuade the patients, away from these (?) that are supported there.

I: Exactly. Okay. And what factors could start an argument about it now?

E: Well, I think we have to clarify how this concept of epilepsy came about. Why it was able to be established throughout that way history. You know, it has something to do with the fact, that patients felt rehabilitated. Up until the 60's epilepsy was a very shady disease, something that was put into the area of psychiatrists. And many people with epilepsy were thought of being mentally

challenged. And during National Socialism people with epilepsy got sterilized, because they assumed it was a hereditary disease. So the disease got demobilized. Afterwards, two pills were thrown onto the marked - Carbamazepin and Valproinacid. And the pills helped a lot of people. So this was a clue that it was, in fact, a neurologic disease. Thus the patients felt rehabilitated.

I: Hm, hm.

E: You see? It was very good for them not to be stigmatized psychiatrically. And the physicians suddenly had something in hand that helped against this demonic disease. That changed the whole view on this disease. And beginning of the 90's a lot of medication came onto the market and one found out it could be removed surgically. Like, you can take away some cells and the ratio got better and some patients were seizure free afterwards. So epilepsy became also part of neurosurgery, which is the supreme discipline of medicine. And this opened up the way for more research funding of course, you see? There's a lot of common interest between patients and doctors to take a neurological look at this clinical picture. But they already started coming to their minds again. A lot of medication does not prove itself trustworthy. And with the surgery we are also not always happy anymore.

I: Hm.

E: Yeah, currently we reached a point where the paradigm could change, because I feel that people got disillusioned, even with vagus nerve stimulation or deep brain stimulation, there are a lot of problems coming up that no one thought of before. So maybe that's why there is a breaking point ahead. At least I hope.

I: Okay. And do you think that insecurity about new methods could be a decision influencing factor as well?

E: Which methods?

I: Like psychotherapeutic treatment of epilepsy or this Andrews-Reiter treatment. Do you think that insecurity influences that some doctors are against taking it into their protocol?

E: They too have just little experience with it.

I: Yes.

E: See, there are a lot of neurologists that are not trained psychiatrically or psychotherapeutically. And of course they have reservations.

I: Yeah.

E: And it simply does not fit into their daily schedule, You know, they only have about five to eight minutes per patient, that's exactly calculated, otherwise the office is not economical.

I: Hm.

E: And you wouldn't manage to keep this setting, if you started talking about seizure- inducing factors, right?

I: Yeah.

E: So the only questions are: "How did you like the drug? Did you have another seizure? Have you been having less seizures?" And then they think about changing the drug, changing the dose and that's the end of the conversation.

I: Hm.

E: And for this kind of thing the neurologist would have to get trained first, right? And they would need to have the possibility in their office to talk to a patient for half an hour, right?

I: Right.

E: And they simply don't have that much time. This is a huge problem.

I: Okay. My second main topic is the establishment of partnerships of German doctors or medicinal institutions, because Andrews-Reiter would love to have some partners in Germany. Can you tell me if the German doctors or institutions have special wishes? Like, if cooperation would be of interest at all? What are your experiences?

E: Well, I guess that a lot of doctors can see that epilepsy patients have a greater need of conversations than other neurologically diseased patients, see?

I: Hm.

E: And that they are very shaken from their seizures. If there would be something where patients could turn to in that case, it would be a huge relief for neurologists.

I: Okay.

E: It would simply simplify their treatment, see?

I: Okay.

E: So, I can absolutely imagine an interest.

I: Okay. And the third topic would be marketing communication, because I am from that area.

E: Hm.

I: Well, could you tell me, your opinion, what are the best ways to promote this method, or information about this method in to the doctors in Germany? Like, where are they getting their information from? Journals or...? For example, you wrote a book...

E: Hm.

I: So what do you think?

E: Hmm, they are pretty reserved about books.

I: Okay.

E: They are usually too big, take too long..

I: Okay.

E: You see? So journals would definitely be better.

I: I see.

E: Yeah, and you should describe the method as simple and easy-to-follow as possible. It is important to state that you do not imply, which the method factually does not, that medication is futile, but that actually cooperation between neurology and psychotherapy is the way to go. See?

I: Yeah.

E: Where it could have consequences for the treatment. But you should not imply that one could ignore medication with this method. This would simply not work.

I: Yes, of course it would be an additional treatment.

E: Right, additional treatment.

I: Hm.

E: It would also be good to spread information via internet to doctors and patients.

I: I see.

Additional comments made after recording was stopped:

-> A/R needs more evidence (studies) to convince doctors

-> Some people put stones in A/R way

6.4.1 Semi-structured interview with stationary medical institutions

Interview 1

I: Let me begin with the first question. Which medical or non-medical treatment are you offering for epilepsy?

E: Well, mostly antiepileptics. Then some epileptic chirurgic measures resp. versive chirurgic measures. First reason is of course that it was recommended or that we had some good experience with the antiepileptic medication, and of course scientifically standards. Second are pathophysiological concepts that we know of, scientifically based, that patients have less seizures with these methods. And finally we have a psychosomatical area, although this one is very small here due to structural conditions.

I: Okay, and do you see some needs or problems of your patients that are not covered by your current treatment methods?

E: I wouldn't say that, though I can't be sure about things I don't know fully. But what I do know is that we do not have enough manpower for everything. You know, epilepsy has a very complex cluster of symptoms where you actually need a very big team for, and since we are only a small department, we can't offer everything and have to offer bigger epilepsy centers instead.

I: I see. And what would make you reconsider or redo your treatment protocol in general?

E: Well, new scientific data about efficiency and effectiveness of course. This would be the most important. Then, the needs of patients, either mentioned by themselves or by patient organizations. Hmm, what else? Well, there would be, let's say, new pathophysiologic cognitions that we haven't had yet in Germany.

I: Okay, how do you decide about which new treatment method you integrate in your center in general? Like, who decides it?

E: As head of the department, I usually make the final decision.

I: Hm.

E: On newer methods or need of more personnel, I have to talk to my boss of course and sometimes I can't get past him.

I: What would make you reconsider or redo your treatment protocol in general?

E: Well, the needs of the patients of course and the newest results that we discuss.

I: Hmhm.

E: A rule of thumb is that the most commonly known and oldest things, where you have the best level of evidence and the most experience, comes first.

I: Okay. Well, how much influence has the level of evidence and the profile of side effects in the matter of deciding whether or not to accept a new treatment method?

E: This is as important of course.

E: This is of course of equal importance. If the risks are too high, we don't use it.

I: Hm.

E: But sometimes I just talk to the patients about it. I consider myself a consultant, so sometimes I just say to them: "Listen, you have a higher risk with this one, but we expect a higher possibility that it works for you." And then we see what the patient says.

I: Hm. Okay.

E: Of course some say: "No one's touching my head!"

I: Okay.

E: Even if he was a classic case of multiple sclerosis, on the right side, would be an easy example. If the (?) diagnostics would be correct, I guess the patient had a chance of about 90% to be seizure free.

I: I see.

E: Well, of course there is a small percentage of risk that the operation fails. It is very small, but it is always there. So this has to be taken up with the patient. With the pill, if he already got his third pill, he has a chance of about 10 or 20% if he's lucky, you see? So there is the risk of a failing operation, but the chance of him being seizure free is much better. And that's what I am discussing with the patient. Then we decide individually.

I: And do you have any insecurity about your current methods of treating epilepsy?

E: There are always insecurities or how can I understand your question?

I: Well, do you have insecurities in a way that you think certain treatment methods are much more effective than others and...

E: Absolutely.

I: Okay.

E: And you also have insecurities about the quality of the evidence level. I mean, there are formal criteria how to divide evidence levels, I don't have to tell you this, but there's always this factor of how safe the compiled data is, right?

I: Yeah.

E: A good example: A pharmacoresistant patient can decide between vagus nerve stimulation and (?)-stimulation, he would be capable for both, then we have a lot more reliable studies that prove the effectiveness of vagus nerve stimulation, compared to (?)-stimulation. This is a very big area, a different proportion, although the evidence level may be the same, you see?

I: Yeah.

E: And so I need to discuss this with others.

I: Alright, let's continue with the next bulk of questions: What partnerships do you have currently?

Do you have partnerships with research- or treatment programs?

E: Yes, we cooperate with a couple of clinics.

I: Okay.

E: Well, with various epilepsy-centers. We are ourselves only a very small epilepsy-center but we cooperate with some other epilepsy-centers.

I: Okay. And how does the establishment of a partnership between you and another clinic work? Are you just contact them when needed, or...

E: Yes, exactly. You get to know each other and then there is a certain base of trust on which you can work together.

I: Yes.

E: So the interpersonal base is important. And of course a regional connection is useful. Important, especially for our patients, so that they don't have to drive through whole Germany in order to get a treatment, only because we know each other.

I: Hm.

E: Yes. Then there is the other aspect that has a great influence. We try to connect epilepsy-centers nearby.

I: So, geography is important too.

E: Of course.

I: Okay. And what are the specific reasons you would cooperate with a clinic? Because they offer methods that you can't...

E: Exactly.

I: Okay.

E: That's the main criterion.

I: I see.

E: First comes quality. I have to be sure that the center offers very good work. Then they offer something that we can't do or we offer something they can't do, both ways are possible. It is also about capacities. You know, for psychosomatic treatment e.g. it is always the best to send the patients to Bernau, since we are not that equipped here in Saxony-Anhalt. So I offer patients this treatment and different clinics where they could go to - in Glauchau and Bielefeld are also big centers for psychosomatic - but usually they decide for Bernau since it is the nearest.

I: Okay. And what for partnerships do you wish for the future? Do you have any in mind or are you happy?

E: There's always room for improvement.

I: Yes.

E: Well, I would like to have a better networking altogether. I think that the networking only originates from one or two centers, like, they start connecting with each other, but there is no feedback. The network is not working as a group altogether, but only individuals or individual centers, not the whole network.

I: I see.

E: I don't know if I express myself correctly. This would be one improvement, and the other one would be more communication about individual patients. I would like that, but usually it doesn't happen because of lack of time.

I: Okay. Now to the last questions. What media are you using to personally get your latest information about new ways of treatment or innovations regarding healthcare? With media I mean specialist journals or congresses and so on?

E: Yes, mostly internet or congresses.

I: And what role plays buzz marketing and recommendation from colleagues? Does it count in?

E: Well, depends on the colleague, what he does and how much I trust him. Well, there is the situation where new methods are tested but not yet published. But actually I don't care about them until they are published. If they are good, they will be published anyway, or at least presented on a congress, so one can get an impression. So I would say that the first two points are much more important than that.

I: Okay. And what kind of online- and offline-communication channels do you prefer, also with your partners? Is it more e-mail, phone or personal contact?

E: Preferably telephone.

I: I see.

E: Or personal, if possible.

I: Okay.

E: E-mails are in use too, of course, but since you usually communicate about more complex things, you have to write for hours, to give them enough basic understanding.

I: Yeah, that's true.

E: That's why I prefer telephone or personal contact.

I: Okay. The last question. Which kind of information distribution tools are the most effective in your opinion, regarding German health care or specifically regarding epilepsy? For instance, when you want to promote a new method for epilepsy treatment?

E: It depends. If you want to promote a therapy within the specialist groups, the best ways are congresses and publications. But if you want to convince patients or established doctors that certain treatment methods are good or interesting, then there are surely some better things like information events or tv segments.

I: Okay.

Interview 2

I: So, let us begin. Which medical or non-medical treatment are you offering for epilepsy?

E: We offer the full spectrum of all medicinal ways of treatment for epilepsy.

I: Okay.

E: For patients with chronic epilepsy, as well as emergency patients, that come to because of a status. Oral therapies, intravenous therapies, and besides that also vagus nerve stimulation.

I: Okay. How do you identify those areas in your center in need of change? How do you develop strategies to handle this matter? Is there any area like this at all, in terms of treatment?

E: Well, we have a huge area of influence for epilepsy patients and a good method of inter-monitoring-surveillance of epilepsy patients. But we lack of invasive diagnostic possibilities.

I: Okay, do you offer holistic epilepsy treatment?

E: No, we can't offer that.

I: Okay. And what are the reasons you chose your current treatment methods for your treatment protocol?

E: We want to create a very good chance of treatment for the patients within a big region with the methods we have. But for those few patients that could and need to undergo invasive diagnostics, we need to cooperate with other facilities, mostly with the facility of Bethel.

I: Okay, and do you see some needs or problems of your patients that are not addressed with your current treatment protocol?

E: I think we still have not enough capacity to ambulatory treat patients. This is because of the care structure in German. You call from Holland, where I am sure it is different. We can treat patients after a referral from an established neurologist. Maybe it would be better if family doctors could refer them directly. But we can't do this for capacity reasons only.

I: Okay. What would make you reconsider or redo your treatment protocol?

E: If we would meet needs now, we would include invasive therapies.

I: Okay.

E: If we had a better chance for an invasive therapy, I am sure we would put more effort into it. (? 03:30 min.)...

I: Okay, how do you decide about which new treatment method you integrate in your center in general? Do you decide it as a team or -

E: Yes.

I: Okay.

E: Yes, you know, I am this clinic's director and I deal with epileptology for years now. And we have a very competent senior physician for that field. If we would establish new ways of treatment, we surely would talk about it together and make ourselves a picture in the clinic, an impression.

I: Okay. And what are the factors that would lead to a discussion about integrating a new method in your protocol?

E: Well, if we would learn something new on a congress or in publications, or someone spreads the news that it has an immense effect in the treatment of our patients, the diagnostics, you know.

I: I got it. Well, how much influence has the level of evidence and the profile of side effects in the matter of deciding whether or not to accept a new treatment method?

E: A lot!

I: A lot?

E: Yes.

I: I see.

E: The treatments we offer always have the highest possible evidents, it is vital.

I: Okay. And do you have any insecurities regarding your current methods of treating epilepsy? Or are you convinced, that they help the greater part of your patients?

E: The latter. Yes, I am sure that the methods we offer help most of our patients.

I: Good.

E: Not all of them, but no one claimed that. No one can claim that..

I: Hm. Okay. Let's continue with questions about your partnerships...

E: Maybe, I would like to add one more thing-

I: Go ahead.

E: - that surely is another problem. The treatment of patients with non epileptical seizures. I think that this is an everyday topic in many epilepsy facilities, and I see a big necessity for an improved treatment in better diagnostics. But also in the aftermath it lacks in care structures for treating those with non epileptical, but only psychogenical seizures.

I: Okay. What partnerships do you have currently? Or, do you have partnerships with researching- or treatment programs? Or none at all?

E: I am not sure if I understood your question. Well, we cooperate with various specialized facilities. One, Bethel, I mentioned earlier already. But these are all informal partnerships. We have no formal cooperation.

I: Okay. And which partnerships would you wish for in the future? Are you happy with those you have now -

E: In fact, I would like to have a partnership with another facility that is interested in scientific cooperation.

I: Okay.

E: And what I mentioned earlier about Bethel is of course focused on the clinical treatment of our patients. It focuses on clinical treatment of resistant or very costly patients. But I would be very interested in having a scientific cooperation with a facility that works on new therapies.

I: Okay. And what are the specific reasons you would consider having a partnership with an organization? For once, you said research, but are there more reasons?

E: Since we have a huge commuting area, I think we are an attractive partner for others ourselves, also because of our scientific focus and infrastructure.

I: Hmhm.

E: And also that the possibilities of a scientific cooperation always depends on dimensions. Dimensions regarding the amount of epileptics that are part of it, and of course the dimensions regarding the amount of epileptics that are covered by certain facilities. Certain questions can only be answered with figures alone.

I: Hm.

E: Therefore it is necessary to connect various facilities.

I: Okay. Now to the last questions. What media are you using to personally get your latest information about new ways of treatment or innovations regarding healthcare? Specialist journals and congresses or-

E: Yes.

I: -or?

E: Well, mostly specialist journals, but also lectures. Lectures held here or on congresses.

I: Okay.

E: Those are the vital ones.

I: And how much does buzz marketing or recommendations from your colleagues count in?

E: Actually a very small part only.

I: Okay. And what kind of online- and offline-communication channels do you prefer, also with your partners, like Bethel? Is it more e-mail, phone or personal contact?

E: Hm, e-mail and phone, yes. Maybe e-mail is the most used medium.

I: Okay. The last question. Which kind of information distribution tools are the most effective in your opinion, regarding German health care or specifically regarding epilepsy?

E: Hm. Well, I think from the used channels, television and new social media will have the greatest effect..

I: Hmhm.

E: Yes, I guess it is not printed media or events, but television and social media.

I: Okay.

Interview 3

I: Let me begin with the first question. Which medical or non-medical treatment are you offering for epilepsy?

E: Medicinal treatment methods. Should I count all anti-epileptics here?

I: Just epilepsy treatment methods in general in your center.

E: Well, medicinal we offer about everything there is as anti-epileptics. And in cooperation with the university we also offer vagus nerve stimulation and operative methods. And then we have therapy, individual and depth analysis, depending on the colleague.

I: Hmhm.

E: And we offer group therapy, like a (self help?) group, especially for people with epilepsy. I don't know if all the therapies count in here?

I: Oh, yes, well-

E: We have relax groups, awareness groups and social competence training and epilepsy - basic training, which is related to the Moses-program.

I: Yeah, I heard about that. Okay. How do you identify those areas in your center in need of change? How do you develop strategies to handle this matter?

E: We always think about the need of a more specific group offer. I don't know if this counts in here, but we also have patients with non epileptical dissociative seizures, so we always ask ourselves, if we should offer a (special?) group or maybe a self-control group for people with epilepsy.

I: Okay.

E: If this is of any value to differentiate that much, you know. These processes are considered area intern.

I: Okay. And do you offer a holistic epilepsy treatment?

E: Yes.

I: Okay. What does it consist of?

E: Basically we decide that individually, based on all the things I counted earlier. You can add ergotherapy, arttherapy and physiotherapy, sporttherapy. But the less epilepsy specific things we order individually, who needs to participate in them.

I: Okay.

E: Or is allowed to. We do not charge via DAP (?), we charge daily rates, so it is not specified what and how we do it.

I: Okay, and which patients do you think benefit the most of your holistic treatment?

E: Well, of course we hope that most of them benefit. Our main target group has hard-to-treat epilepsy and also a psychiatric comorbidity.

I: Okay.

E: Like, we also have an eye on that, not only epilepsy itself.

I: Okay. And what are the reasons you chose your current treatment methods for your treatment protocol?

E: Whew, a lot of reasons.

I: Well, just give me the main reasons.

E: Okay, well. I guess, the medicinal treatment is obvious. I for myself, I am a behavior therapist, so I do the social competence training. I think that people with seizures, no matter the kind, have a hard time with being overly protected, getting special care and such. That's where I think it is useful to train social competence, build an awareness group and a relaxation group. The body therapy maybe already helps with an improved perception of body intern processes or also the environment, when the body does something one cannot or can hardly control, which is important.

I: Okay, and do you see some needs or problems of your patients that are not addressed with your current treatment protocol?

E: Yes, always.

I: I see.

E: Well, I think there are patients, who think they have to do too much in our center.

And then there are patients, who think they should do a lot more. So, the needs differ from patient to patient. For example, we have some mandatory programs everyone has to attend, no matter if they just wanted to come for an adjustment. The rest is more individual, but I always think there are patients that would benefit from more therapies. Like psychotherapy or sports therapy or things like that.

I: Hm.

E: That's individual, but you one could always do more.

I: Okay. What would make you reconsider or redo your treatment protocol in general?

E: Well, maybe presenting more specific groups. This is usually a team process, like, how much we believe in ourselves as staff. Also, how much the care personnel dare to create on it, because from a psychological, medical side we cannot do it all alone. I think that continued education helps a lot.

I: Hmhm.

E: But even then I think it is always a jump in at the deep end. It motivates when patients give you a positive response for what you did. It helps you consider focusing more on that area. Many of the methods are also dependent on personnel.

I: Yes.

E: If a new staff comes he has a good idea. Our awareness group was established that way. A colleague came up with this concept and we implemented it.

I: How do you decide about which new treatment method you integrate in your center in general?

E: We decide as a ward team.

I: Okay.

E: Well, these are not the decisions the chief has to do, but we in our ward team; we are two to three part time doctors, me as a psychologist and the senior physician of the nursery and some other therapists. And we decide pretty democratic.

I: Okay.

I: And what are the factors that lead to a discussion about integrating a new method in your protocol?

E: Well, I guess this is always a question of personnel.

I: Okay.

E: When we say "We can't stem it", then not because we say so, but because we simply are not enough and can't handle it. We get Ideas from everywhere. When we visit other centers or attend a continued education or from colleagues that are very good at something. We have a trauma therapy trained doctor that has always some good ideas for some kind of groups or methods. It just comes in like that.

I: Okay. How is your commanding structure in your center? Do they influence the process of making decisions? Who has the final word?

E: Well, in the end we have a doctor in each ward that actually has "executive" marked in his contract.

I: Okay.

E: But he wouldn't decide anything alone.

I: Okay. Well, how much influence has the level of evidence and the profile of side effects in the matter of deciding whether or not to accept a new treatment method?

E: To be honest, I have to admit that for the most things I do not know good studies. They don't prove a lot regarding epilepsy. Back when we established the relaxation group we checked some studies, if they had anything about epilepsy patients. But that was pretty futile.

I: I see.

E: And I think, well, I hope that we would notice, if there are good evidences for new procedures. I guess usually we know.

I: Okay.

E: That would influence me a lot, but I don't think there is enough specific data yet.

I: Okay. Do you have any insecurities about your current methods of treating epilepsy?

E: In general?

I: Yes.

E: Well, what I feel important as psychotherapy itself, I also think is important for someone who also suffers from epilepsy. I don't think one should be excluded from a certain kind of therapeutic treatment, because he has epilepsy.

I: Hm.

E: I know of some clinics that say: "Relaxation group is not possible for someone with epilepsy." I think, this is stupid.

I: Hmhm.

E: But of course there are certain specific methods, like general psychotherapeutic diagnosis, that are not useful.

I: Okay. What partnerships do you have currently? Do you have partnerships with researching- or treatment programs?

E: We have a cooperation with Dresden university clinic.

I: Hmhm.

E: With (?) and neurosurgery. It concerns mostly the surgical epilepsy program. Then we had loose contact with a clinic for psychosomatics in Dresden, where we exchanged care personnel for continued education.

I: Hmhm.

E: And then we have of course a pretty close contact with the other epilepsy centers. Bethel, Tiergau, Bernau, Herzberger to name the most important.

I: Okay. And how does the establishment of partnerships with other institutions work?

E: We have a meeting once a year, regarding psychosomatic, psychotherapeutic areas.

I: Hmhm.

E: Like, where we gather for a conference for a weekend. Hah, I am ashamed; I totally forgot to mention the neuropsychology. We also have that one!

I: Okay.

E: There we also have an annual work group, together with the other epilepsy centers.

I: Okay.

E: Yes, I think this is what we do. We also sit in on classes. I for once worked two weeks in Bethel. Or we do visits that are more themed.

I: Okay, and what are the specific reasons you would become partners with an organization?

E: Frankly spoken, when they can do something that we can't.

I: I see.

E: Dresden university clinic for example, because they do surgery. We can't. We don't have neurosurgery here, so we are dependent on a partnership for epileptic surgery. And working together with epilepsy centers, neurochirurgical as well as psychotherapeutic, opens the horizon in my opinion. And I learn from them. I think they are competent.

I: I see.

E: And, you know, psychotherapeutic treatment of people with epilepsy is not that common. There are not that many doing this.

I: Yes.

E: And so it is simply interesting to cooperate.

I: Okay. And which criteria do your partners have to fulfill in order to cooperate with you?

E: Well, of course they would have to have some experience and interest in humans with epilepsy, meaning, a certain neurological, or a combination of neurology and psychiatry and psychotherapy would be very interesting.

I: Okay. And what for partnerships do you wish for the future? Are there any?

E: Yes. It would be wonderful if we had more local partners. I mean partnerships with established ambulant therapists, because it is very hard to refer patients.

I: Hmhm.

E: You know, all the therapy centers are very far away.

I: Yes.

E: So, yes, such an establishment would be awesome. And I would also wish for a better cooperation with a psychosomatic rehabilitation center, because we are not very successful in this area too.

I: Okay.

E: Because we sometimes recommend rehabilitating treatment and it usually doesn't end up so well.

I: Okay. Now to the last questions. What media are you using to personally get your latest information about new ways of treatment or innovations regarding healthcare? More journals or congresses or?

E: Well, yes, specialist journals for once, of course. Then we have a clinic intern exchange once a week, where we present the most recent news, so that not everybody has to read it all for themselves. And then congresses, work groups, conferences.

I: I see. How much does buzz marketing and recommendations of colleagues count in?

E: They play a big role, yeah.

I: Okay.

I: Okay. And what kind of online- and offline-communication channels do you prefer, also with your partners?

E: What do you mean with communication channels? How I communicate with them?

I: Yes.

E: With others for sure mostly via e-mail.

I: Hm.

E: That's what you mean?

I: Yes, e-mails.

E: Yes, yes, yes, mostly e-mails for sure.

I: Okay.

E: Rarely by phone. I would rather do it personally at a conference, but this is usually only once a year.

I: Yes.

E: I mean external colleagues.

I: Okay. The last question. Which kind of information distribution tools are the most effective in your opinion, regarding German health care or specifically regarding epilepsy? For instance, when you want to promote a new method for epilepsy treatment?

E: Well, I guess that surely the epilepsy specialized journals are read, but I also think the work group is not too big, so that conferences are useful too. Once a year there is a meeting that I find pretty medicinal and also a little bit psychotherapeutic. I would like to see more of that.

I: Hm.

E: But I still think that those, who have something to say in that area, are present there.

I: Okay.

E: This is not such a general topic, where conferences and congresses are huge, but I guess, that many of the people within an area know each other and that buzz marketing and conferences help a lot.

Interview 4

I: Let me begin with the first question. Which medical or non-medical treatment are you offering for epilepsy?

E: There are a whole lot of chronic drugs, the chronic pharmacotherapy is still the gold standard for epilepsy treatment. If the diagnosis was correct and the medical therapy was done right and the patients still suffers from seizures, one has to check if epilepsy-chirurgical methods should be considered. However this is only a method of choice for less than 10% of the patients, but then it is important.

I: Hm.

E: And we still assume that the classical methods, meaning medical treatment and epilepsy-chirurgical, do not lead to a seizureless life for 30% of our patients. For those patients we consider various medical trials, and nowadays neurostimulating treatment or alternate treatments like ketogenic diet or psychotherapeutic methods. It is vital to offer those patients some perspective, so they do not feel let down and are still cared for.

I: Okay. How do you identify those areas in your center in need of change? How do you develop strategies to handle this matter? Is there any area like this at all?

E: Well, of course we have to be (flexible) in a big center like ours.

I: Of.

E: That's why we open up to about every imaginable technique, though we test it critically at first. Of course one always has to examine how it helps the patients and if we have enough personnel for it. I give you an example. I published trans(?) stimulation myself many years ago as a therapy of epilepsy. We had patients in Göttingen that profited very well from it. the problem was to identify those patients that truly profited sustainably. It is extremely difficult and you would need personnel that takes care of it.

I: I see.

E: If you calculate a beneficial risk for it, you have to say: "Naah, we won't continue with it." The other option: Biofeedback. BEG, Biofeedback was extremely en vogue for years, but very expensive in terms of personnel. Some of the patients were truly happy. But when we took a sober look on the figures, we said: "Let's concentrate on some other things that helps more patients in the end." And that's where always some new method or idea pops up, you have to stay on track, offer it, but examine it critically at the same time.

I: Okay. You offer a holistic epilepsy treatment, right?

E: Well, of course, yes.

I: And what is part of your treatment? Of your holistic treatment?

E: Well, our patients are always treated holistically with an individual therapy concept.. It consists of medical adjustment. If needed, it consists of epilepsy-chirurgical procedures. But it also consists of psycho educational programs, all day training programs, sociomedical assessment, psychological, psychotherapeutic care, neuropsychological cognitive training, work therapy, art therapy, music therapy...

I: Okay.

E: ...in short, a very individual, big, detailed therapy program.

I: Okay, great. And what do you think, which patients profit most of your holistic treatment?

E: For sure the patients with difficult treatable epilepsies profit the most from our holistic treatment. For them everything is build around "living with epilepsy". This means we cannot cure them from their seizures and have to show them ways how to deal with their self respect, their problem of chronic illness or of chronic medication, at least the pharmaco-resistant patients. From my point of

view there is a second big group that profits, the new sickened patients. Well, we have grown up patients who became sick a while ago. In fact I have a female patient currently that I have to talk to later today.

She is 53 and got epilepsy four years ago, which totally pulled her out of her work and private life. When people like her come to us, relatively early and not after 30 years, I think, they profit a lot from our intensive holistic program.

I: Okay. And what are the reasons you chose your current treatment methods for your treatment protocol?

E: As I said before. Critical application, critical examination is (necessary) in a big clinic, I mean, we have over 120 beds for epilepsy patients, so it is possible for us to come to a critical conclusion, whether the patients profit or not, in a short amount of time. So we don't have to pick up every trend. Ketogenic diet is a very important topic currently. We found out it can be a wonderful help for severely handicapped children with heavy epilepsy.

I: I see.

E: For grown-ups it usually isn't. So we oriented and placed ourselves accordingly.

I: Okay, and do you see some needs or problems of your patients that are not addressed with your current treatment protocol?

E: Well, I think it is very hard to be more thorough than we are.

It could very well be that some of our patients feel overwhelmed by the amount we offer. But I don't believe that we are overseeing something that could end up as a disadvantage for our patients.

I: Hm.

E: That would be horrible.

I: Yes. Next question: What would make you reconsider or redo your treatment protocol in general?

E: Well, we do annual surveys of our staff and referees of patients. These are intense quality surveys and we evaluate them very critical and if we see that there is a deficit or some kind of complaint comes up frequently, or also during long-term monitoring, after 6 months we go over all results of our stationary treatments again and would modify accordingly.

I: Okay.

E: But I don't have a tangible example, except what I just said about ketogenic diet, where we decided now to totally change something.

I: Okay, how do you decide about which new treatment method you integrate in your center in general? Like, who decides it?

E: Actually the team. In fact, there are two sides involved. We have our central occupancy management, which examines beforehand and in agreement with the chief resident, what programs would be useful. And at the day of patient's admission we have him tested, surveyed, usually with family members, and not only with the ward physician, but a team of ward physician, nursing, therapist and psychologist. This team pins down a program together with the patient.

I: Alright. And what are the factors that lead to a discussion about integrating a new method in your protocol?

E: The efficiency of course.

I: Okay.

E: Well, it is very easy. It has to be a method that is applicable and promises a certain factor of efficiency. The worst thing you could do to a chronically ill patient is using methods that lead to wrong expectations. This would be horrible. And we want to prevent this at all costs, means, we tell our patients very openly what they can expect from any given method for themselves.

I: Okay. How is your commanding structure in your center? Or, if and how do these structures influence the process of making decisions?

E: You mean our inner hierarchy?

I: Yes.

E: Oh, well that's very simple here. I am the medical director, the big boss, you know, like a Cesar.

I: *(Laughs)*

E: And that's why I decide it. And we have a very open team and our hierachic structure is built very loose actually, since we know each other for many years already. But in the end I have the overall responsibility in both economic and content matters.

I: Okay. Well, how much influence has the level of evidence and the profile of side effects in the matter of deciding whether or not to accept a new treatment method?

E: Well, a lot, of course.

I: A lot.

E: This factor makes about 70%. The other 30% is our own experience. As I told you before, we have the advantage that we can test any method in about four to eight weeks on so many patients, that we can make a pretty valid statement regarding its effectiveness. That is the mix that leads to our decisions in the end.

I: Okay. Do you have any insecurities about your current methods of treating epilepsy?

E: Hmm, no, actually not. Well, you never know what can happen as a long-term effect. When using it constantly.

I: Hm.

E: It is always hard to estimate, e.g. in psychotherapeutic treatment, if and what kind of (result) it will have, usually not within the next three or five years. But there would not be a big problem, unlike in oncology or radiotherapy, where you are always unsure about long-term damage. But we usually don't have that. We always check our patients ambulant for a long time, even after a stationary inhabitation. With this we make sure that there are no damages or disadvantages.

I: Okay. On to the next topic. What partnerships do you have currently? Well, do you have partnerships with researching- or treatment programs?

E: Yeah, we are not a stereotypical, university epilepsy center.

I: Aha.

E: My direct intention is to connect with others, and I am working on it intensively.

I mean, we are connecting complementary with strong partners. E.g. we have a contractual cooperation with the novocenter of Freiburg University. We have a neurogenetic cooperation with Tübingen. We have a very interesting and, I guess, unique transgressive bilateral cooperation with Strasburg.

I: Okay.

E: Well, these are actually our most important partnerships. We have of course a cooperation with the epilepsy center of Bethel, at least in terms of liquor-diagnosis and antibody-diagnosis, for we feel ideally bonded with them. And we cooperate with the neurological university clinic of Ulm regarding liquor-diagnosis, neurosis and general illnesses. So, a whole lot of. Right now I am trying to establish a common research program together with Robert-Bosch-Foundation. So, yes, we are intensively connected.

I: Okay. And in what ways are you using these partnerships? How is your center working together with them?

E: Well, it depends on the topic. For instance, liquor-diagnosis is pure service based cooperation. We send those data and our partners handle it for us, or vice versa, they ask us for certain kind of questions or answers and we just exchange without billing it.

Of course there are intensive partnerships like Freiburg or Strasburg. With them we hold a meeting every two weeks and discuss our topics. And we have some research contacts, and with them we keep in touch mostly digital or via phone.

I: Okay, and what are the specific reasons you would become partners with an organization?

E: Because there are various services we simply can't deliver as a non-university clinic. We simply have no budget left for it, so that's why we need to connect ourselves intelligently.

I: Okay.

E: In fact, we have a good position, we have the critical amount of patients and therefore it is not very hard to find good partners.

I: Okay. What are your criteria a partner would have to meet in order to become your partner?

E: They would have to show their expertise, be creative and reliable.

I: Okay. And what for partnerships do you wish for the future? Do you have any in mind or are you happy?

E: I can't give you a definite statement to that. I think that we will expand our international partnerships. That's a tendency that makes sense within Europe. We are now part of a consortium of a so called epilepsy-project that gets subsidized and coordinated in the EU. And I think that this development is very necessary. Also I guess, well, so to say, I am more interested in international than national partners.

I: Okay. Now to the last questions. What media are you using to personally get your latest information about new ways of treatment or innovations regarding healthcare?

E: At first there is the exchange with colleagues, plain and simple. Then we have more and more digital media, meaning internet and a science network and in fact less and less classical media, like print media and such. We still use them, too, but much less than we used to a couple of years ago.

I: Okay. And buzz marketing is also very important for you?

E: More the other way around.

I: Okay?

E: I think we profit from it, since others hear from and thus come to us. But I am arrogant enough to say, that we don't need to know where others are searching for solutions.

I: I see. And what kind of online- and offline-communication channels do you prefer, also with your partners? Is it more e-mail, phone or personal contact?

E: Yeah, well, everyone has a different taste and depends on how you can integrate it in your work schedule. Many of my colleagues and I prefer, even outside our center, e-mail, much less telephone, since you can stick more stringent to your content. And just like I said, we still have a lot of personal contact, our conferences that are vital, but for me e-mail correspondence is the most useful method.

I: Okay. The last question. Which kind of information distribution tools are the most effective in your opinion, regarding German health care or specifically regarding epilepsy? For instance, when you want to promote a new method for epilepsy treatment?

E: Still the best method of choice is a scientific publication. If anyone of us finds out something special or did something well, he publishes pretty fast. About 5 minutes later every one of us knows it. In epileptology we have a pretty mafia-like structure for that matter.

I: (*short laugh*). I see.

E: You know, no one can do something hidden here, without the others noticing it. It's just like that. Back then you had to go to a congress to hear the latest news. That stopped years ago. For sure you don't learn something new on a congress. If something is new, you know it within minutes.

Interview 5

I: Okay. Which medical or non-medical treatment are you offering for epilepsy?

E: As a treatment we offer all common antiepileptics, which are usually pills, but also infusions. And as an invasive treatment method we use vagus nerve stimulation in cooperation with Lübeck University.

I: Okay.

E: If we think that any other measures are necessary, we talk with our surgical colleagues, or with specialized epilepsy-centers, like Bielefeld, but preferably Hamburg Alsterdorf.

I: Okay. How do you identify those areas in your center in need of change? How do you develop strategies to handle this matter?

E: You mean specifically for epilepsy?

I: No, in general.

E: Well, this is linked to the development of medicine for once. What do we offer and what is asked for? That's of course how we compare our range with the current stand of knowledge and with the needs. For instance, there are patients in Schleswig-Holstein, that are not treated properly. We do not focus on epilepsy, compared to other things. We offer basic epilepsy treatment, but we don't have specific extra offers.

I: Okay. So, do you offer holistic treatment?

E: No.

I: No, okay. And what are the reasons you chose your current treatment methods for your treatment protocol?

E: This is policy of the German Association of Neurology. And for them the respective diagnostic guidelines of the professional groups.

I: Okay, and do you see some needs or problems of your patients that are not regarded with your current treatment protocol?

E: I would like to see that the psychiatric treatment of the patients could be improved. Like, there should be more time and resources for psychological and medical psychotherapeutic assistance, for many patients suffer from their illness and need help with strategies to overcome it. That is one thing, and the other is professional rehabilitation.

I: Okay. What would make you reconsider or redo your treatment protocol in general?

E: Well, in medicine it is always a topic that you have to have the necessary resources. I could never have three psychologists for our epilepsy patients on hold, without reimbursements, and let them work, although we do not have permission for this kind of ambulant work. A possibility would be to give an appointment to our epilepsy patients in the psychiatric ambulance we have, to talk about their problems. We could ask where depressions, fears, fears for the future a.s.o. usually are addressed. It is not the usual way, but would be a logical development.

I: Okay. How do you decide about which new treatment method you integrate in your center in general?

E: That's decided by our specialists.

I: Alright. And what are the factors that lead to a discussion about integrating a new method in your protocol?

E: Suggestions from literature, from specialist conferences and from problems with treatment, when one doesn't get results. Maybe also suggestions from other colleagues.

I: Okay. What are your hierachic structures here and do they influence the process of making decisions?

E: I don't know what you mean with hierarchy.

I: Well, who's deciding? Is it decided as a group or does someone have the final word?

E: The final word always has the executive of the division, the principal consultant that would be me.

I: Okay.

E: So, it would not be possible that everyone decides, like, we now offer transplantation therapies and I am against it, you understand? This would be a case of open result discussion, so in the end I would be responsible for the final decision.

I: Okay. Well, how much influence has the level of evidence and the profile of side effects in the matter of deciding whether or not to accept a new treatment method?

E: A lot!

I: A lot.

E: Yes.

I: Okay. Do you have any insecurities about your current methods of treating epilepsy?

E: Hmm, there are some patients that are relatively resistant against any kind of therapy and it could be useful for them to test more developments, when new medication is out on the market. Luckily for epileptics there is constantly something new. And we test this in individual cases, if it is workable or not.

I: Okay. On to the next topic. What partnerships do you have currently? Well, do you have partnerships with researching- or treatment programs?

E: This is no research hospital. We are a nourishment hospital and a teaching hospital for the institutes of Kiel and Hamburg.

I: I see.

E: Research projects on patients are held very seldom and only in exemption in cooperation with universities. We have them in other specified areas of neurology: apoplectic seizure. But not with epilepsie. And cooperation usually happens in terms of patient care, for instance in Hamburg epilepsy clinic in Alsterdorf.

I: Okay. Now to the last questions. What media are you using to personally get your latest information about new ways of treatment or innovations regarding healthcare?

E: We visit specialist conferences, read the news and specialist journals. Of course we also use internet fora, internet information services. In essence it is the specialized exchange via journals and congresses.

I: And recommendations from colleagues or buzz marketing is very important for you?

E: Average roll.

I: Average roll, okay. And what kind of online- and offline-communication channels do you prefer, also with your partners?

E: E-mail, internet, telephone (laughs)

I: Yeah, okay. So, the last question. Which kind of information distribution tools are the most effective in your opinion?

E: For what purpose?

I: Promoting a new method of treatment for example.

E: Well, sometimes we meet with a self-help group, like I will do this in ten days about multiple sclerosis, and I will report them the newest ways of treatment. They usually ask for this.

I: Okay.

E: This regards information of the concerned patients. We hold events for doctors to inform them about new ways of treatment. We have one this afternoon right here.

I: Hm.

E: We invite speakers or speak ourselves. A non-epileptic topic, about inflammation.

I: Okay.

E: Then we have press statements. We use it for working groups right now, currently about the topic of "brain dead - diagnostics", running via internet.

I: Okay.

E: Then we have our own homepage. We inform our patients, if there are any news. It is constantly updated, so we promote on many channels.

I: Okay. Anything else you want to add?

E: Well, no, I guess you asked all the vital questions, didn't you?

I: Yes.

Interview 6

I: Let me begin with my questions. Which medical or non-medical treatment are you offering for epilepsy?

E: Well, medicinal, any antileptics in Germany, but also imported products if needed. Then we also have vagus nerve stimulation as an implanted therapy or, for selected patients, stimulation of the outer ear. Depends on their health insurance.

I: Hm.

E: Then, we have the deeper stimulations with implanted electrodes and the respective, operative therapy.

I: Okay. How do you identify those areas in your center in need of change? How do you develop strategies to handle this matter?

E: In our university clinic we have a quality management system that constantly examines our therapy and diagnostic procedures. It is a constant evaluation of the flows in our facility. That way they check if it is all functional and necessary.

I: Hm.

E: The staff is trained in different procedures and for some of those we have specialists. They undergo a special training from the manufacturer of the stimulation devices for example.

I: I see.

E: We have a female quality manager in our house, who checks the procedures and flows of every working area, stationary or ambulant or whatever, all in addition to the quality management and system of the university clinic, and who then gives ideas on how to optimize everyday work.

I: Okay.

E: This kind of things.

I: Okay. Interesting. And do you offer holistic epilepsy treatment?

E: Yes.

I: Okay, and what does it consist of?

E: Well, there is a law that states what has to be offered. We offer, what we are allowed to.

I: I see.

E: Group therapeutic conversations, individual therapeutic conversations, ergotherapy, physiotherapy, advice from a social worker and of course medical and orderly care.

I: Okay. What do you think? And what do you think, which patients profit most of your holistic treatment?

E: Hm. Well, our holistic treatment is only for patients that have a heavy epilepsy that is hard to treat. It is a special group of ill people that can be treated that way. "Can be" in the meaning of "funding". So, the patients have different levels and length of the sickness, but somehow in terms of the heaviness of their sickness they are similar and would profit from it more or less. We have to ask ourselves if they would benefit from our treatment a long time after they went back home. Locally, being stationary for one or two weeks, many of our patients like our therapy, for they have some group work, because their questions are answered and because we do not only change their medication, but we go into their personal needs. But if you follow this up, we did that and called the patients have a year later and tried to find out via interview how much they benefitted from it, then you cannot see the wins that clearly anymore.

I: Okay. And what are the reasons you chose your current treatment methods for your treatment protocol? Just because they are commonly used or for other reasons too?

E: You mean medicinal or chirurgical therapy? Or what?

I: Well, just the way you treat epilepsy.

E: Well, the methods I told you are the only ones in existence, except for biofeedback that we consider not valuable. We are a social clinic, so the patients come to us and we offer everything that is available to offer the best therapeutic chances.

I: Okay, and do you see some needs or problems of your patients that are not addressed with your current treatment protocol?

E: Like I said, the only thing we do not offer is biofeedback treatment. I don't know if you know, this is a method, where patients try to stop or control the breakout of a seizure by controlling certain thought areas via a cognitive training. Not to prevent the seizure, but to prevent that a small one turns into a bigger one. This is a pretty controversial method that only a few offer. And since it is very personnel expensive, we do not offer it. We did not feel that it is much of a loss yet. There are only a handful of people asking for it and even less that would fit the requirements to handle this treatment. But well, yes, this is a gap with a lot of figures after the comma.

I: Okay. What would make you reconsider or redo your treatment protocol in general?

E: If you offer me a new method, I would add it to our repertoire.

I: Okay, how do you decide about which new treatment method you integrate in your center in general? Like, who decides it?

E: Well, there are no new treatment methods.

I: That's true, but what if there would be a new one, in general, how would you decide?

E: If a method is used or not, the head of the clinic decides.

I: All alone? Or does he go over it with the whole team?

E: Of course there are always some meetings, but the final decision is made by the director. Always is.

I: Okay. Well, how much influence has the level of evidence and the profile of side effects in the matter of deciding whether or not to accept a new treatment method?

E: Well, there are methods that are spoken about. Here's an example: There are different ways to destroy tissue during an operative therapy. You can operate it out, irradiate it, crush it with ultrasound, cool it off and what not.

I: Hmhm.

E: We look at the data others report, also from other groups, invite people who use it, get a feeling for it. If it makes sense, we make our own experiences with it. And if we think that it is not good enough, we drop it.

I: Okay. Do you think that all the patients are covered with your current treatment methods, or do you doubt the efficiency of some of your methods?

E: (*long silence*) Well, that's a difficult question. The question is, what do you want to achieve with the method? There are methods, like vagus nerve stimulation, and we assume that the influence is less or nearly immeasurable.

I: Hmhm.

E: But you see that some people have other positive effect from it, like a better mood for example, which is also important.

I: Hm.

E: And therefore this method could be valuable for people that chronically ill and very depressive, right? That doesn't mean it helps for common seizures, but rather with the general condition of the ill.

I: Okay.

E: Therefore it is pretty hard to evaluate. Of course there are methods that have a bigger impact in terms of measurable effects, but they are not applicable for everyone.

I: Okay. Now on to the next bulk of questions: What partnerships do you have currently? Well, do you have partnerships with researching- or treatment programs? Do you have any at all?

E: Well, of course we have some small partnerships within the university clinic. Do you mean it like that?

I: Hm.

E: Well, we work closely together with neurosurgery, since they cooperate in operative treatment. We couldn't do it without them. In medicinal treatment we do not have that strong cooperation. In research we have many more. Besides the neurological or clinical epileptology we also have an area dealing with research. In accordance with research projects they are linked with other clinics or institutes, of course. For example the nuclear research center in Jülich. We constantly have some studies with them. But of course also other university clinics and institutes. In Israel we have a cooperation at the bottom of research of elemental processes of epilepsy, you know, experimental neurophysiology. It is about genetics projects with a clinic in Tübingen. Some groups of our clinic are connected with dementia centers in Bonn. There is a huge center for dementia, for concentration- and cognition deficits of epilepsy patients are a model for memory problems. Such kinds of cooperation?

I: That is exactly what I was asking for. And what are your specific reasons you would create a partnership with an organization?

E: Well, usually because they have more technical possibilities than we do locally.

I: Hmhm.

E: For example, there is a special kind of epilepsy that is treated with immune suppressives. And there is a university clinic in Münster that is equipped much better than we are in terms of immunological diagnostics. So we cooperate with them. They help us studying the nerve water, the

liquor, and finding out if there are antibodies and how relevant it is. We use their expertise and their special equipment for that matter, while we have patients that would not go there. That's why we cooperate.

I: Okay. Okay. And what for partnerships do you wish for the future? Do you have any in mind or are you happy?

E: I am not sure if I can answer that question generally, since I do not know all connections of all work groups. Some are pretty isolated and not easy to examine, if everyone is for themselves, you know?

I: Of course.

E: Let me put it this way. If certain research questions arise regarding specific topics, and one needs to know how that another group has, one would contact them and try to cooperate.

I: Okay.

E: This will be the same way it was always done all the years before. But when and in which area this will happen, I don't think I could answer you.

I: Now to the last questions. What media are you using to personally get your latest information about new ways of treatment or innovations regarding healthcare? Congresses or specialist journals or?

E: Actually all of it. Of course we attend congresses and read journals, but as printed media they are pretty lost. By now, you find them mostly online. Many of these journals are digital.

I: Hmhm.

E: These are the most common. Of course there is information from pharmaceutical industry or manufacturers of stimulation devices, who deliver their knowledge, but this is just a very, very small part. Sometimes we invite referents, if we are interested in certain topics. But I mentioned that already.

I: Hmhm.

E: In terms of creative knowledge it usually is published and available on the internet. If in doubt, we send people all over the world to talk to others locally, even hospitalize and see, how valid the whole thing is they published, or if it is already less precise when used every day. Or we invite them over.

I: And what kind of online- and offline-communication channels do you prefer, also with your partners? Is it more e-mail, or phone in general?

E: Well, I guess both still exists. Mails, but also phone. But mostly e-mail, yes.

I: Okay. The last question. Which kind of information distribution tools are the most effective in your opinion, regarding German health care or specifically regarding epilepsy? For instance, when I want to promote a new method for epilepsy treatment, which channels should I use? General articles and internet or what do you think?

E: Well, general information via internet is usually ignored I guess.

I: Okay.

E: Well if, it would be good if it was published in an established journal, not in some local rag.

I: Yes, yes.

E: This creates a big effect, especially if it a prestigious journal. Otherwise, if you want to aggressively promote your program, you should also come to us personally.

I: Okay, so personally, too.

E: Hm.

I: Okay. Good.

Interview 7

I: The first question is: What are the reasons you chose your current treatment methods for your treatment protocol?

E: Well, we offer therapies in terms of psychoeducative and psychotherapeutic groups. There are studies that show that psychoeducation regarding epilepsy lessens their complaints and thus improves a successful treatment and also treats the psychiatric and psychologic (aspects?) as well.

I: Okay, and do you see some needs or problems of your patients that are not addressed with your current treatment protocol?

E: Oh yes. Mostly for the patients that we do not treat stationary but only ambulant.

I: Hmhm.

E: And the in-patients that leave our setting to return home. There is definitely a gap in treatment.

I: I understand. And what would make you reconsider or redo your treatment protocol in general?

E: If there were new scientific cognitions, new programs, new therapy methods. We are always open for the implementation of something new into our current programs.

I: Okay, how do you decide about which new treatment method you integrate in your center in general? Like, who decides it?

E: It works like this: Every therapist-team informs itself in their respective specialist field. And if there are new ideas, they are discussed as a team and presented to the executives. And as a team process it will be decided, what we offer and what our staff is capable of. Sometimes the barrier is lack of personnel. We try to constantly renew, improve and add there.

I: Okay. What are the factors that lead to a discussion about implementing a new method? Just the fact that you are interested in a new method and talk to your team about it, or what are the factors?

E: Well, the more it is scientifically founded, the better. Like, for example if there is a study that shows positive results about a certain method, this is an important factor that influences the decision.

I: Okay. And does the, let's call it hierarchy, in your center, the process of finding a decision? Like, who has the final word?

E: Of course the final word has the head, in our case the head physician. But it is very collegial since the head physician of course cannot know everything in every area. So the lower hierarchic levels work up to him and communicate upward.

I: Okay. . Well, how much influence has the level of evidence and the profile of side effects in the matter of deciding whether or not to accept a new treatment method?

E: Well, this is of course an important factor, although you talk to a psychologist right now and we have a different risk profile than new pills for example. You see?

I: Yes.

E: But of course we would use critically reflected methods that got a lot of critic already, more cautious or not at all, compared to methods that are not that critical.

I: Okay. Do you have any insecurities about your current methods of treating epilepsy or are you happy with it?

E: Well, I think we offer a pretty huge spectrum, but I am sure that you can improve every offered method. I don't think we are all-embracing and do everything, but I guess we are pretty sure in what we do.

I: Hm. Okay. What partnerships do you have currently? Well, do you have partnerships with researching- or treatment programs?

E: We have our own research programs, together with the university clinic of Hamburg.

I: Hmhm.

E: We cooperate with children's hospitals in our region and, again with the clinic, on a clinical basis, with the surgery and neuroradiology. We have a close cooperation with our ambulant neurologist that live in our region and are referring to us. Also, specifically the neurosurgeons from Germany established a good network with epilepsy-centers. So there is of course cooperation.

I: Okay. And how exactly do you build up a partnership with another institution in your center?

E: I depends. Regarding our regional partnerships, here in Hamburg and surroundings, we talk about cases, call each other, hold conferences regularly. Visits will be held in all the houses. And with the colleagues from far away, where the cooperation is based more on theory than on patients, we are in contact via e-mail or annual meetings. Neuropsychologists for example meet twice a year as a workgroup in epileptology where the specialists exchange with each other.

I: Okay. What are your criteria a partner would have to meet in order to become your partner?

E: Different. It depends on the individual target. For example, this workgroup of neuropsychology made it its responsibility to standardize the diagnostic methods and therapy methods, to recommend them to new colleagues in order to create some kind of policy that anyone can follow. Can, but not mandatory. It is everyone's own business what he does with it.

I: Hmhm.

E: And for the regional partner, the usual reason is that we treat the patient together. Sometimes patients are diagnosed and treated in various clinics. So we work together or cooperate with those who treat them ambulant. So there are many different reasons.

I: Okay.

E: In the university clinic for example we have research projects, this is not about patients in that case.

I: Okay. And are there certain criteria that a cooperating organization would have to meet?

E: This varies from case to case.

I: Okay.

E: Regarding patients they should of course be experts. If it is about neuropsychology, they should be neurologists or neuropsychologists. There are subject-specific requirements and of course one has to work together on the subject of epilepsy.

I: Yes. Do you want some specific partners in the future? Or are you happy the way it is currently?

E: I am actually pretty pleased, but of course there is room for improvement. But I don't have special wishes.

I: Okay, here are the last questions already: What media are you using to personally get your latest information about new ways of treatment or innovations regarding healthcare?

E: We use internet a lot, newsletter, websites of individual specialist journals. Then, of course, e-mails with colleagues, like: "Did you read this awesome article already?"

I: So you also use buzz marketing?

E: Yes. There are newsgroups, where people can exchange with each other. Within the clinic there is a lot of word-of-mouth. Then we use specialist events, conferences, congresses, that's where we exchange.

I: Okay. And what kind of online- and offline-communication channels do you prefer, also with your partners? Is it more e-mail, phone, letter...

E: In house of course personal contact. For everywhere else I am a fan of e-mails, because you are freer in planning your time than via phone.

I: That's true.

E: If there is a patient right now, it is hard to pick up the phone.

I: The last question. Which kind of information distribution tools are the most effective in your opinion, regarding German health care or specifically regarding epilepsy?

E: Depends on whom you want to contact.

I: Okay.

E: For instance, you wouldn't reach patients via circular mail or specialist mailers, but epilepsy patients are very well organized via self-help groups. They have journals and e-mail mailing lists. There are self-help group that only work via e-mail, and the same goes for specialists.

I: So, reaching the centers you would also...

E: E-Mails, then specialist journals, like the German doctor's journal, you know? If you think about advertisement, there are also the specialist journals for epilepsy or a journal for epileptology in the German-speaking world. I guess you won't reach out enough with a general circular mail, but you should contact the specialist journals.

I: Okay.

6.4.1 Semi-structured interview with outpatient medical institutions

Interview 1

I: Okay, here's the first question: What are the reasons you chose your current treatment methods for your treatment protocol? Regarding epilepsy patients.

E: Well, personal experiences for one. Then we have research data, specialist lectures, recommendations from experts and we get a second opinion from epilepsy centers.

I: Okay, and do you see some needs or problems of your patients that are not addressed with your current treatment protocol?

E: Well, I don't know what is your idea about it, but there is no such thing as a specific protocol. There are different kinds of epilepsy that respond very individually to medication and then one has to consider comorbidities, age, pregnancy wishes and such things, and then you decide for the pill. There's no protocol for that.

I: Okay. So what would make you reconsider or work over your protocol, the treatment methods?

E: Well, that is always an individual decision. We have no stable plan for this.

I: Okay.

E: You see, if there is a new treatment method, a new pill, something that makes sense, that happens occasionally, then I implement it sometimes. You know, the study results were good, maybe even recommended by a specialist, so we try it out. Unfortunately with epilepsy there is a lot of try and error. So if the first substance didn't work, try the next. Usually there's a 60% chance that the first substance works. Then we take the next one, but then it starts to get more complicated. The next one is added, we have people that take 4 different antiepileptic drugs.

I: Okay, how do you decide about which new treatment method you integrate in your center in general? Like, do you decide it yourself?

E: Yes, in the end I have to decide, since I am the one medically liable. As SHI credited physicians we are also liable economically of course. So if I get a recommendation for a pill from another clinic or ambulance they don't have a problem, since they are only liable for what they prescribe

themselves. They are not SHI, so when they recommend something I have to separate it. I need to check if I can use it, otherwise at one point the examination council sends me a letter: "Well, explain this to us, it's about a couple of thousand Euros." I then have to explain why I prescribed something that probably is off label, like, not recommended by the insurances etc. So, it still is a good medication, but off label, you know?

I: Okay. Well, how much influence has the level of evidence and the profile of side effects in the matter of deciding whether or not to accept a new treatment method?

E: Well, it does influence, of course. First of all, you try to be on the safe side, right? Like, you have a backup pill that causes some severe side effects, so you would of course keep it as a backup, you know? So you wait until you have more experiences with it. You don't just prescribe the first pill that is praised to the skies from their agents or on a congress, because this usually doesn't kick in as fast in the field of epilepsy treatment. Usually you wait, observe, check the conditional approval for side effects "in real life". You know, during the approval phase are various patients, but usually it is about 400 - 1000 patients that try this specific pill. In real life it is suddenly about 30-40.000 patients. So you can wait at least for one year to see what other side effects pop up, you see?

I: Okay.

E: If it is not approved earlier already, but for epilepsy this is usually not the case. For other semiologic diseases, where I also work a lot in, we mostly have experiences with other clinical pictures, so you could see a connection and thus shorten the process. But with epilepsy, most of the medication is absolutely new developed for this sickness. So we wait and make our own experiences with smaller doses on a few patients, and see how they react to it. Usually the dose that is given by the study does not meet the own experience with treatment epilepsy. You have to develop a feeling for the right dose. It's a pretty conservative action, you know?

I: Okay.

E: And in epilepsy there are some pills that are well established already. They took about six to seven years until they reached that point. These are processes that just need a lot of time.

I: Okay. That is interesting. And do you have any insecurities about your current methods of treating epilepsy?

E: Yes, we have, but for the greater part we are satisfied with the results. Like, two third of the patients are doing fine, and one third is pretty difficult.

I: Okay.

E: These are the cases that need polypharmacotherapy . They have lots of trouble during everyday chores or can't be integrated socially or at work. They usually are preparing for epileptic surgery or other invasive treatments, stimulation treatment and other things to reduce the amount of seizures. You see, being seizure free is not a target anymore for them. They are already satisfied with having less seizures!

I: Hm. Okay.

E: And where the (?) are less. Like, from the sickness itself, or the social results, through medical side effects, they are usually mentally pretty stressed.

I: I see. Well, do you have partnerships with researching- or treatment programs? Do you have any at all?

E: We have partnerships with epilepsy centers. For example, luckily we have an epilepsy center here in Bochum, where we can refer most of our more complex cases to, so we work together on them. But it is not that they just go there after their next seizure. Usually not, you know. There has to be some serious trouble. First, they come to us. And we can't just refer them that easily, there are some

sign up forms, explaining all the reasons and so on. These are forms with many pages one has to fill out in order to make an appointment for them. In other words, it is totally overrun, overburdened and have lots of barriers to overcome, just to arrive there, you see?

I: Yeah.

E: So we have a shortage of epilepsy centers. I am glad we have one in Bochum and also in Bonn. Bonn is traditionally THE epilepsy center in Germany, maybe together with Erlangen, and I have a couple of patients that go there as well.

I: Okay. And how do you create a partnership? Do you simply meet and say: "A well, let's work together?"

E: Well, usually the epilepsy centers introduce themselves. Like, when in Bochum a new head physician starts, he introduces himself via lectures, and this results in the first contact. And as time goes by, it just happens via the patients, you know? We see, which of the epilepsy centers sorts our patients out and which actually treats them. They see who has a lot of epilepsy patients and who says that they have not that much to do with epilepsy, so they look for other neurologists, see? So this is a natural selection. Some cooperation happens when there are difficult cases and we have to phone a lot around.

I: And what are the reasons for a cooperation? Is it because you complement each other?

E: Yes. Absolutely. A simple basic mindset or a second mindset. We also do this in difficult cases, because usually the problem is to correctly name the type of epilepsy first. We have people that have more than one type of epilepsy, so the semiology has to find out where the seizure starts from. So sometimes it has to be checked topographically, maybe in the brain. This is a special EEG-check that we simply can't offer in our area here.

I: Okay.

E: You see? And then deciding with which medication or combinations one can work with, or if they need epileptic surgery. This are all things we can't really do, but in a clinic the patient can sit there for an hour or longer and gets asked a whole lot of questions to individualize his case. Then they can look for the right pill and recommend it. And THEN, we execute the program. Next we have these (?) therapies, that have very small doses and we have to execute them too, bearing in mind the side effects. Some patients need an in-house setting, just to be sure, see? They get a filmed EEG-monitoring, also overnight, sometimes a couple of days in a row. We can't do this kind of things here. For diagnostic purpose some patients simply need more than we can offer, so we have to cooperate.

I: Okay.

E: Often we have the problem with chronic epilepsy patients, that they start to develop psychogenic seizures after some time. Temporal lobes epilepsy is such a case, you can say that half of their seizure are not organic anymore, but psychogenic.

I: Okay.

E: Try and figure that out. The patient knows how their seizures run, so they copy it unconsciously, you see? The execution of the seizure is not different from the normal one, so an outstanding person doesn't notice at all at first. So they have to figure it out via respective EEG-diagnostics, that can last a couple of days, or even via provoking the patient until a psychogenic seizure appears. There are some tricks, you know? Like infusing him seizure reducing medication. We suggest the patient that he will now have a seizure, but we just infuse him a saline solution. This is just one model, we have a variety of them.

I: Okay.

E: This doesn't mean that he has no normal seizure in addition to it. But, if most of them are psychogenic, you would do him wrong to simply increase the amount of drugs or test drugs on him. But these are things you won't find out ambulatory. We can only assume and refer. You really need such a construct as backup.

I: Okay. Back to the partnerships. Do they have to meet certain criteria in order to become your partner?

E: Sure. They need to be qualified. If they are qualified, I would send my patients through half of Germany, without a second thought!

I: Okay.

E: So I would send patients to Hamburg, but lucky for us, we have two qualified centers nearby, so that's not necessary. But I wouldn't stress the factor of location too much. Of course it is nice that we do not have to send our patients to Munich all the time and thus come to us more often.

I: Okay. And do you have any wishes for partnerships in the future or are you satisfied the way it is right now?

E: Well, I am happy with the centers itself. But I would like to handle some of the barriers that we have to overcome all the time. So that we maybe get an appointment faster from those I consider our "partners". Of course it is not that easy if you can't get an appointment there anyway. The care pressure that we have here must be even worse there. You simply can't go to a neurologist like that. Of course, if you acutely have a problem, you can stay here immediately, but just calling us doesn't mean that you actually get an appointment.

I: Okay.

E: And the same happens in specialist centers. You can't just say: "Well, just go there and talk to them.", you see? You need some pretty good reasons, or it was the last time you were able to send someone to them.

I: Okay.

E: If they get the idea that we just brush them off, we don't care about our patients, then they close the doors.

I: Okay. Now to the last questions. What media are you using to personally get your latest information about new ways of treatment or innovations regarding healthcare?

E: Hm.

I: Do you use specialist journals or books, internet...

E: Mostly specialist journals.

I: Well, do you have some names for me? A special journal?

E: One of the best journals is "theANA" I am a member of the American neurologist association and receive this every other week. So, "theANA" is very good. Then we have a couple of German journals that are pretty good as well, which are updated pretty good. "Die aktuelle Neurologie (the current neurology)", "Der Nervenarzt (the neurologist)" and "Infoneurology" is also a pretty good summary, and one or two others that I am submitted to.

I: Okay.

E: And then there are congresses. In two weeks there's one in Philadelphia. A whole week, an advanced education congress with 1000 programs. They have update- courses you can sign yourself up for.

I: Okay. How much influence has buzz marketing for you?

E: You mean from pharma?

I: Yeah.

E: Yeah of course. They always support us with the latest news and data.

I: Okay. What offline- and online channels do you use the most to communicate with your partners? Is it more e-mail, phone, personal meeting?

E: With the partners it is written. Letters, mostly.

I: Okay. Which kind of information distribution tools are the most effective in your opinion, regarding German health care or specifically regarding epilepsy? For instance, when you want to promote a new method for epilepsy treatment? Is it more via specialist journals or congresses?

E: Yes, exactly. Publications in the best established German journals. I think, that this spreads fastest. And of course you constantly get e-mails, when you are submitted. But with e-mails it is difficult sometimes. When you fly somewhere you have to print them out and stuff. So I guess specialist journals will help for the best positioning.

Interview 2

I: Let's start. What are the reasons you added your current treatment methods to your treatment protocol?

E: Well, if you want to work ambulatory, you just have a few options. If you want to be licensed by the health Association of Statutory Health Insurance and want to be accepted by them, you can only choose between analytically funded methods or behavioral therapeutic methods, though within these methods are some more variations, but overall that's that.

I: Okay.

E: And I decided for cognitive behavioral therapy since I was always more into this topic, so I did the training. And that was the main reason.

I: Okay. And do you see any needs or problems your current treatment protocol does not cover, or do you think everything is covered with the methods you use?

E: Well, practically no therapist works with only one way of therapy. It is more like a focal point, and then you learn additional techniques like hypnosis or ENDER(?) or techniques of transaction analysis, so, very different things one can add to the protocol.

I: Hm hm.

E: Things that are useful and very necessary. Working only cognitively would not satisfy the patients.

I: Okay.

E: But that is the focal point, satisfying patients.

I: Okay. And what would make you reconsider or change your current treatment protocol?

E: Well, if I would focus more on certain kinds of clients, like patients that have relationship problems for instance, or patients with neurophysiologic disorders, I could not cover them with my current forms of therapy.

I: Okay.

E: So I would have to learn something new, like neurophysiology or nowadays there are also psycho-oncologic therapies. Of course sometimes I have cancer patients. But If I would focus on them I would still have to study into another subject.

I: Okay. And how do you decide which new method is going to be part of the protocol? Do you decide it yourself or...?

E: Yes, I decide it myself.

I: Okay. And how does the risks or insecurities about certain methods your decision? Especially regarding the evidence level or the side effects profile, do they effect your decision on including these methods in your protocol?

E: It simply depends on the diagnosis. It is always a matter of the diagnosis.

I: Do you have some partnerships with some research programs, treatment programs, other institutions etc? Like, do you work together with others, maybe send them your patients?

E: Oh yes, yes, yes. Definitely. There is the possibility for stationary therapies, or going to a day hospital, or working with a therapist that probably has a technique, especially with traumatized patients, that I don't use. So theoretically it is possible, since the patients pay it themselves, to be sent to another therapies for a certain amount of time and doing this other practice.

I: Hm.

E: Only they have to pay it on their own then, because our current laws state that a psychotherapy is bound to the therapist who had been granted the permission. So the patient says I want to have that therapist and then he is permitted by the health insurance for this specific therapist. He can't send in a bill for two different therapists treating the same situation at his insurance. That's impossible.

I: Okay. And what are the reasons you would build up a partnership with another medical institution?

E: Well, it is not really building up, that sounds too big. Things like this just happen according to the situation.

I: Hm.

E: Here's an example. I have a patient and somewhere along the line her clinical picture worsens due to some incidents, maybe in her private environment or regarding work. And this patient compensates, so one hour a week is not enough anymore, she needs more care. So I recommend her to put our therapy "on hold" for some time and go to a day-hospital, when I think it is necessary and good for the patient.

I: Okay.

E: But this is not built up anymore, these structures are given already.

I: Okay.

E: See, the possibilities were here in our country a long time ago already.

I: So, it is not like a hospital cooperating with other hospitals or certain research programs?

E: No, it is completely different.

I: Okay.

E: It is more that we all work together, hand in hand.

I: Hm.

E: See, I am a psychologist, when I have the impression that the patient would be better off taking antidepressants in addition to the therapy, then I would try to motivate him towards this. Not like: "Take it or I will stop working with you!", but more in a way of "See, It would really help you stabilize more." And when he decides to do it, I would sometimes personally call the psychiatrist to make an appointment for the patient, because sometimes it is very difficult otherwise.

I: Okay.

E: I would refer him, so to say.

I: Okay. So we already come to the last couple of questions. What kind of media do you use to inform yourself about new treatment methods or innovations in healthcare? Specialist journals or internet or books?

E: First of all, the professional association, followed by the psychotherapeutic, psychological association.

I: Hmhm.

E: And then of course there are the specialist magazines and information about brochures about advance training that are sent every year.

I: Okay. And do information of colleagues or buzz marketing play a role?

E: Nah, buzz marketing doesn't really, because you do not talk much with colleagues. You don't see them regularly, either.

I: Hmhm.

E: But it happens during a quality circle that someone says: "Hey, I did a seminar that I would like to show you." And then we are all happy of course.

I: Of course.

E: He explains it then and one or the other thinks about taking it as well, because it seems interesting. Or they don't, see?

I: Yes.

E: But that's not really buzz marketing. That's more an organized meeting. It is not that I meet someone at the grocery store and he says "Hey, there and there you should...", see?

I: Hmhm.

E: With buzz marketing I think of patients talking to each other, like "I know this therapist and she is wonderful - or awful..." But these organized meetings are for specialists and are there for the purpose of advance training and informing each other.

I: Okay.

B: That is vital. We like our group meetings in the circle. That's what the circle is for, meeting each other, saying "I did a seminar about topic therapy, it was awesome and I am going to continue" and the others are "Really? Who delivers it?" or "Where can I attend?", that kind of exchange, you know?

I: So, what are your preferred online- and offline methods of communication you use for your profession? Do you prefer email or phone?

E: What do you mean, offline methods?

I: Like, personal? Phone would also count as "offline". Like, everything that is not via internet.

E: I see. And communication with whom?

I: Well, in your profession, with colleagues or patients, you get it?

E: Well, I am not representing figures, but I can tell you. I communicate a lot in addition to the therapy session, also with my mobile. Patients can write me messages or if they want to make an appointment, they can reach me anytime over the phone.

I: Hmhm.

E: But only those that are in therapy already.

I: Okay.

E: And online, well, I don't communicate with my patients online, like, via email or so, only in grave emergency situations. Otherwise not, it would be way to much effort and I would likely lose track. Just imagine, I work seven hours and have to answer mails for three hours afterwards.

I: Yeah, that would be a bit too much.

E: That's not working. But what I do is informing a lot about things, like when a patient has social anxiety or is depressive and would be inactive, then I would try and find out what I could do in that case, what would fit for him.

I: Hm.

E: Like, what the patient could do in his spare time, to get out of that state. I do this more often, usually together with the patient.

I: Okay. On to the last question: Which kind of information dissemination tools or promotion tools are the most effective for German healthcare? As an example, if I would have a new method for handling epilepsy and I would like to make it known broadly, what would be the most effective? Should I publish an article in a journal? Or should I go to television? What do you think?

E: I think, at first the effectiveness should be proven. If that's not the case you can do anything you want to make it known, it won't be supported by the health insurances.

I: That's right of course. But which media should I use for it? Should I write an article and publish it in a journal that is read by epilepsy physicians?

E: Yes. If it is special for a certain kind of disease, the physician's journal would be best.

I: Hmhm.

E: Let's say it is a new therapy for epilepsy, what you just mentioned, a new psychotherapeutic method for epilepsy, then I would consider publishing it in a psychotherapist journal as well.

I: Aha.

E: It just wouldn't make sense, if the method is not already approved. I, for instance, would not be allowed to use it anyway then, because it wouldn't be funded by the health insurances. I am bound to use methods that have scientifically proven effects.

I: Hm.

E: Of course I could say "Well, I do it as a private person", see? Officially I am allowed to do that, but it would be somehow sleazy, see?

I: Ja.

E: A blind spot. The health insurance could accuse me of working under false pretences, because I am HI-physician. I have patients that trust me and I don't want to betray their trust by using methods that are not proven to be effective.

I: Okay.

E: You understand? That's pretty hard in Germany.

I: Yeah, that's true.

E: As a non-medical practitioner it is totally different.

I: Yes.

E: But as a HI-physician you are pretty bound. At least officially you have to be very cautious.

I: I see.

E: Where you also could try to make your method known is this new, also accepted, school of thought, called neurophysiology. They have their own specialist journal. Maybe they would like to publish an article?

I: Yes. But I see you guess it should be published in journals to be the most effective.

E: Yes. I made the experience that television is only propaganda, but nothing really ever comes out of it.

I: Absolutely.

E: I never heard that there was published a new method and patients would say: "Oh, so that is a new way, so let me go and check that out". See, that just doesn't happen.

I: Yes.

Interview 3

I: Let me start with my first question. What are the reasons you added your current treatment methods to your treatment protocol?

E: The current treatment methods?

I: Hm, hm.

E: Because I like them.

I: Okay. Good. Are there any other reasons?

E: Because I have the feeling that they help.

I: Okay. And do you see any needs or problems of your patients that that your current treatment protocol does not cover or are you quite satisfied?

E: With treatment protocol you mean everything that I am doing?

I: Hm, hm.

E: Medicine, talking etc.?

I: Yes.

E: In general?

I: Hm.

E: There are always things where I am sometimes more satisfied and sometimes less. That is very general. You would have to look into each individual aspects more differentiated.

I: Okay. And what would make you reconsider or change your treatment protocol?

E: I would wish that there would be even more abilities for me and methods, medication that are less interfering or that help better.

I: Hmhm.

E: This is a very general questioning. Of course you can look into every individual aspect. Where does it not work sufficiently or where is it more difficult, where do I wish more effective methods.

I: Okay. And now let's get to another topic area. How does the decision making regarding the integration of new treatment methods work in your doctor's office? So, who decides about what methods will be integrated or practiced?

E: I decide on that.

I: Hmhm. Only you along or is this discussed with the team?

E: Basically that's my decision. Yes.

I: Okay.

E: If I discover or read or notice something and I think that it fits to my concept then I incorporate it. Yes.

I: And what are the factors that lead to the discussion about the integration of a new method or in your case that you think about this?

E: That I, first of all, recognize a new method and notice it.

I: Hmhm.

E: That somebody talks with me about it or that I discover it and that I have the impression that this could help my patients.

I: Hmhm. Okay. And how does the risks or insecurities for example regarding the evidence level or the side effects profile of a specific method, influence your decision whether to integrate this or not?

E: This is an important aspect. If it is very likely that it has more side effects or is not as compatible, then I would not simply incorporate it.

I: Hmhm. Okay. And do you have any kinds of insecurities regarding the current treatment methods of epilepsy? Or are you –

E: That I am what? The Uncer – what did that mean?

I: Uncertainties. If you have uncertainties –

E: Uncertainties?

I: Hmhm. Regarding –

E: If I am satisfied or what?

I: Well, if you have any kind of uncertainty, well, if you are satisfied with these or if there is anything where you are uncertain if they are really effective, specific methods for epilepsy.

E: Certainly there are, in my view, in the conventional medicine or the common medicine, the medical treatments and a bit of life style consultation. And that is of course relatively little. And because of that I am unsatisfied with it and want to expand it with the help of other treatment methods.

I: Hmhm. Okay. And now about the topic of partnerships. Do you have any? Does your doctor's office have any kind of partnerships with treatment programs or research programs or hospitals or?

E: There is a research program with Herdecke I am connected to-

I: Hmhm.

E: -in (?). And we are connected with a clinic in the Mistel research.

I: Hm.

E: Clinic Öschelbronn. These are the essential connections. Then there is of course a big doctor's office with nine or ten different partners with whom we are connected.

I: Okay. And how does the partnership building process function here? Did you just decide at a certain point that – Why do you have these partnerships?

E: We have the first partnership with the clinic Öschelbronn because the doctor's office was established out of the clinic Öschelbronn.

I: Hmhm.

E: And the second with Herdecke is there because I am interested in the topic of migraine and I thought about one question I want to work on with Herdecke.

I: Hm.

E: And the third is that with the Mistel research, where we are interested, also via the clinic, in research questions about the Mistel.

I: Okay, And what are the criteria that your partnering organization should meet? Are there any specific criteria?

E: That it fits to our concept. That it is oriented integrative and that it is open for new approaches, just a certain orientation that goes beyond the usual.

I: Okay. And are there any partnerships that you would desire for the future? Or are you satisfied with what you have?

E: Uh. Yes. At the moment I am satisfied (laughs), I have a lot to do and-

I: Hm.

E: - but I can also imagine to take part at a project as e.g. that what Rosa is doing, -

I: Hm.

E: I think that is interesting. I am very open in that but do not have any new idea because the ideas we work with keep us busy.

I: Okay. Good. Then let us talk about the next topic area. What kind of media do you use to inform yourself about new treatment methods and innovations in the health care sector? Are these professional journals, professional books or, I don't know, the internet?

E: Exactly. So, there are professional journals, congresses, internet, exchange between colleagues. That are the basics.

I: Okay. And the online- and offline- communication channels with which you communicate, are these then email and exchange with colleagues etc. as well? Or?

E: Email, internet, telephone, -

I: Telephone.

E: - personal contact, going there, having a conversation. We also have a quality circle.

I: Hmhm.

E: There are very different levels.

I: Good. And now the last question. Which kind of information dissemination tools or channels are the most effective for German healthcare in your opinion, and specifically in the epilepsy sector? With information dissemination tools I mean, do you think it makes sense e.g. to publish an article in a professional journal or does it make more sense to tell doctors something about this method in person? Or what do you think about that?

E: I find it hard to judge the most effective. I would have the perceived order: personal response, professional journal, congress. So. Firstly, secondly, thirdly.

I: Okay. Good.

6.5 German interview transcripts

6.5.1 In-depth interview with expert

I: Ja, was können Sie mir über Ihre Erfahrung über die Entscheidungsfindung deutscher Ärzte, z.B. Neurologen, Psychologen, ähm, in Bezug auf neue Behandlungsmethoden in der Epilepsie sagen?

E: Ähm, also Sie meinen jetzt, ähm, also wie die sich jetzt dafür entscheiden sozusagen?

I: Genau. Also, ob Sie da positiv oder negativ eher eingestellt sind. Also, was so, also was so Ihre Erfahrung ist.

E: Ähm, also jetzt was psychologische Methoden angeht, ähm, gibt es bei, bei sehr neurologisch orientierten Kollegen eine große Skepsis, weil Sie das für unwissenschaftlich halten, vor allem deshalb, weil es sich mit dem derzeit herrschenden Epilepsiebegriff beift. So, ne? So, wo gesagt wird, dass eben bei Auftreten von Anfällen nichts mit den Lebenszusammenhängen der betroffenen Menschen zu tun hat. Ne? Also, das ist ja quasi auch so mit der Definition der Epilepsie gesagt.

I: Hm.

E: Und, und deswegen, ähm, denken die meisten Neurologen, also das psychologische Methoden oder psychotherapeutische Methoden helfen können bei der Krankheitsbewältigung, aber dass das kein Mittel ist, um gegen die Anfälle was zu tun.

I: Okay.

E: Das ist bei psychosomatisch orientierten Ärzten, die also auch die Patienten anders befragen, ähm, die sehen das schon anders. Ja? Aber, die, die klassischen Neurologen, möchte ich jetzt mal so sagen, die sind da eher sehr skeptisch und zurückhaltend.

I: Okay. Und was denken Sie, wäre eine Veranlassung von diesen skeptischen, ähm, Neurologen z.B. ihr Behandlungsprotokoll zu ändern? Also, was würde die überzeugen, dass die das ändern würden

und solche Methoden akzeptieren würden oder denken Sie, das ist eher unwahrscheinlich, dass das überhaupt passiert?

E: Na ja, ich meine, wir müssten, wir müssten uns eben auch, was, was diesen Wissenschaftsbegriff angeht, müssten wir uns auch mal auseinandersetzen, meine ich. Also, wie der eigentlich zustande gekommen ist, also das reflektierten ja viele Leute gar nicht mit.

I: Hm.

E: Weil die Hauptaufgabe der Ärzte ist eben Diagnosen zu stellen und wenn die Diagnose im Kasten ist, dann wird ja eben auch eine Behandlung darauf aufgebaut.

I: Ja.

E: Ne? Also, das ist ja im Moment, ähm, ähm, so ein Vorgehen in der Medizin. Und dann wird darüber, wie diese Definition der Epilepsie zustande gekommen ist, gar nicht mehr nachgedacht.

I: Okay.

E: Also, das ist eine Erfahrung von mir. Sondern, ähm, da wird dann davon ausgegangen, das ist rein Neuro und und, ähm, und damit ist die Sache dann eben erledigt. Ne? Und, und ich mein, ich hab ja meine Dissertation darüber geschrieben -

I: Ja.

E: - und da kritisiere ich ja gerade, dass dadurch, dass eben eine bestimmte Vorannahme getroffen wird, dann auch gar nicht mehr mit den Patienten darüber geredet wird, was die Anfälle möglicher Weise gefördert haben könnte und dann wird auch nicht mehr über Aura - Unterbrechung oder überhaupt über Aura jetzt, jetzt mit dieser Perspektive, dass man eine Aura auch unterbrechen kann, geredet, -

I: Hm.

E: - sondern dann wird das nur noch getan, um, um die Epilepsie zu diagnostizieren. Ne? Und, und dadurch findet die Auseinandersetzung mit, mit dem Potenzial, was eigentlich jetzt in psychotherapeutischen Behandlungen drin steckt, die findet überhaupt nicht mehr statt. Also, die wird dadurch auch quasi abgeschnitten. Das berichten ja auch sehr viele Patienten, die sehr irritiert über diese, über diese Gespräche sind. 'Die z.B. davon erzählen wollen, wodurch sie meinen, dass der Anfall ausgelöst geworden sein könnte, dann, dann gibt es ja viele Neurologen, die gern sagen: „Machen Sie sich darüber keine Gedanken, das spielt bei Epilepsie überhaupt keine Rolle.“' Also, es gibt quasi sogar ein aktives Ausreden, ähm, von, von, ähm, von den Dingen, die jetzt mit diesen (? 4.31 Min.) da gefördert werden sollen.

I: Genau.

E: Ne?

I: Okay. Und was denken Sie, was gibt es für Faktoren, die jetzt zu einer Diskussion darüber führen könnten? Also, ähm, ob man das nun -

E: Ja, ich denke, wir müssten klar stellen, wie dieser Epilepsiebegriff zustande gekommen ist, -

I: Hm.

E: - warum der auch, ähm, historisch gesehen sich erst mal so durchsetzen konnte. Und, und zwar hatte das damit zu tun, dass eben auch die Patienten, ähm, sich rehabilitiert fühlten. Also, die galten ja bis in die 60iger Jahre hinein, war die, war die Epilepsie so eine ganz dubiose Erkrankung, also das war so im Bereich der Psychiatrie.

I: Hm, hm.

E: Und, und viele Menschen mit Epilepsie wurden für geisteskrank gehalten. Und im Nationalsozialismus war es ja auch noch so gewesen, dass, dass Menschen mit Epilepsie sterilisiert wurden. So. Weil ja gedacht wurde, das ist eine Erbkrankheit. Dann, also die Krankheit ist immer

demobilisiert worden. Und dann kamen zwei Medikamente auf den Markt damals, das Carbamazepin und die Valproinsäure. Und vielen Menschen konnte durch dieses Medikament gut geholfen werden. Und das war so ein Hinweis, dass es ja doch eine neurologische Erkrankung ist. Und dadurch fühlten sich die Patienten rehabilitiert.

I: Hm, hm,

E: Ne? Das war für die sehr positiv, eben jetzt nicht mehr psychiatrisch und stigmatisiert zu sein. Ähm, ähm, und die Ärzte hatten jetzt natürlich plötzlich was in der Hand, was gegen diese dämonische Krankheit half. Und, und das hat eben diesen Blick auf die Krankheit total verändert. Und dann ist eben ab der 90iger Jahre, einmal sind da viele neue Medikamente auf den Markt gekommen und zweitens hat man dann gesehen, man kann es auch operieren. Also man kann eben Zellen raus nehmen und dann dadurch bessert sich das Anteilsbild und es werden Patienten anfallsfrei. Und damit ist ja die Epilepsie noch mal z.T. der Neurochirurgie geworden und damit zur Königsdisziplin überhaupt, ähm, in der Medizin. Und das gibt natürlich auch wieder, ähm, das eröffnet natürlich auch wieder, ähm, ähm, den, den, ähm, den, ähm, den Weg also zu Forschungsgeldern u.s.w.. Ne? Also, ähm, ähm, da gibt es viele gemeinsame Interessen zwischen Patienten und Ärzten, ähm, eben dieses Krankheitsbild erst mal, ähm, dann als, als so neurologisch anzusehen. Ne? Aber -

I: Ja.

E: - mittlerweile ist wieder auch eine gewisse Ernüchterung eingetreten. Ne? Ähm, also, also die Medikamente, viele neue Medikamente halten nicht das, was sie versprechen. Und mit den Operationen sind wir auch nicht mehr nur glücklich.

I: Hm.

E: Ja? Also, im Moment gibt es schon so einen Punkt, wo sich das Paradigma wieder verändern könnte, weil, weil, ähm, eigentlich, also ich nehme das so wahr, dass eine gewisse Ernüchterung eingetreten ist, also auch bei der Vagusnervstimulation oder der tiefen Hirnstimulation, ähm, da, da tauche eben doch sehr viele Probleme auf mit denen man so nicht gerechnet hat. Und deshalb ist vielleicht im Moment auch so eine gewissen Umbruchsstimmung da. Also, das ist zumindest eine Hoffnung von mir.

I: Okay. Und denken Sie auch, das Ungewissheit bezüglich neuer Methoden, wie die z.B., ähm, auch ein Faktor sind, die, die Entscheidung dagegen z.B. beeinflusst?

E: Ähm, welche Methoden jetzt?

I: Also, die psychotherapeutische Methode, ähm, Behandlung von Epilepsie z.B.. oder diese Andrews-Reiter Methode z.B.. Denken Sie, dass Ungewissheit da auch eine Rolle spielt, dass eben manche Ärzte dagegen sind, die aufzunehmen in ihr Protokoll? Oder wie sehen Sie das?

E: Na, die haben natürlich auch wenig Erfahrung damit.

I: Ja.

E: Ne? Also, es gibt ja viele Neurologen, die, die eben jetzt nicht psychiatrisch oder psychotherapeutisch ausgebildet sind. Ähm, ähm, und die haben da natürlich auch Berührungsängste. Ne?

I: Ja.

E: Und das passt auch nicht in deren Praxisalltag rein. Also, die haben ja eben für Patienten eine gewisse Zeit zur Verfügung, ähm, also, ich glaube, es sind acht Minuten oder nur fünf Minuten, ähm, also so ist das ja kalkuliert, damit eine Praxis wirtschaftlich läuft.

I: Hm.

E: Und wenn man denn da anfängt sich über anfallsfördernde Faktoren auszutauschen, ähm, ähm, dann, dann schafft man das ja gar nicht. Ne?

I: Ja.

E: Sondern es wird da eigentlich nur gefragt oder ich möchte sagen, kann fast nur gefragt werden: „Wie war es mit dem Medikament? Haben Sie weiter Anfälle? Sind die Anfälle weniger geworden?“. Und dann wird überlegt, ändert man das Mittel, ändert man die Dosierung und, und dann ist das Gespräch eigentlich auch schon wieder vorbei. Ne?

I: Hm.

E: Und, und für solche Dinge, ähm, müsste man im Grunde auch noch, ähm, den Neurologen, ähm, erst mal eine Schulung geben. Ne? Und dann müsste man denen auch die Möglichkeit geben, in ihrer Praxis beispielsweise mal eine halbe Stunde mit ihrem Patienten, ähm, über einen Anfall zu sprechen. Ne?

I: Ja.

E: Und die Zeit haben die gar nicht. Ja, das ist eben auch ein großes Problem.

I: Okay. Und ja, mein zweites Hauptthema ist so der Partnerschaftsaufbau von deutschen Ärzten oder medizinischen Institutionen, weil Andrews-Reiter ja gerne Partnerschaft in Deutschland aufbauen würde. Können Sie mir da irgend etwas sagen, über die, ähm, ob Sie wissen, ähm, was für Wünsche, ähm, diese deutschen Ärzte oder, ähm, medizinischen Institutionen hätten oder, ja generell? Also, ob das für sie interessant wäre überhaupt. Oder was sind Ihre Erfahrungen dort ist?

E: Na ich meine, viele Ärzte nehmen schon wahr, dass Epilepsiepatienten, ähm, ähm, auch einen größeren Gesprächsbedarf haben, als, als andere neurologisch erkrankte Patienten. So, ne?

I: Hm.

E: Also und dass sie eben durch die Anfälle sehr verunsichert sind. Und wenn es da etwas geben würde, wo, wo sich jetzt Ärzte, ähm, wo sich dann Patienten eben hinwenden würden, das würde die Neurologen sicher sehr erleichtern.

I: Okay.

E: Ja? Also, das, das würde die Behandlung, ähm, sicher, ähm, auch vereinfachen. Ne?

I: Okay.

E: Also, ein Interesse kann ich mir durchaus vorstellen.

I: Okay. Und ähm, ja dann ist mein drittes Thema ja so Marketingkommunikation, weil ich eben aus der Richtung komme auch.

E: Hm.

I: Ähm, könnten Sie mir da irgend was sagen, was Sie denken, sind die Mittel mit denen man diese Methode z.B. - wie soll ich sagen – also Informationen über diese Methode am besten verbreiten könnte in Deutschland bei den Ärzten? Also, was gucken die sich an? Journale oder? Sie haben ja z.B. auch ein Buch geschrieben.

E: Hm.

I: Ja. Also, was, was denken Sie da?

E: Also, bei Büchern sind sie eher zurückhaltend.

I: Hm, hm. Okay.

E: Die sind in der Regel zu dick, zu lang.

I: Okay.

E: Ne? Ähm, Journale, ähm, also, das, das wäre schon besser.

I: Hm, hm.

E: Ne? Ähm, also wenn man da eben über die Methodik möglichst einfach und ähm, möglichst nachvollziehbar, ähm, ähm, also, wenn man das möglichst einfach und nachvollziehbar beschreibt. Ähm, wichtig ist, dass nicht der Eindruck entsteht, ähm, und das ist ja auch nicht intendiert von

dieser, von diesem Ansatz, -

I: Hm, hm.

E: - dass die Medikamente gar keine Rolle mehr spielen, sondern, sondern, dass das eben eine Zusammenarbeit ist zwischen, zwischen Neurologe und Psychotherapeut. Ne?

I: Ja.

E: Wobei das natürlich auch Konsequenzen für die Behandlung haben kann. Aber, ähm, der Eindruck sollte nicht entstehen, dass man, dass man jetzt meint, mit dieser Methode dann ohne Tabletten auskommen zu können oder so. Ne? Also das wäre ja auch verfehlt.

I: Ja also als Zusatzmethode wäre das dann ja -

E: Genau, als Zusatzmethode.

I: Hm.

E: Ähm, gut wäre sicher, wenn man, wenn man, ähm, ähm, im Internet, ähm, Informationen, ähm, hätte, die sowohl für Ärzte als auch für Patienten -

I: (*längere Pause*) Hallo?

E: (*längere Pause*) Hören Sie mich noch?

I: Ja jetzt wieder. (*lachend*)

E: Ah, okay. Ich weiß nicht, ich weiß nicht, woran das jetzt lag.

I: Kein Problem.

E: Ähm, also ich hatte gesagt, dass man eine gute Internetseite bauen könnte -

I: Hm.

E: - sollte, wo Informationen, ähm, nachzulesen sind auf der einen Seite, aber auch Informationen für Patienten dann, dann vorhanden wären.

I: Okay.

E: Ähm, dass das eine gute Methode wäre. Ja, so was in der Richtung.

I: Okay.

Additional comments made after recording was stopped:

-> A/R needs more evidence (studies) to convince doctors

-> Some people put stones in A/R way

6.5.2 Semi-structured interview with stationary medical institutions

Interview 1

I: Die erste Frage ist: Was sind die Gründe, warum Sie die derzeitigen Behandlungsmethoden in Ihr Behandlungsprotokoll aufgenommen haben?

E: Ähm, das habe ich gar nicht verstanden, die Frage.

I: Okay. (*kurzes Lachen*) Entschuldigung. Also, was sind die Gründe, warum Sie Ihre derzeitigen Behandlungsmethoden in Ihr derzeitiges Behandlungsprotokoll aufgenommen haben?

E: Ähm, tja, na, die derzeitigen Behandlungsmethoden sind ja bei uns, ähm, vorwiegend, ähm, Antiepileptika.

I: Hmhm.

E: Dann, ähm, ähm epileptisch resignativ chirurgische Maßnahmen bzw. minimal versive chirurgische Maßnahmen. Das, die Gründe sind natürlich zum Ersten natürlich, ähm, das es ähm, ähm, empfohlen wird -

I: Hm.

E: - oder das es die Erfahrungen sind, die man, die man hat, bezüglich der antiepileptischen Medikation, ähm, und die wissenschaftlichen Standards. Ähm, das kommt als Erstes und als Zweites, ähm, ähm, kommen pathophysiologische Konzepte, die, die, ähm, ähm, von denen wir oder wo wir einen begründeten Verdacht haben, ähm, wissenschaftlich unterfüttert, dass, ähm, die Patienten weniger Anfälle bekommen, durch diese Maßnahmen. Ähm, das letzte, andere Standbein ist halt das, ähm, psycho – das psychosomatische Standbein, wobei das bei uns aufgrund von strukturellen Bedingungen relativ, ähm, relativ wenig ausgestaltet ist.

I: Okay. Und sehen Sie Bedürfnisse oder Probleme bei Ihren Patienten, die durch das gegenwärtige Behandlungsprotokoll nicht berücksichtigt werden?

E: Ähm, oder, also ich würde sagen, nicht, nicht, ähm, immer (*kurzes Auflachen*) -

I: (*kurzes Auflachen*) Okay.

E: Ich meine, Dinge, die ich nicht weiß, die kann ich natürlich nicht berücksichtigen.

I: Hm.

E: Ähm, ich will aber eher sagen, von denen Dingen, die ich weiß, ist, dass wir z.T. zu wenig als, ähm, Manpower dafür haben.

I: Ja.

E: Ne? Also, das ist, ähm, also Epilepsie ist ja ein sehr komplexes Krankheitsbild, wo Sie letztendlich ein großes Team für brauchen -

I: Ja.

E: - und wenn wir nur eine kleine Abteilung sind, können wir das z.T. nicht anbieten. D.h., wir müssen das dann, ähm, über, ähm, andere, größere Epilepsie -

I: Ja.

E: - zentren anbieten.

I: Okay. Und was würde Sie dazu veranlassen, Ihr Behandlungsprotokoll zu überarbeiten bzw. zu ändern

E: Ähmmmm, zum einen, ähm, neue wissenschaftliche Daten bezüglich Effektivität und Effizienz.

I: Hmhmm.

E: Das ist sicherlich das Wichtigste. Ähm, zum anderen, ähm, ähm, Patientenbedürfnisse, ähm, die also geäußert werden von diesen aktiv oder von Patientenorganisationen. Ähmm, ähm, was denn noch? Also, das wäre, ja oder, ähm, neue, sagen wir mal, neue pathophysiologische Erkenntnisse, die wir in Deutschland, ähm, -

I: Hm.

E: - noch nicht hatten.

I: Okay. Und, ähm, wie läuft die Entscheidungsfindung bezüglich neuer Behandlungsmethoden in Ihrer Klinik ab? Eine sehr generelle Frage, aber wichtig.

E: Ja, die sind alle sehr generell.

I: Ja (*kurzes Lachen*)

E: Ähm, Sie meinen jetzt, wer entscheidet das oder meinen Sie, ähm, ähm -

I: Ja, also wie wird darüber entschieden. Wird das im Team besprochen oder entscheidend Sie das als Leiter allein? Oder -

E: Das entscheide ich vorwiegend als Leiter alleine.

I: Hm.

E: Bei neueren Maßnahmen bzw. auch bei Personalbedarf, muss ich natürlich Rücksprache mit meinem Chef halten und manchmal kann ich mich auch nicht durchsetzen.

I: Ja. Okay. Und was sind die Faktoren, die zu einer Diskussion zu einer neuen Methode in das Protokoll z.B. führen würden? Wäre das einfach, dass Sie z.B., ähm, weiß ich nicht, eine neue interessante Methode irgend wo entdecken? Oder was wären das für Faktoren?

E: Ähm, Faktoren sind einmal, ähm, die Bedürfnisse, die sich, ähm, oder Notwendigkeiten, ähm, die sich ergeben durch die, ähm, ähm, durch den Kontakt mit dem Patienten. Ähm, und natürlich, ähm, die, die, ähm, ja, neuen Ergebnisse, die wir haben und die man dann halt diskutiert. Ne? Ja?

I: Hmhm.

E: Wobei grundsätzlich immer gilt, dass die, ähm, das natürlich immer das, was am bekanntesten und ältesten ist, ähm, wo man am meisten Erfahrung hat, wo die gleiche Evidenzklasse besteht, ähm, Vorrang hat.

I: Okay. Und inwieweit beeinflussen Risiko und Ungewissheit, also jetzt in Bezug auf das Evidenzlevel und das Nebenwirkungsprofil einer neuen Methode, ähm, Ihre Entscheidungsfindung darüber, also ob Sie sie aufnehmen würden oder nicht?

E: Ich habe es akustisch nicht, Risiko?

I: Ja, das ist eine sehr lange Frage. (*kurzes Lachen*) Ähm, ja, inwieweit beeinflussen das Evidenzlevel und Nebenwirkungsprofil, also Risiken oder Ungewissheiten, die Sie hätten von einer neuen Methode, Ihre Entscheidungsfindung darüber, ob Sie die integrieren würden oder nicht?

E: Ähm, das ist natürlich genauso wichtig, -

I: Ja.

E: - wenn das Risiko zu hoch ist, z.B. das (*? 05:17min.*) operative Risiko, dann machen wir es natürlich nicht.

I: Hm.

E: Ähm, es gibt manchmal Situationen, in denen ich das dann mit Patienten einfach bespreche. Ja?

I: Ja.

E: Also, ich sehe mich dann mehr als Berater. Und wenn ich, ähm, also wenn ich den Patienten dann sa- also sage: „Hören Sie, hier haben Sie ein höheres Risiko, aber wir erwarten eine höhere Wahrscheinlichkeit, dass es bei Ihnen funktioniert.“, dann ist das immer eine Abwägungssache, die man mit dem Patienten zusammen besprechen muss.

I: Hm. Okay.

E: Und es gibt, also als Beispiel, es gibt Patienten, die sagen: „An meinen Kopf kommt keiner ran.?“. Ja?

I: Okay. (*kurzes Lachen*)

E: Selbst wenn er klassischer Weise eine (*?05:59min*) – Sklerose hat, auf der rechten Seite, das wäre ja ein einfaches Beispiel. Ne? Wenn also auch die (*?06:05min*) – Diagnostik stimmt, wäre, hätte, ich sage jetzt mal, der Patient eine 90%ige Chance auf Anfallsfreiheit.

I: Hmhm.

E: Ja? Ähm, natürlich, ähm, gibt es ein nicht reversibles Risiko, das ist, dass die Operation schief läuft -

I: Ja.

E: - ne? Ne? Das ist zwar sehr gering, ähm, extrem gering, aber das gibt es ja. Das muss ich mit dem Patienten besprechen. Beim Medikament, wenn er jetzt schon das dritte hat, ist die Chance, dass er anfallsfrei wird, für ein Jahr 10% vielleicht, sagen wir mal, -

I: Hm.

E: - wenn er Glück hat, 20, ja? Da ist natürlich das Risiko, dass eine Operation schief geht, aber dafür ist die Chance, dass er anfallsfrei wird für einen längeren Zeitraum, wesentlich geringer. Und das

bespreche ich mit dem Patienten.

I: Ja. Ja.

E: Das entscheiden die dann individuell.

I: Okay. Und haben Sie haben Sie, ähm, Ungewissheiten der derzeitigen Behandlungsmethoden von Epilepsie?

E: Ungewissheit gibt es immer.

I: Okay.

E: Ich meine also, (*kurzes Auflachen*)-

I: Ja klar. (*kurzes Auflachen*)

E: Wie meinen Sie das?

I: Also, ähm, ja, haben Sie vielleicht Ungewissheiten indem Sinne, dass Sie denken, bestimmte Behandlungsmethoden sind viel effektiver als andere und -

E: Ja klar.

I: Okay.

E: Und da gibt es auch Ungewissheiten indem Sinne, das ist immer kompliziert zu erklären, ähm, wie die Güte der Evidenzklasse ist. Es gibt ja formale Kriterien, wie man Evidenzklassen einteilt, ähm -

I: Hmhm.

E: - das werde ich Ihnen wahrscheinlich nicht sagen müssen, sondern da ist ja noch die Frage, wie, ähm, also wie sicher sind die Daten, die erhoben worden sind. Ne?

I: Hm.

E: Als bestes Beispiel, ähm, können Sie nehmen z.B., ähm, die, wenn sich jetzt ein Patient dafür entscheidet, der pharmacoresistant ist und ähm, zwischen Vagusnervstimulation und (? 07:48min.) - stimulation z.B. -

I: Hm.

E: - und er ist für beides zugelassen und wäre ein Kandidat dafür, dann gibt es für Vagusnervstimulation eine wesentlich größere, also, also Anzahl von, ähm, Studien, deren Wirksamkeit belegen, -

I: Hmhm.

E: - im Vergleich zur tiefengrund (?) Stimulation. Das ist ein wahnsinnig großes Feld. Ja? Ein unterschiedliches Verhältnis. D.h., die, also die Evidenzklasse mag die gleiche sein, ja? -

I: Ja.

E: - aber die, die außer kraft ist, ähm, geringer, ähm. Und das muss man, das muss man halt auch diskutieren.

I: Ja. Ähm, und jetzt kommen wir zu Fragen über Partnerschaften. Also, hat Ihre Klinik momentan Partnerschaften mit Forschungs- oder Behandlungsprogrammen oder generell, was für Partnerschaften -

E: Ja, wir haben Kooperationen mit mehreren Kliniken.

I: Hm.

E: Also, mit mehreren Epilepsie – Zentren. Wir selber sind ja nur ein ganz kleines Epilepsie - Zentrum, aber wir haben Kooperationen mit einigen Epilepsie – Zentren.

I: Okay. Und wie funktioniert dort, also wie funktioniert der Aufbau mit einigen Partnerschaften mit Ihrer Klinik und anderen Kliniken? Wird sich da einfach bei Interesse, ja, wird sich da einfach kontaktiert oder wie, wie -

E: Ja genau. Also, man kennt ja gut, also das ist ja so wie immer. Ne? Man kennt sich und dann, und dann gibt es eine gewisse Vertrauensbasis und aus der kann dann etwas entstehen, was, nicht? -

I: Ja. (*kurzes Lachen*)

E: Ja, das ist so das eine, die zwischenmenschliche Ebene. Und dann natürlich das, ähm, das eine Vernetzung auch sinnvoll ist, ähm, ähm, ähm, regional betrachtet.

I: Hm. Hm.

E: Also, für die Patienten ist ja wichtig, dass sie nicht durch das andere Ende der Republik gefahren werden, um irgend eine Methode zu bekommen, nur weil man sich gut kennt.

I: Hm.

E: Ja? Ähm, das ist natürlich immer der andere Aspekt, der auch immer eine große Rolle spielt. Also, dass man versucht, ähm, ich sage mal, eine Vernetzung herzustellen mit den Epilepsie – Zentren, die, ähm, ja, in der Nähe sind.

I: Also, spielt die Geografie auch eine Rolle.

E: Ja natürlich.

I: Okay. Und was sind die spezifischen Gründe, weshalb Sie mit einer Organisation oder einer Klinik eine Partnerschaft aufbauen würden? Ist es das, dass die vielleicht bestimmte Methoden anbieten, die Sie nicht anbieten oder ist es -

E: Genau.

I: Okay.

E: Also, genau. Ne? Das ist das Hauptkriterium sicherlich.

I: Okay.

E: Also, erst mal Qualität, ähm, dass ich davon selber überzeugt bin, dass dieses Zentrum sehr gute Arbeit macht -

I: Hm.

E: - sind auch notwendige Bedingungen. Dann, ähm, ist es vorwiegend natürlich etwas, das wir entweder nicht leisten können und umgekehrt, dass wir etwas leisten können, das, ähm, das jeweilige Zentrum nicht leisten kann. Das gibt es auch.

I: Hm.

E: Ähm, ähm, oder, was es ja auch gibt, dass Kapazitäten, also dass die Kapazitäten einfach anders sind. Ähm, ähm, was es auch gibt, ein gutes Beispiel ist, dass, ähm, ähm, also z.B. für eine psychosomatische Behandlung ist es hier bei uns in Sachsen- Anhalt ist es so, dass die Patienten immer am einfachsten nach, ähm, nach, ähm, nach, ähm, nach Bernau fahren.

I: Ja.

E: Das ist am einfachsten dahin zu kommen. D.h., die meisten Patienten entscheiden sich, wenn ich ihnen anbiete, in Glauchau gibt es ja auch noch ein großes, ein großes Psychosomatik und in Bielefeld.

I: Hm.

E: Und dann entscheiden sich die Patienten meistens für Bernau, weil sie da am einfachsten hinkommen.

I: Ja.

E: Ne? Das ist so ein Beispiel, ähm, wo ich sagen würde, da ist die, die, die, also die Kooperation und die Qualität gleich gut, aber die Patienten entscheiden sich halt meistens dafür, (*ein wenig lachend gesagt*) weil es sehr nahe ist -

I: Ja.

E: - oder sehr gut erreichbar ist.

I: Okay. Und was für Partnerschaften würden Sie sich für die Zukunft wünschen für Ihre Klinik? Gibt es da irgend wie welche oder sind Sie zufrieden?

E: Könnten immer besser sein.

I: Ja.

E: Na, ich würde mir halt noch engere Verzahnungen wünschen. Ich würde mir wünschen, ähm, das es Vernetzung nicht nur von einzelnen, also, bislang habe ich den Eindruck, dass es immer so läuft, dass ein Zentrum sich vernetzt mit anderen -

I: Hm.

E: - ja? Aber, ne? Aber es sind sozusagen da, aber es läuft keine Rückkoppelung. Wissen Sie? Also, es gibt kein richtiges sich selbst, ähm, verstärkendes Netz, sondern das sind immer Einzelpersonen oder Einzelzentren, die dann mit anderen Zentren was tun, aber das ist nicht so, dass sich so eine Art Netz bildet.

I: Ja.

E: Ich weiß nicht, ob ich mich richtig ausdrücke. Ähm, das wäre sicherlich wünschenswert und das andere, das wünschenswert wäre, wäre ein größerer Austausch zu einzelnen Patientenfällen. Das fände ich auch gut. Das passiert meistens aufgrund von Mangel, aufgrund von Zeitmangel nicht.

I: Hm. Okay. Jetzt kommen auch schon die letzten Fragen zum Themenbereich. Also, was für Medien benutzen Sie, um sich über neue Behandlungsmethoden oder Innovationen im Gesundheitswesen zu informieren? Mit Medien meine ich, ähm, Fachjournale, ähm, ja, Kongresse?

E: Ja. Also, so meistens über Internet -

I: Internet.

E: - ähm, oder Kongresse.

I: Ähm, und was für eine Rolle spielen Mundpropaganda und Empfehlungen von Kollegen? Ist das, spielt das eine Rolle?

E: (*hustet*) Ähmm, das hängt von dem Kollegen ab, -

I: Okay.

E: - was der macht und was ich für ein Vertrauen habe.

I: Ja.

E: Ähm, es gibt je die Situation, ähm, das, ähm, neue Verfahren sozusagen gerade in der Erprobung sind, aber noch nicht, ähm, ähm, noch nicht, noch nicht publiziert sind.

I: Hm.

E: Ähm, das spielt aber eigentlich eine untergeordnete Rolle, weil meistens, das ist für mich wichtig, weil meistens werden sie ja dann später wissenschaftlich vorgestellt.

I: Ja.

E: Also, oder zumindest im Kongress, so vorgestellt und dann gewinnt man ja einen Eindruck. Also, ich würde sagen, dass die ersten Beiden wesentlich wichtiger sind als das Dritte.

I: Okay. Und was sind die online und offline Kommunikationskanäle, mit denen Sie am liebsten kommunizieren, z.B. mit Ihren Partnern? Ist das eher Email oder Telefon oder persönlich?

E: Am liebsten telefonisch (*kurzes Lachen*)

I: Telefonisch, okay.

E: (*lachend gesprochen*) - oder persönlich, wenn das geht.

I: Ja.

E: Email geht sonst auch, aber das sind ja meistens komplexere Sachen, da muss man ein gewisses Grundverständnis geben, ähm, und dann schreibt man da stundenlang Emails.

I: Ja, das stimmt.

E: Am liebsten, wie gesagt, telefonisch oder persönlich.

I: Okay. Und die letzte Frage. Welche Art von Informationsverbreitungsmitteln sind Ihrer Meinung

nach am effektivsten im Deutschen Gesundheitswesen und spezifisch im Epilepsie sektor? Also, wenn man z.B. eine Methode, ja, bewerben ist jetzt , ja, weiß ich jetzt nicht, ob man das in dem Sektor so nutzt, aber -

E: Kommunikation meinen Sie und nicht Therapie? Ne?

I: Ja, genau. Einfach wie, wie bewirbt man eine, ähm, Behandlungsmethode am effektivsten, meinen Sie?

E: Ja, das kommt drauf an, was Sie meinen. Also, wenn Sie meinen, dass ich eine Behandlungsmethode innerhalb der Fachkreise bewerbe, ist sicherlich Kongress und Publikation am wichtigsten.

I: Hmhm.

E: Ähm, wenn Sie meinen, wie kann ich Patienten oder Niedergelassene davon überzeugen, dass bestimmte Behandlungsmethoden gut oder interessant sind, ähm, dann sicherlich, ähm, dann sind auch sicherlich andere, ähm, Sachen irgend wie, wie Informationsveranstaltungen sowie Fernsehbeiträge wichtig.

I: Okay.

Interview 2

I: Dann fange ich einfach mal an. Ähm, welche medikamentösen und welche nicht medikamentösen Behandlungsformen für Epilepsie bieten Sie an?

E: Wir bieten das komplette Spektrum aller medikamentösen Behandlungsoptionen bei der Epilepsie an.

I: Hmhm.

E: Für Patienten mit chronischen Epilepsien, aber natürlich auch für Notfallpatienten, die wegen eines Status bei uns zur Behandlung kommen. Orale Therapien, intravenöse Therapien. Daneben bieten wir auch die Vagusnervstimulation an.

I: Okay. Ähm, und wie identifizieren Sie Bereiche in Ihrer Klinik, wo Sie denken, die bräuchten Verbesserung? Und wie würden Sie Strategien nachgehen, um diesen, ja, Bedürfnissen nachzugehen? Gibt es überhaupt Bereiche, wo Sie irgend etwas vermissen, behandlungsmäßig?

E: Na, wir haben einen großen Einflussbereich von Epilepsie - Patienten und ähm, haben, ähm, eine gute Möglichkeit an einer inter monitoring – Überwachung von Epilepsie - Patienten. Was uns aber fehlt, ist die invasive Diagnostik - Möglichkeit.

I: Hmhm.

E: So (? 01:14 min.)

I: Okay. Ähm, bieten Sie eine Epilepsiekomplexbehandlung an?

E: Das können wir nicht anbieten. Nein.

I: Okay. Ähm, und was sind die Gründe, weshalb Sie Ihre derzeitigen Behandlungsmethoden in Ihr Behandlungsprotokoll aufgenommen haben?

E: Wir möchten mit den Möglichkeiten, die wir hier haben, Patienten in einer großen Region eine sehr gute Behandlungs-, ähm, - aussicht, ähm, schaffen. Weil Patienten, bei den wenigen Patienten, bei denen eine invasive Diagnostik möglich ist und notwendig ist, ähm, sind wir allerdings darauf angewiesen, mit anderen Einrichtungen zu kooperieren. Wir kooperieren da vor allem mit der Einrichtung in Bethel.

I: Okay. Und ähm, sehen Sie Bedürfnisse oder Probleme bei Ihren Patienten, die durch das gegenwärtige Behandlungsprotokoll nicht berücksichtigt werden?

E: Ich denke, wir haben immer noch genug Möglichkeiten, um Patienten ambulant zu behandeln. Das hängt mit der Besonderheit der ambulanten Versorgungsstruktur in Deutschland zusammen. Sie rufen ja jetzt aus Holland an, da wird das sicherlich anders sein. Ähm, wir können Patienten auf Zuweisung von niedergelassenen Neurologen behandeln lassen. Ähm, vielleicht wäre es günstig, wenn es eine direkte Zuweisung auch von Hausärzten geben könnte. Ne? Das können wir aber, allein aus Kapazitätsgründen, allein gar nicht machen.

I: Okay. Und was würde Sie generell dazu veranlassen, Ihr Behandlungsprotokoll zu ändern oder zu überarbeiten?

E: Wenn wir, ähm, wenn wir einen größeren Bedarf jetzt stellen würden, ähm, auch an invasiven Therapieformen.

I: Okay.

E: Ähm, und wenn sich die Aussicht für eine invasive Therapie auch überzeugender darstellen würde, würden wir da sicherlich mal eine Anstrengung machen. (? 03:30 min.)...

I: Okay. Und wie findet die Entscheidungsfindung bezüglich der Integration neuer Behandlungsmethoden in Ihrer Klinik statt? Also, wird das im Team entschieden oder-

E: Ja.

I: Okay.

E: Ja, also ich bin ja der Klinikdirektor -

I: Ja.

E: - aber mein, ich habe mich auch schon seit Jahren mit der Epileptologie auseinander gesetzt. Es gibt auch eine Oberärztin, ähm, die, ähm, das Feld, ähm, sehr kompetent bearbeitet. Und, ähm, wenn es jetzt darum ginge, neue Behandlungsformen zu etablieren, würden wir sicher jetzt da gemeinsam darüber sprechen und uns auch in der Klinik insgesamt ein neues Bild, ähm, einen neuen Eindruck verschaffen.

I: Okay. Und was sind die Faktoren, die zu so einer Diskussion führen würden? Also, ob man jetzt eine neue Behandlungsmethode integrieren möchte oder nicht?

E: Ja, z.B. wenn wir auf Kongressen oder in Publikationen etwas, ähm, ähm, hören würden oder von etwas Nachricht bekommen würden, was die Behandlung von Patienten entscheidend verbessert.

I: Okay. Und wie, ach so -

E: Die Diagnostik entscheidend verbessert.

I: Okay. Entschuldigung. Ähm, inwiefern beeinflussen das Evidenzlevel und das Nebenwirkungsprofil in Bezug jetzt in Bezug auf eine neue Behandlungsmethode Ihre Entscheidungsfindung, ob Sie diese aufnehmen würden?

E: Ja, sehr stark.

I: Sehr stark?

E: Ja.

I: Hmhm.

E: Wir richten uns in den Behandlungen, die wir durchführen, immer nach der bestmöglichen Evidenz und das spielt eine ganz große Rolle.

I: Okay. Und haben Sie jegliche Ungewissheiten bezüglich der derzeitigen Behandlungsmethoden von Epilepsie? Oder sind Sie überzeugt, dass die wirksam sind für, ja, den Großteil der Patienten?

E: Letzteres ist der Fall. Ja, ich bin davon überzeugt, -

I: Hmhm.

E: - ähm, dass die Möglichkeiten, die wir hier anbieten, auch den allermeisten Patienten helfen.

I: Ja.

E: Nicht allen Patienten, aber ich denke mal, das hat auch niemand behauptet. Das kann auch niemand behaupten.

I: Hm. Okay. Jetzt kommen Fragen zu Partnerschaftaufbau, ähm -

E: Vielleicht, vielleicht möchte ich noch eine Sache ergänzen, -

I: Ja?

E: - was sicherlich auch ein anderes Problem darstellt, ist die Behandlung von Patienten mit Anfallsleiden, die aber nicht epileptischer Art sind. Ähm -

I: Okay.

E: - und ich denke, das ist ein Thema, was an vielen Epilepsie - Einrichtungen auch immer wieder im Vordergrund steht und, ähm, da würde ich sicherlich eine verbesserte , eine Notwendigkeit für eine verbesserte Behandlung zunächst einmal in der Diagnostik sehen. Ähm, dann aber auch im Nachgang, ähm, fehlen Versorgungsstrukturen, um Patienten behandeln zu können, die nicht epileptische, ähm, allenfalls psychogene Anfälle haben.

I: Okay. Ähm, was für Partnerschaften haben Sie momentan? Oder hat Ihre Klinik Partnerschaften mit Forschungs- und Behandlungsprogrammen? Oder gar nicht?

E: Ähm, ich bin nicht sicher, ob ich die Frage richtig verstehe? Also, wir haben, wir kooperieren mit mehreren auch spezialisierten Einrichtungen.

I: Hmhm.

E: Eine hatte ich schon genannt, -

I: Ja.

E: - in Bethel. Das sind aber informelle Partnerschaften, wir haben eigentlich keine formalisierten Kooperationen.

I: Okay. Ähm, und was für Partnerschaften würden Sie sich für die Zukunft wünschen? Sind Sie zufrieden mit denen, die Sie momentan haben oder würden Sie -

E: Ich würde mir eigentlich schon wünschen, dass es eine Partnerschaft mit einer anderen Einrichtung gibt, die an wissenschaftlicher Kooperation interessiert ist.

I: Okay.

E: Und ähm, das was ich eben über Bethel sagte, ist, ähm, natürlich rein auf die klinische Versorgung der Patienten fokussiert. Ähm, da geht es darum, besonders schwierig zu behandelnde oder besonders aufwendig zu behandelnde Patienten, klinisch zu versorgen, aber mich würde auch eine wissenschaftliche Kooperation mit einer Einrichtung, die auch an neuen Therapieverfahren arbeiten, auch sehr interessieren.

I: Okay. Und was sind die spezifischen Gründe, weshalb Sie mit einer Organisation überhaupt eine Partnerschaft aufbauen würden? Also, Sie haben gesagt, einmal Forschung, ähm, ja, gibt es da noch mehr Gründe?

E: Ich denke, dass wir hier einen großen, ähm, einen großen Einzugsbereich haben, so dass wir sicherlich auch ein attraktiver Partner, auch aufgrund unserer wissenschaftlichen Ausrichtung und Infrastruktur für andere sein können.

I: Hmhm.

E: Und das die Möglichkeiten in einer wissenschaftlichen Zusammenarbeit immer auch von Dimensionen abhängen. Dimensionen jetzt im Hinblick auf die Zahl der Personen, die an Epilepsie erkrankten und beteiligt sind, aber sicherlich auch in der Dimension in Bezug auf die Anzahl der Epilepsiekranken, um, ähm, ähm, den Einzugsbereich, ähm, den bestimmte Einrichtungen abdecken. Bestimmte Fragestellungen lassen sich eben nur mit Zahlen allein beantworten.

I: Hm.

E: Da ist es natürlich notwendig, dass man mehrere Einrichtungen zusammen bringt.

I: Okay. Und jetzt kommen auch schon die letzten Fragen. Ähm, was für Medien benutzen Sie sich, ähm, was für Medien benutzen Sie, um sich über neue Behandlungsmethoden und Innovationen im Gesundheitswesen zu informieren? Sind das Fachjournale oder Kongresse -

E: Ja.

I: - oder?

E: Also, überwiegend Fachjournale, aber auch, ähm, Vorträge. Ähm, hier eingeladene Vorträge bei uns, aber vor allem eben auch auf Kongressen.

I: Okay.

E: Das sind so die Wesentlichen.

I: Und was für eine Rolle spielen Mundpropaganda und Empfehlungen von Kollegen? Spielt das eine große Rolle? Oder?

E: Eine geringe Rolle eigentlich.

I: Okay. Ähm, und was sind die online und offline Kommunikationskanäle, mit denen Sie am liebsten kommunizieren in Ihrem Beruf und auch mit Partnern? Ähm, ja, mit den Partnern, die Sie haben, z.B. Bethel oder? Sind das, ist das eher Email oder Telefon oder?

E: Hm, Email und Telefon. Ja. Also, Email ist vielleicht das am stärksten genutzte Medium.

I: Okay. Und jetzt die letzte Frage. Ähm, welche Arten von Informationsverbreitungsmitteln oder Kanälen sind Ihrer Meinung nach am effektivsten im Deutschen Gesundheitswesen und spezifisch jetzt im Epilepsiesektor?

E: Hm. Na, ich denke, viel Kanäle, die genutzt werden, sind Fernsehen und ähm, die neuen sozialen Medien werden wahrscheinlich da eine besonders große Bedeutung haben.

I: Hmhm.

E: Ja. Ich denke eher nicht Druck erzeugendes oder Veranstaltungen, sondern Fernsehen und soziale Medien.

I: Okay.

Interview 3

I: Ähm, ich fange mal mit der ersten Frage an. Welche medikamentösen und nicht medikamentösen Behandlungsmethoden für Epilepsie bieten Sie in Ihrem Zentrum an?

E: Also, medikamentöse Behandlungsmethoden, soll ich da die Antiepileptiker aufzählen?

I: Ja einfach, also was bieten Sie für ähm, Behandlungsmethoden an im Zentrum für Epilepsie, ganz allgemein einfach.

E: Also, ich denke medikamentös halt sicherlich alles, was es an Antiepileptiker gibt. Ähm, wir machen in Kooperation mit der Uni auch Vagusnervstimulation und auch in Kooperation mit der Uni operative Verfahren. Und dann machen wir Therapie, sowohl einzeln, in Einzelgesprächen und zweitens auch tiefenpsychologisch, je nach Kollegen.

I: Hmhm.

E: Ähm, wir machen an Gruppenangeboten eine (? 1:00min) ...gruppe, so speziell für, für die Menschen mit Epilepsie. Ja, ich weiß nicht, ob die ganzen Therapien da jetzt schon mit rein gehören?

I: Hmhm. Ja, also -

E: Ansonsten Entspannungsgruppe, Achtsamkeitsgruppe, ähm, soziales Kompetenztraining und Epilepsie – Basisschulungen, das ist angelehnt an das Moses – Programm.

I: Okay. Ja, davon habe ich auch schon gehört. Ja, und wie identifizieren Sie Bereiche in Ihrem Zentrum, wo Sie denken, die ähm, bräuchten Verbesserung und wie entwickeln Sie Strategien dafür? (längere Pause) Also,

E: Ja?

I: - irgend eine Methode, die Sie vielleicht, die Ihnen vielleicht fehlt oder -

E: Ja, da muss ich kurz ein bisschen überlegen. Also, -

I: Kein Problem.

E: - hm, was, was wir immer überlegen ist, ob wir noch zusätzlich mehr also spezifisches Gruppenangebot machen.

I: Hmhm.

E: Ähm, zum einen - ich weiß jetzt nicht, ob das da mit rein gehört – wir haben ja auch Patienten mit nicht epileptischen dissoziativen Anfällen, da fragen wir uns immer, ob wir eine (?) 02:10min.)gruppe anbieten sollten oder auch eine Selbstkontrollgruppe für Menschen mit Epilepsie.

I: Okay.

E: Ähm, ob das überhaupt Sinn macht, das so sehr zu unterscheiden, fragen wir uns. Und also, solche Prozesse besprechen wir im Grunde stationsintern.

I: Okay.

E: Also, wir haben da, ja, Teamgespräche oder auch eine, ja, AG, im Grunde.

I: Okay. Und Sie bieten eine Epilepsie - Komplexbehandlung an?

E: Ja.

I: Okay. Und was sind die Bestandteile Ihrer Epilepsie - Komplexbehandlung?

E: Das ist im Grunde, ähm, entscheiden wir individuell bei den ganzen Sachen, die ich aufgezählt habe.

I: Hm.

E: Also, dazu kommt noch Ergotherapie, Gestaltungstherapie, ähm, Physiotherapie, Sporttherapie.

Ja?

I: Hm.

E: Also, jetzt vielleicht, ja, weniger im epilepsiespezifische Sachen, da teilen wir, ähm, individuell zu, wer teilnehmen muss.

I: Okay.

E: Oder darf.

I: Okay. Und -

E: Also, wir rechnen nicht nach DAP ab, wir rechnen nach Tagessätzen ab, so dass es nicht so speziell dargelegt ist, was und wie machen wir es.

I: Okay. Und was denken Sie, welche Patienten profitieren am meisten von dieser, ähm, Komplexbehandlung? Gibt es da Tendenzen des -

E: Also, wir hoffen, dass am meisten die pro – ähm, wie war das Wort?

I: Profitieren.

E: Profitieren, danke. (kurzes Lachen) also, die, die neben einer schwer behandelbaren Epilepsie auch eine psychiatrische Komorbidität haben. Also, das ist eigentlich unsere, finden wir so, unsere Hauptzielgruppe.

I: Okay.

E: Also, dass wir das eben mitberücksichtigen, nicht allein die Epilepsie behandeln.

I: Okay. Ähm, und was sind die Gründe, weshalb Sie Ihre derzeitigen Behandlungsmethoden in Ihr Behandlungsprotokoll aufgenommen haben?

E: Hui, ganz unterschiedlich.

I: (*kurzes Auflachen*) So ganz einfach die Hauptgründe.

E: Also gut, ich denke, na ja, so die ganze medikamentöse Behandlung, das ist ja klar.

I: Hm.

E: Ähm, ich kann vielleicht von meiner Seite sagen, ich mache das soziale Kompetenztraining, ich bin ja Verhaltenstherapeutin -

I: Hmhm.

E: - ähm, da denke ich, dass die Menschen, die unter Anfällen leiden, egal an was für Anfällen leiden, da erschweren Bedingungen haben durch Überbehütung, Sonderrollen und so was. Und ich da denke, dass es besonders sinnvoll ist, soziale Kompetenz zu trainieren, Achtsamkeitsgruppe und ja, ich denke auch Entspannungsgruppe. Die körperliche Therapie geht vielleicht schon in die Richtung einer verbesserten, einer verbesserten Wahrnehmung von körperinternen Prozessen oder auch oder auch der Umgebung, die vielleicht auch, wenn der Körper etwas macht, was man nicht oder nur schwer kontrollieren kann, -

I: Hm.

E: - wichtig sind. So denke ich.

I: Okay. Und sehen Sie Bedürfnisse oder Probleme bei Ihren Patienten, die durch das gegenwärtige Protokoll nicht berücksichtigt werden?

E: Ja immer.

I: (*kurzes Lachen*) Okay.

E: Also, also ich denke, es gibt, also es gibt Patienten, nach deren Geschmack müssen die hier zu viel machen.

I: Hm.

E: Und es gibt Patienten, nach deren Geschmack müssen die zu wenig machen. Also, das ist natürlich sehr, da ist nicht der Bedarf bei allen gleich. Wir haben z.T. Pflichtangebote, da müssen alle teilnehmen, egal ob die vielleicht nur zu einer Umstellung kommen wollten. Und den Rest machen wir schon individueller. Aber es gibt immer, finde ich, Patienten, die könnte man, die könnten von noch viel mehr Therapien profitieren. Also, also psychotherapeutisch oder, oder auch nicht so ganz – oder auch sporttherapeutisch oder wie auch immer.

I: Hm.

E: Also, das ist immer individuell, aber man könnte immer mehr machen.

I: Okay. Und was würde Sie dazu veranlassen, Ihr Behandlungsprotokoll zu überarbeiten bzw. zu ändern?

E: Tja, also zum einen jetzt z.B. noch mal spezifischere Gruppen anzubieten. Ähm, ich denke, das sind, das sind auch Teamprozesse, inwieweit wir uns das zutrauen -

I: Hm.

E: - von der, von der Besetzung her. Wie weit sich auch, das Pflege -, das Pflegepersonal sich traut da mitzugestalten, weil wir das nicht alles von psychologischer, ärztlicher Seite machen können. Also, da, ich denke schon, dass da Fortbildungen helfen.

I: Hmhm.

E: Aber auch dann, ja, so ein bisschen der Sprung ins kalte Wasser. Also, ich finde, dass schon auch positive Rückmeldungen von den Patienten, mit dem, was ihnen gut getan hat, immer motiviert und auch vielleicht ein Überdenken lässt, ob man da, ob man da noch mehr macht. Und viele von den Angeboten finde ich sind auch, also sind personell auch bedingt.

I: Ja.

E: Wenn jemand neues kommt, der hat eine gute Idee. Also, so ist beispielsweise die Achtsamkeitsgruppe bei uns entstanden. Das hat ein Kollege als Konzept mitgebracht und dann haben wir sie taktiert.

I: Okay, ähm, gut. Dann kommen wir jetzt zu einem anderen Thema. Ähm, wie läuft die Entscheidungsfindung bezüglich der Integration neuer Behandlungsmethoden in Ihrem Zentrum statt? Also, -

E: Hm.

I: - wer entscheidet dort und -

E: Wir entscheiden im Stationsteam.

I: Okay.

E: Also, also, das sind nicht Entscheidungen, die der Chef trifft, -

I: Hmhm.

E: - ähm und sondern in unserem Stationsteam sind wir im Grunde, ähm, zwei bis drei Ärzte mit Teilzeit, ich als Psychologin und dann, ja, Stationsleitung von der Pflege oder auch noch andere Therapeuten. Und wir entscheiden relativ basisdemokratisch. (*kurzes Lachen*)

I: (*kurzes Lachen*) Okay.

E: - würde ich sagen. Ja.

I: Okay. Gut. Und was sind die Faktoren, die zu einer Diskussion führen würde, ob man jetzt eine neue Methode integrieren soll oder nicht?

E: Wir, also, also oder nicht, denke ich, entscheidet immer die Personaldichte (*kurzes Lachen*) -

I: Okay.

E: - also, wenn es dann heißt: „Das schaffen wir nicht.“, ähm, ja, also nicht einfach nur so heißt sondern wir es nicht schaffen und nicht gestemmt kriegen. Und ich denke, Ideen sind immer wieder, ja, die man von irgend wo mitbringt. Also, von Besuchen anderer Zentren oder von Fortbildungen oder eben von Kollegen, die irgend was besonders gut können. Wir haben eine traumatherapeutisch ausgebildete Ärztin, die dann auch wieder Ideen hat für ähm, -

I: Hm.

E: - irgend welche Gruppen oder Methoden -

I: Okay.

E: - das wird dann so reingetragen.

I: Okay. Und wie sehen die hierarchischen Strukturen in Ihrem Zentrum aus? Also, beeinflussen die auch die Entscheidungsfindung? Also, wer, wer hat das letzte Wort am Ende?

E: Ja also, letztendlich haben wir schon, ähm, einen Arzt auf Station, der eigentlich die Stationsleitung sicherlich im Papier inne hat.

I: Okay.

E: Ähm, der würde das aber nicht entscheiden, alleine.

I: Okay. Ähm, und wie weit beeinflussen das Evidenzlevel und das Nebenwirkungsprofil jetzt in Bezug auf eine Behandlungsmethode Ihre Entscheidungsfindung, ob Sie sie aufnehmen würden oder nicht in Ihr Protokoll?

E: Ja, ja, ja, ich hab, ich überlege. (*kurzes Lachen*)

I: Ja, kein Problem. (*kurzes Lachen*)

E: Ähm, hm, also ich muss gestehen, dass ich zu vielen Sachen nicht wirklich gute Studien kenne, -

I: Hmhm.

E: - die jetzt wirklich da, da belegen. Also, ich erinnere mich von der Entspannungsgruppe, da haben wir schon, als wir die eingeführt haben auch recherchiert, ob es da was gibt zu Epilepsiepatienten. Ähm, das war so relativ mager.

I: Hmhm.

E: Und ich, also, ich glaube, ich hoffe, dass wir es mitbekommen würden, wenn es gute Evidenz bei neuen Verfahren gibt, denke ich aber eigentlich schon.

I: Okay.

E: Und das würde mich schon beeinflussen. Aber ich glaube bei vielen, gibt es dann einfach doch nicht wirklich so was spezifisches.

I: Okay. Und haben Sie Ungewissheiten bezüglich der derzeitigen Behandlungsmethoden von Epilepsie?

E: Das habe ich nicht verstanden.

I: Ähm, ob Sie, ähm, Ungewissheiten haben bezüglich der derzeitigen Behandlungsmethoden der Epilepsie.

E: Ach so. Ähm, Ungewissheiten. Jetzt so ganz allgemein bezüglich aller verschiedenen Therapien, ja?

I: Ja.

E: Also, ich finde eigentlich, also, was ich für psychotherapeutisch sinnvoll halte, das halte ich auch für sinnvoll, wenn jemand jetzt zusätzlich oder auch eine Epilepsie hat. Also, ich finde nicht, dass man jetzt bestimmte therapeutische Verfahren nicht machen sollte, weil jemand eine Epilepsie hat.

I: Hm.

E: Also, ich kenne z.B. Kliniken, dass die sagen: „Entspannungsgruppe geht nicht, wenn jemand eine Epilepsie hat.“. Das ist, halte ich für Quatsch.

I: Hmhm.

E: Ähm, und aber natürlich gibt es z.T. auch als Selbstkontrolle spezifischere Methoden. Also, jetzt allgemein psychotherapeutische Diagnosen, die wenig sinnvoll ist.

I: Okay. Und was für Partnerschaften haben Sie momentan? Also, hat Ihr Zentrum Partnerschaften mit Forschungs- und Behandlungsprogrammen?

E: Hm. Also, wir haben eine Kooperation mit der Uniklinik in Dresden.

I: Hmhm.

E: - mit der (? 12:21min.) und Neurochirurgie. Das betrifft vor allen Dingen das chirurgische Epilepsieprogramm. Dann hatten wir, haben wir mit einer psychosomatisch arbeitenden Klinik in Dresden Kontakt, also im Sinne von, das ist jetzt nicht eine enge Kooperation, aber wir haben z.B. mal Pflegepersonal ausgetauscht, zur gegenseitigen Fortbildung.

I: Hmhm.

E: Und dann gibt es sicherlich einen relativ engen Kontakt, ähm, zu den anderen Epilepsiezentrren. Also, Bete (?), Tergau, Bernau, Herzberge -

I: Hmhm.

E: - am wichtigsten zu nennen vielleicht.

I: Okay. Und wie funktioniert der Aufbau von Partnerschaften mit anderen, ähm, Institutionen?

E: Wir haben, was jetzt die Epilepsiezentrren angeht, einmal so auf psychosomatisch psychotherapeutischer Ebene ein Treffen im Jahr.

I: Hmhm.

E: Also, wo wir an einem Wochenende zusammen eine Tagung gestalten. Ähm, oh Gott, jetzt bin ich entsetzt, dass ich überhaupt noch nicht die Neuropsychologie erwähnt habe! Das machen wir auch. (kurzes Lachen)

I: Okay.

E: Und auch da, gibt es einen Arbeitskreis, ähm, der einmal im Jahr stattfindet mit den anderen Epilepsiezentren zusammen.

I: Okay.

E: Ja, ich denke, das ist, was die, also dann, es gibt auch Hospitationen. Ja, ich habe z.B. mal zwei Wochen in Bete (?) gearbeitet. Oder da Besuche, die vielleicht eher so themenspezifisch sind.

I: Okay. Und und was sind die spezifischen Gründe, warum Sie mit einer Organisation eine Partnerschaft überhaupt aufbauen würden?

E: Also, zum einen, ähm, - salopp gesprochen - wenn die was können, was wir nicht können, -

I: *(kurzes Lachen)* Okay.

E: Also, die Uniklinik Dresden ist klar, weil bei uns wird nicht operiert.

I: Hmhm.

E: Also, wir haben ja keine Neurochirurgie und deswegen brauchen wir natürlich Kooperationspartner -

I: Hmhm.

E: - für die Epilepsiechirurgie. Ähm, und die Kooperation mit den anderen Epilepsiezentren sowohl neurochirurgisch als auch psychotherapeutisch, denke ich, ist Horizont erweiternd. Und ich lerne von denen, ich halte die für kompetent.

I: Hmhm.

E: Und eben auch, ähm, also psychotherapeutische Behandlung von Menschen mit Epilepsie ist ja jetzt nicht so sehr verbreitet. Also, es gibt ja nicht so sehr viele Menschen, die das machen.

I: Ja.

E: Und da ist es einfach interessant, denke ich und sinnvoll, sich da zusammen zu tun.

I: Okay. Und was sind die Kriterien, die Ihre Partnerschaftskooperationen erfüllen müssen? Gibt es da irgend wie bestimmte Kriterien?

E: Also, wir, na ja, die müssen schon Erfahrung und Interesse an Menschen mit Epilepsie haben. D.h., ich finde auch ein gewisses, auch neurologisches, also so eine Kombination von Neurologie und Psychiatrie und Psychotherapie, ähm, das, das finde ich sehr interessant.

I: Okay. Und was für Partnerschaften wünschen Sie sich für die Zukunft für Ihr Zentrum? Gibt es da irgend welche?

E: Ja, also es wäre schon schön, wenn es mehr vor Ort gäbe. Also, vielleicht auch Partnerschaften mit ambulant niedergelassenen Therapeuten, weil es sehr schwierig ist, die Patienten zu vermitteln.

I: Hmhm.

E: Also, die Therapiezentren sind ja alle sehr weit weg. *(kurzes Lachen)*

I: Ja.

E: Und ja, also eine Niederlassung wäre super. Und ich würde mir auch, da sind wir auch noch nicht besonders erfolgreich, eine engere Kooperation mit einer psychosomatischen Reha wünschen.

I: Okay.

E: Also, weil wir manchmal auch Rehabehandlungen empfehlen oder auch anbieten und das nicht immer erfreulich läuft.

I: Okay. Ja, ähm, dann kommen wir auch schon zum letzten Fragenblock. Ähm, was für Medien benutzen Sie, um sich über neue Behandlungsmethoden und Innovationen im Gesundheitswesen generell zu informieren? Sind das eher Fachzeitschriften oder Kongresse oder?

E: Also, ja, zum einen Fachzeitschriften. Wir haben auch immer so einen, also so einen klinikinternen Austausch einmal die Woche, wo das Aktuellste vorgestellt wird, so dass man nicht alles selber lesen muss. Und dann Kongresse, Arbeitskreise, Tagungen.

I: Hmhm. Und was für eine Rolle spielen Mundpropaganda und Empfehlungen von Kollegen in diesem Zusammenhang?

E: Eine große, schon, ja -

I: Okay.

E: - Rolle.

I: Okay. Und was sind die online und offline Kommunikationskanäle mit denen Sie am liebsten kommunizieren mit potentiellen Partnern oder generell?

E: Was soll das sein, Kommunikationskanäle? Also, wie ich mit denen kommuniziere?

I: Ja.

E: Mit den anderen per Mail sicher am meisten.

I: Hm.

E: Ist es so gemeint?

I: Ja, Emails.

E: Ja, ja, ja. Am ehesten per Mail.

I: Okay.

E: Selten mal Telefon. Oder dann am liebsten natürlich auf einer Tagung live, aber das ist meist nur einmal im Jahr.

I: Ja.

E: Also mit externen Kollegen.

I: Okay. Und dann die letzte Frage. Welche Arten von Informationsverbreitungsmitteln sind Ihrer Meinung nach am effektivsten im Deutschen Gesundheitswesen und spezifisch jetzt im Epilepsiesektor? Also, wenn man z.B. eine neue Methode hat oder, ja, einfach eine neue Methode und man möchte Leute erreichen im, ähm, Epilepsiesektor, wie sollte man das anstellen?

E: Ja, also ich denke, sicherlich schon werden irgend wie die epilepsiespezifischen Zeitschriften gelesen, aber ich denke auch, dass der Kreis nicht so groß ist, dass nicht auch Tagungen Sinn machen. Also, es gibt ja die Ledertagung einmal im Jahr, die ich schon sehr medizinisch finde, ähm, und vielleicht ein bisschen wenig psychotherapeutisch. Da würde ich mir mehr wünschen.

I: Hm.

E: Aber trotzdem denke ich, die Leute, die in dem Bereich etwas zu sagen haben, die sind da.

I: Okay.

E: Ist ja nicht so ein allgemeineres Fach, wo die Tagungen riesig sind oder die Kongresse, sondern ich denke, dass sich in vielen Bereichen die Leute doch auch kennen und das da Mundpropaganda und Tagungen viel bringen.

Interview 4

I: Dann fange ich mit der ersten Frage mal an. Ähm, welche medikamentösen oder nicht medikamentösen Behandlungsmethoden, ähm, bieten Sie für Epilepsie an?

E: Es gibt eine ganze Menge von chronischen Medikamenten, die chronische Pharmacodetherapie ist nach wie vor natürlich der Goldstandard in der Behandlung von Epilepsien. Wenn die Diagnose richtig gestellt ist und die medikamentöse Therapie ordentlich gemacht wird und die Patienten immer noch Anfälle haben, muss man prüfen, ob Epilepsie - chirurgische Methoden in Frage

kommen, was allerdings sicherlich nur bei weniger als 10% der Patienten dann tatsächlich eine Methode der Wahl ist, dann aber sehr wichtig.

I: Hm.

E: Und wir gehen nach wie vor davon aus, dass das bei 30% unserer Patienten, die klassischen Methoden, sprich die medikamentöse Therapie oder die Epilepsie – Chirurgie, eben nicht zu Anfallsfreiheit führen. Und für solche Patienten kommen dann verschiedene medikamentöse Versuche infrage, aber eben auch neuerdings Neurostimulationsverfahren oder eben auch andere alternative Verfahren, wie ketogene Diät oder -

I: Hmhm.

E: Ähm, auch, ähm, ähm, psychotherapeutische Methoden, ähm, kann man dann anwenden. Man muss diesen Leuten dann einfach auch eine Perspektive bieten, wenn man sie weiter noch, dass man sie nicht fallen lässt und sich weiter um sie kümmert.

I: Okay. Und ähm, wie identifizieren Sie die Bereiche in Ihrem Zentrum, die Verbesserung bräuchten? Und wie entwickeln Sie dafür Strategien, um dieses Bedürfnis anzugehen? Also, gibt es solche Bereiche überhaupt, oder?

E: Gut, wir sind natürlich immer, in so einem großen Epilepsie - Zentrum müssen wir ja (? 1:30 min.) sein.

I: Ja.

E: Und deswegen, ähm, ähm, erschließen wir ja eigentlich alle denkbaren Techniken, wir testen sie aber auch kritisch. Und man muss auch immer über-überprüfen letzten Endes, wie viel für den Patienten dabei raus kommt und ähm, ob wir das überhaupt mit unserer Personalausstattung leisten können. Ich gebe Ihnen ein Beispiel. Ich habe vor vielen Jahren selber publiziert Trans(? 1:54min.) Stimulation in der Behandlung von Epilepsien. Da hatten wir auch Patienten in Göttingen, die ganz gut profitiert haben. Das Problem ist, die Patienten zu identifizieren, die wirklich nachhaltig profitieren. Das ist extrem schwierig und sie bräuchten Personal dafür, dass das weiter macht.

I: Ja.

E: Wenn man da ein Nutzeinrisiko abwägt, muss man sagen: „Nee, das lassen wir lieber bleiben.“. Die andere Möglichkeit: Biofeedback. BEG, Biofeedback war viele Jahrelang extrem en vogue, ähm, wahnsinnig personal-aufwendig. Manche Patienten, waren wirklich begeistert. Wenn man sich wirklich völlig nüchtern die Zahlen anguckt, muss man sagen: „Dann konzentrieren wir uns lieber auf andere Dinge, bei denen im Endeffekt für Patienten mehr raus kommt.“. Und ähm, da gibt es immer wieder verschiedene Methoden, Ansätze, da muss man am Ball bleiben, muss das ähm, auch anbieten, aber eben auch kritisch prüfen.

I: Okay. Ähm, und Sie bieten eine Epilepsiekomplexbehandlung an. Richtig?

E: Ja, natürlich. Ja. Hm.

I: Und was ist Bestandteil Ihrer Behandlung? Also, zu dieser Komplexbehandlung?

E: Also, bei uns werden Patienten, wenn, im Rahmen der Behandlung grundsätzlich ganzheitlich behandelt. D.h., wir haben für jeden Patienten ein individuelles Therapiekonzept. Das beinhaltet medikamentöse Umstellung. Das beinhaltet u.U. Epilepsie – chirurgische Eingriffe. Das beinhaltet aber eben auch, Psychoedukationsprogramme, ganztägige Schulungsprogramme. Das beinhaltet sozialmedizinische Beratung, psychologische, psychotherapeutische Betreuung, neuropsychologisches kognitivistisches Training, Werktherapie, Gestaltungstherapie, Musiktherapie -

I: Okay.

E: - also, das ist wirklich sehr individuelles, umfassendes, detailliertes Therapieprogramm.

I: Okay, super. Und welche Patienten, was denken Sie, profitieren am meisten von dieser Komplexbehandlung?

E: Ähm, am meisten profitieren von der Komplexbehandlung ganz sicher die Patienten mit schwierig behandelbaren Epilepsien. Da geht es dann um das Thema: „Leben mit Epilepsie“. D.h., wir bekommen die Patienten nicht anfallsfrei und wir müssen Wege weisen, wie sie mit ihrem Selbstwertgefühl mit diesem Problem der chronischen Krankheit, mit dem Problem der chronischen Medikation umgehen können. Also, die pharmacoderesistenten Patienten. Aus meiner Sicht sind es dann aber auch, das ist die zweite große Gruppe, die sehr profitiert, die neu erkrankten Patienten. Also, wir haben erwachsene Patienten, die noch nicht allzu lange krank sind. Ich habe jetzt gerade so eine Patientin, mit der ich mich nachher nochmals unterhalten muss, -

I: Hmhm.

E: - die jetzt 53 ist und seit vier Jahren erst die Krankheit hat und völlig aus dem Berufsleben, aus dem Privatleben raus gerissen worden ist. Und wenn solche Patienten zu uns kommen, relativ frühzeitig und nicht nach 30 Jahren, dann denke ich, profitieren die sehr von diesem ganzen, ähm, intensivierten Komplexprogramm, das wir anbieten.

I: Okay. Und was sind die Gründe, weshalb Sie Ihre derzeitigen Behandlungsmethoden in Ihr derzeitiges Behandlungsprotokoll aufgenommen haben?

E: Wie ich schon gesagt habe. Also, kritische Anwendung, kritische Prüfung ist in einer großen Klinik, wir haben ja ähm, ähm, über 120 Betten für Epilepsie - Patienten, d.h. es ist für uns möglich in kurzer, relativ kurzer Zeit auch wirklich zu einem kritischen Urteil zu kommen, ob Patienten profitieren oder nicht. Und da muss man dann auch nicht jede Mode mitmachen. Ketogene Diät ist im Moment ein ganz wichtiges Thema. Wir haben festgestellt, dass das für schwerbehinderte Kinder mit schweren Epilepsien eine tolle Sache sein kann.

I: Hmhm.

E: Für Erwachsene in der Regel nicht. Also, haben wir uns entsprechend jetzt auch orientiert und aufgestellt.

I: Okay. Und sehen Sie Bedürfnisse oder Probleme bei Ihren Patienten, die durch das gegenwärtige Behandlungsprotokoll nicht berücksichtigt werden?

E: (tiefes Ausatmen) Also, ich glaube, umfassender als wir, kann man das kaum machen.

I: (kurzes Auflachen) Ja.

E: Es kann sein, dass ähm, vielleicht der eine oder andere Patient, ähm, eher erschlagen wird, von dem was wir -

I: (kurzes Auflachen) Okay.

E: - anbieten. Ähm, aber das wir da irgend was tatsächlich unberücksichtigt lassen, was den Patienten letzten Endes dann einen Nachteil bringt, könnte ich mir im Moment eigentlich nicht vorstellen.

I: Hm.

E: Das wäre ja schlimm.

I: Ja. Und was würde Sie dazu veranlassen, generell Ihr Behandlungsprotokoll zu überarbeiten oder zu ändern?

E: Na ja, wir machen jährliche Befragungen von Mitarbeitern und Zuweisern von Patienten. Wir machen da sehr intensive Qualitätsbefragungen und werten diese Ergebnisse kritisch aus und wenn man jetzt sieht, dass da sich ein Manko auftut oder irgend eine Beschwerde sich durchzieht. Oder auch im Langzeitverlauf, nach 6 Monaten holen wir uns die Ergebnisse von unseren stationären Behandlungen alle noch mal, noch mal her und dann würden wir das entsprechend modifizieren, natürlich. Ne?

I: Okay.

E: Aber ich kann jetzt kein konkretes Beispiel nennen, -

I: Hm.

E: - außer dem, was ich gerade gesagt habe mit der Ketogenen Diät, wo wir jetzt beschlossen hätten, irgend was komplett anders zu machen.

I: Okay. Ähm, wie läuft die Entscheidungsfindung bezüglich der Integration neuer Behandlungsmethoden in Ihrem Zentrum generell ab? Also, wer entscheidet da?

E: Eigentlich das Team. Ähm, ähm, das ist eigentlich zweiseitig. Wir haben zentral das Belegungsmanagement, das im Vorfeld schon in Absprachen mit Oberärzten prüft, welche Programme sinnvoll wären. Und dann haben wir, am Aufnahmetag wird der Patient oder die Patientin ähm, untersucht und befragt mit Angehörigen in aller Regel, auch nicht nur durch den Stationsarzt sondern durch ein Team: Stationsarzt, Pflege, Therapie und Psychologe. Und dieses Team legt dann gemeinsam mit dem Patienten das Programm fest.

I: Okay. Und was sind die Faktoren, die zu der Diskussion über die Integration einer neuen Methode ähm, in ein neues Protokoll führen würden?

E: Na die Effizienz.

I: Okay.

E: Also, das ist ganz einfach. Das muss ne Methode sein, die – und die Machbarkeit, die machbar ist und die Effizienz verspricht. Und das Schlimmste, was sie machen können im Umgang mit chronisch Kranken ist, dass sie mit Methoden anwenden, mit denen falsche Erwartungen geweckt werden. Das ist ganz fürchterlich. Und das sollte man tunlichst vermeiden, d.h. wir werden bei all unseren Methoden, die wir anwenden, unserem Patienten gegenüber sehr offen sagen, was tatsächlich davon dann auch an Gewinn für den Patienten zu erwarten ist.

I: Okay. Ähm, und wie sehen die hierarchischen Strukturen aus in Ihrem Zentrum? Also, beeinflusst, beeinflussen diese Strukturen Ihre Entscheidungsfindung? Und wenn ja, wie?

E: Sie meinen innerlich hierarchische Strukturen?

I: Ja.

E: Das ist bei uns relativ einfach. Ich bin der ärztliche Direktor, der Geschäftsführer, also wie so ein, wie so ein Cäsar.

I: (*Lachen*)

E: Und deswegen bestimme ich das. Und wir haben aber ein sehr, sehr offenes Team und die hierarchische Struktur ist, glaube ich, gar nicht so ausgeprägt, weil wir uns alle viele Jahre kennen und – Aber im Grunde genommen ist es schon so, dass ich die letztendliche Verantwortung sowohl inhaltlich als auch betriebswirtschaftlich habe.

I: Okay. Ähm, inwieweit beeinflussen das Evidenzlevel und das Nebenwirkungsprofil, also in Bezug auf eine neue Behandlungsmethode Ihre Entscheidungsfindung, ob Sie diese aufnehmen würden in Ihr Protokoll?

E: Na, ganz hoch natürlich.

I: Ganz hoch.

E: Das ist ein Faktor, der 70% ausmacht. Und 30% macht aus die eigene Erfahrung. Ich habe schon gesagt, wir haben den großen Vorteil, das wir, egal welche Methode, innerhalb relativ kurzer Zeit, ich sage mal vier oder acht Wochen, so viele Patienten damit dann auch behandelt haben, dass wir uns schon frühzeitig ein relativ gutes Bild auch selber noch mal machen können, was wirklich von so einer Methode zu erwarten ist. Das ist der Mix, der die Entscheidungen dann letzten Endes nachhaltig bestimmt.

I: Okay. Und haben Sie jegliche Ungewissheiten bezüglich der derzeitigen Methoden von Epilepsie?

Oder -

E: Das habe ich akustisch nicht verstanden.

I: Ähm, ob Sie je Ungewissheiten haben bezüglich der derzeitigen Behandlungsmethode bei Epilepsie.

Ich meine, Sie machen ja sehr viel -

E: Unsicherheiten?

I: Ja. Also, Ungewissheiten über bestimmte-

E: (Ausatmen) Hm, eigentlich nicht. Also, es ist, sie wissen nie, was im Langzeitverlauf letzten Endes doch noch vielleicht passieren kann -

I: Hm.

E: - durch die nachhaltige und andauernde Anwendung einer Methode.

I: Ja.

E: Sie können, wenn sie psychotherapeutisch ran gehen, schlecht abschätzen, ob da und was für einen (? 10:21min) das haben wird und für die nächsten drei oder fünf Jahre. Aber es ist jetzt da nichts dabei, ähm, wie jetzt in der Onkologie, in der Strahlentherapie oder so was. Das wäre ein Beispiel, wo man immer ein bisschen unsicher ist, wie ist es dann in der Langzeitschädigungsgeschichte. Aber so was haben wir eigentlich nicht. Wir machen ja auch, wir sehen die Leute ja auch chronisch – auch nach dem stationären Aufenthalt – sehr häufig ambulant weiter. Und allein dadurch wird ja auch sicher gestellt, dass keine nachhaltigen Schädigungen oder Nachteile eintreten.

I: Okay. Ähm, jetzt ein anderes Thema. Was für Partnerschaften haben Sie momentan? Also, haben Sie Partnerschaften mit Forschungs- oder Behandlungsprogrammen oder -

E: Ja, ja. Ja, ja. Wir sind ein nicht universitäres, klassisches Epilepsie – Zentrum.

I: Hmhm.

E: Und da ist es, also meine unmittelbare Intention, das mache ich auch sehr intensiv, das ist, dass wir uns vernetzen.

I: Hmhm.

E: D.h., dass wir je nach der Stärke der Partner uns komplementär vernetzen. Und z.B. haben wir eine auf vertraglich abgesicherte Kooperation mit dem Novozentrum der Uni in Freiburg. Wir haben eine neurogenetische Kooperation mit Tübingen. Wir haben eine ganz interessante und, glaube ich, einzigartige grenzüberschreitende bilaterale Kooperation mit Straßburg.

I: Hmhm.

E: Und ähm, das sind eigentlich unsere wichtigsten Kooperationspartner. Wir haben, was anbelangt und Antikörper – Diagnostik, eine Kooperation natürlich mit ähm, ähm, dem Epilepsie – Zentrum in Bethel mit denen wir ideell auch sehr verbunden sind. Und wir haben eine Kooperation der Neurologischen Uniklinik in Ulm, was Liquordiagnostik, Neurotik und generative Erkrankungen anbelangt. Also, eine ganze Menge. Ich bin jetzt gerade dabei, ein gemeinsames Forschungsvorhaben auf die Reise zu bringen mit der Robert-Bosch-Stiftung. Also, ja, sind wir schon ganz intensiv vernetzt.

I: Okay. Und wie funktioniert der Aufbau mit Partnerschaften mit anderen, ähm, ähm, Institutionen im, ähm, mit Ihrem Zentrum? Also, wie funktioniert-

E: Sie meinen jetzt gut oder schlecht?

I: Nein, also wie wird es überhaupt funktionieren, also vom ähm, ja vom ähm, vom Vorgehen her?

E: Ähm, das kommt drauf an, wie, ähm, um welche, um welche Inhalte es geht. Also, ähm, bei manchen Dingen, wie der Liquordiagnostik, ist es ein reines Dienstleistungsgeschäft. Wir schicken Sachen hin und die Partner erledigen das für uns oder umgekehrt -

I: Hm.

E: - wir werden gefragt nach bestimmten Fragestellungen und Antworten -

I: Aha.

E: - ohne dass das dann in irgend einer Art und Weise verrechnet wird oder so. Es gibt intensive Partnerschaften, wie mit Freiburg oder Straßburg. Da ist es dann schon so, dass wir uns wöchentlich oder alle 14 Tage zu Konferenzen treffen und Inhalte besprechen. Ähm, und es gibt, ähm, ähm, Forschungskontakte, die man dann heutzutage überwiegend auf digitale oder telefonisch erledigen kann.

I: Okay. Und was sind die spezifischen Gründe, warum Sie mit einer Organisation eine Partnerschaft aufbauen würden?

E: Weil es verschiedene Leistungen gibt, die wir als nicht universitäre Klinik einfach nicht leisten können, -

I: Hmhm.

E: - da das in unserem Budget einfach nicht vorgesehen ist und wir uns daher sinnvoll und intelligent vernetzen müssen.

I: Okay.

E: Wir sind dabei in einer sehr günstigen Situation, weil wir diejenigen sind, die die kritische Masse an Patienten hat.

I: Okay.

E: Und deswegen es auch gar nicht so schwierig ist, da gute Partner auch zu finden.

I: Okay. Und was sind die Kriterien, die Ihre Partnerschaftsorganisation erfüllen müsste?

E: Die Kriterien, die meine was? Noch mal.

I: Die ähm, Partnerschaftsorganisation erfüllen müsste, um mit Ihnen eine Partnerschaft zu haben, haben dürfen.

E: Sie müssten, sie müssten einfach inhaltlich ähm, ähm, von ihrer Expertise her präsent sein.

I: Okay.

E: Die müssen kreativ sein und die müssen verlässlich sein.

I: Okay. Und was für Partnerschaften wünschen Sie sich für die Zukunft, für Ihr Zentrum? Gibt es da irgend welche oder sind Sie zufrieden?

E: Das, konkret kann ich das so nicht benennen. Ich denke, es wird auf jeden Fall für uns die Richtung gehen, dass wir noch mehr internationale Partnerschaften haben werden und brauchen. Das ist einfach eine Tendenz, die sinnvoll ist innerhalb von Europa., Denn wir sind in einem Konsortium in einem sogenannten Epilepsie – Projekt, das in der EU jetzt im Moment koordiniert und gefördert wird. Und ich denke, dass solche Entwicklungen unbedingt notwendig sind. Also, glaube ich, dass wir – ich, ich, ja Gott, ich suche mir mehr oder ich bin mehr interessiert an internationalen als an nationalen Partnern. Sagen wir das mal so.

I: Okay. Jetzt kommen die letzten Fragen. Ähm, was für Medien nutzen Sie, um sich persönlich über neue Behandlungsmethoden und Innovationen im Gesundheitswesen zu informieren?

E: Das ist der Austausch mit Kollegen, -

I: Hm.

E: Ganz normal, ohne digitale Medien. Es gibt natürlich digitale Medien, mehr und mehr und mehr. Ne?

I: Hmhm.

E: Sprich Internet und ähm, Wissenschaftsnetzwerk und ähm, ähm, immer weniger tatsächlich klassische Medien, wie jetzt Printmedien oder so was.

I: Okay.

E: Das benutzen wir schon noch, aber deutlich, deutlich weniger, wie vor ein paar Jahren.

I: Okay. Und Mundpropaganda und Empfehlungen von Kollegen spielen auch eine große Rolle?

E: Eher umgekehrt.

I: Okay.

E: Also, ich glaube, dass wir sehr profitieren von Mund zu Mundpropaganda. Ja? Und derartigen Dingen und dann auch in Anspruch genommen werden. Ich selber oder wir sind arrogant genug, um zu sagen,

I: *(kurzes Auflachen)*

E: - das brauchen wir eigentlich nicht, wo andere suchen.

I: Okay. Und was sind die online und offline - Kommunikationskanäle mit denen Sie am liebsten kommunizieren, also auch mit Ihren Partnern? Ist es eher Email, Telefon oder wie Sie eben gesagt haben, ähm, ich weiß nicht, persönlicher Kontakt?

E: Ja. Also, das ist, das ist so ein bisschen Geschmackssache natürlich und wie das in den Arbeitsablauf integriert werden kann. Also, ich persönlich und viele andere Kollegen auch, außerhalb jetzt meines Zentrums, bevorzugen sicher Email, ähm, und weniger Telefon, weil man das einfach inhaltlich noch stringenter durchziehen kann, das alles. Und ähm, ansonsten, ähm haben wir ja auch weiterhin, das hatte ich ja schon gesagt, da unsere persönlichen Kontakte, unsere Konferenzen, die wichtig sind, aber ähm, ähm, ähm, aber für mich ist ganz sicher die Emailkorrespondenz, die klare und die Gewinn bringende.

I: Okay. Und jetzt die letzte Frage. Ähm, welche Arten von Informationsverbreitungsmitteln sind Ihrer Meinung nach am effektivsten im Deutschen Gesundheitswesen oder spezifisch im Epilepsiefaktor, wenn man jetzt zum Beispiel für eine neue Methode im Epilepsiebereich werben möchte? Wie?

E: Ja. Wenn man werben möchte?

I: Ja, also wie man die Information über die neue Methode verbreiten sollte. Welche -

E: Ja, nach wie vor ist es eigentlich eine ordentliche wissenschaftliche Publikation. Wenn irgend jemand von uns etwas tolles findet und was ordentliches gemacht hat, wird das relativ zügig publiziert. Spätestens dann weiß es jeder innerhalb von fünf Minuten. Das ist, das ist also eine, wir haben da in der Epileptologie eine relativ mafiöse Struktur -

I: *(Kurzes Auflachen)* okay.

E: - also, da kann keiner irgend was im Verborgenen basteln, ohne dass das die anderen nicht mitkriegen würden. Ne? Also das ist, also das ist halt so. Also, früher sind sie auf Kongresse gefahren, um Neuigkeiten zu erfahren. Das ist schon viele Jahre vorbei. Da erfährt man mit Sicherheit nichts neues. Wenn was echt Neues kommt, weiß man das innerhalb von Minuten.

Interview 5

I: Ähm, ja, also welche medikamentösen oder welche nicht medikamentösen Behandlungsmethoden bieten Sie für Epilepsie an?

E: Als Behandlungsmethode bieten wir alle üblichen anti ?(00,16 min), also das sind ja im Wesentlichen Tabletten, auch Infusionen.

I: Hmhm.

E: Und als invasive Behandlungsmethoden im Zusammenhang mit der Universität Lübeck, die Vagusnervstimulation.

I: Okay.

E: Wenn wir darüber hinaus weitere Maßnahmen für erforderlich halten, sprechen wir unsere chirurgischen Kollegen an, ähm, eventuell auch spezielle Epilepsie - Centren, wie z.B. in Bielefeld vorzugsweise aber Hamburg Alsterdorf.

I: Okay. Und wie identifizieren Sie die Bereiche in Ihrem Krankenhaus, ähm, die Verbesserung brauchen? Und wie entwickeln Sie Strategien, um dieses Bedürfnis, ja, anzugehen?

E: Meinen Sie jetzt speziell für Epilepsie oder?

I: Nee, generell, also-

E: Na, das hängt mit der Entwicklung der Medizin zum einen zusammen. Was bieten wir an und was ist gefragt? Das ist natürlich der Abgleich unseres Angebotes mit dem Wissenstand -

I: Ja.

E: - und natürlich auch mit den Bedürfnissen, d.h. z.B. gibt es Patienten in Schleswig - Holstein, die nicht richtig versorgt werden. Epilepsie ist nicht unser Schwerpunkt im Vergleich zu anderen Dingen. Wir bieten in der Epileptologie die Basisversorgung an, aber haben keine gesonderten, spezifischen Angebote.

I: Okay. Also, bieten Sie Epilepsie - Komplexbehandlung an, oder?

E: Nein.

I: Nein. Okay.

Und was sind die Gründe, warum Sie Ihre derzeitigen Behandlungsmethoden in Ihrem Behandlungsprotokoll überhaupt haben?

E: Das ist die Leitlinie der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Neurologie.

I: Hmhm.

E: Und für die dann eben, ähm, entsprechenden Diagnostischen Leitlinien der Fachgesellschaften.

I: Okay. Und sehen Sie Bedürfnisse oder Probleme bei Ihren Patienten, die durch das gegenwärtige Behandlungsprotokoll nicht, nicht berücksichtigt werden?

E: Schöner wäre es eigentlich, wenn die psychiatrische Versorgung dieser Patienten etwas verbessert werden könnte. Also, wenn beispielsweise auch Zeit und Ressourcen dafür da wären, für psychologische und ärztlich psychotherapeutische Betreuung -

I: Hm.

E: - ähm, zu geben, denn viele Patienten leiden unter ihrer Erkrankung und brauchen Hilfe bei Bewältigungsstrategien. Das ist das eine und das andere ist natürlich, berufliche Rehabilitation.

I: Okay. Und was würde Sie dazu veranlassen, Ihr Behandlungsprotokoll zu ändern oder zu überarbeiten?

E: Das ist ja in der Medizin immer so, das es eine Frage auch der Ressourcen gibt.

I: Hm.

E: Ich kann unmöglich, wenn dieses nicht vergütet wird, drei Psychologen für unsere Epilepsiepatienten bereitstellen, ähm, einstellen -

I: Hm.

E: - und die dann sozusagen arbeiten lassen, obwohl wir gar keine Zulassung für solche ambulanten Tätigkeiten haben. Eine Möglichkeit wäre, weil wir hier auch eine Psychiatrische Ambulanz haben, allen Epilepsiepatienten einen Termin zur Besprechung Ihrer Problematiken in der Psychiatrischen Institutsambulanz anbieten zu können.

I: Hm.

E: Wir könnten fragen, wo Depressionen, Angst, Zukunftssorgen u.s.w. ja durchaus angesprochen werden. Das ist aber so nicht vorgesehen und das wäre eine sinnvolle Weiterentwicklung.

I: Okay. Ähm, wie läuft die generelle Entscheidungsfindung bezüglich der Integration neuer Behandlungsmethoden ab?

E: Das wird im Kreise der Fachärzte besprochen.

I: Okay. Und was sind die Faktoren, die zu so einer Diskussion führen, zur Integration einer neuen Methode?

E: Anregungen aus der Literatur, Anregungen aus Fachtagungen und ähm, Probleme bei der Behandlung mit Patienten, wo man nicht weiter kommt, vielleicht auch Anregungen von Kollegen.

I: Okay. Und ähm, wie sehen die hierarchischen Strukturen hier aus, also beeinflussen die auch die Entscheidungsfindung?

E: Wer denn?

I: Die Hierarchie der (? 04:18min.)?

E: Ich weiß nicht, was Sie mit Hierarchie meinen.

I: Also, wer entscheidet? So was wird im Team entschieden oder hat jemand so das letzte Wort?

E: Das letzte Wort, ist der Verantwortliche der Abteilung, ist der Chefarzt, das bin ich.

I: Okay.

E: Also, es können nicht alle entscheiden, wir machen jetzt hier, ähm, Transplantationstherapien und ich bin damit nicht einverstanden, das würde gehen. Ja? -

I: Hm.

E: - aber, ähm, in der Regel ist das eine ergebnisoffene Diskussion, über die ich am Ende die Verantwortung für eine Entscheidung übernehmen.

I: Okay. Ähm, und inwiefern beeinflusst das Nebenwirkungsprofil, also in Bezug auf eine neue Methode, die Entscheidungsfindung?

E: Groß!

I: Groß.

E: Ja.

I: Okay. Ähm, und haben Sie Ungewissheiten bezüglich der derzeitigen Behandlungsmethoden von Epilepsie?

E: Es gibt Patienten, die relativ therapieresistent sind -

I: Hmhm.

E: - und für die es sich lohnen könnte, (*hustet*) weitere Entwicklungen auszuprobieren, wenn neue Medikamente am Markt sind. Glücklicher Weise kommt für Epileptiker auch immer wieder etwas Neues dazu. Und ähm, dieses wird dann im Einzelfall geprüft, ob man es umsetzen kann oder nicht.

I: Okay. Und, ähm, zum nächsten Thema: Was für Partnerschaften haben Sie momentan, also mit Forschungsprogramm oder Behandlungsprogramm?

E: Dies ist kein Forschungskrankenhaus. Wir sind ein Versorgungskrankenhaus und ein Lehr-, ein Lehrkrankenhaus der Institute Kiel und Hamburg.

I: Hm.

E: Forschungsprojekte werden hier an Patienten selten und wirklich nur in Ausnahmefällen in Kooperation mit Universitäten durchgeführt. Die haben wir im Moment auf anderen Fachgebieten in der Neurologie: der Schlaganfall. Aber nicht bei Epilepsie. Und die Kooperation -

I: Okay.

E: - sind dann in der Patientenversorgung, beispielsweise in der Hamburger Epilepsie Klinik in Alsterdorf.

I: Okay.

Und ähm, jetzt zu dem letzten Thema. Was für Medien benutzen Sie, um sich über neue Behandlungsmethoden zu informieren? Ganz generell so?

E: Wir besuchen Fachkongresse -

I: Hm.

E: - wir lesen Zeitung und Fachzeitschriften.

I: Ja.

E: Wir verwenden natürlich Internetforen, also so Internetinformationsdienste. Im Wesentlichen ist es die fachliche, der fachliche Austausch über Zeitschriften und Kongresse.

I: Und ähm, Empfehlungen von Kollegen und Propaganda spielt eine große Rolle, oder?

E: Mittlere Rolle.

I: Mittlere Rolle. Okay.

Und was für ähm, Kommunikationskanäle, also online / offline benutzen Sie im Beruf generell? Mail oder....?

E: Mail, Internet, Telefon – *lacht* -

I: Ja. Okay. Und ähm, die letzte Frage. Welche Arten von Informationsverbreitungsmitteln sind Ihrer Meinung nach am effektivsten?

E: Für welchen Zweck?

I: Ähm, ja um eine neue Behandlungsmethode z.B. -

E: Na, mitunter gehen wir in die Selbsthilfegruppen, wie jetzt z.B. bei der Multiple Sklerose, werde ich das in 10 Tagen tun und berichte über neue Behandlungsmethoden. Das wird auch von denen gefragt.

I: Okay.

E: Das wäre jetzt die Information an betroffene, beteiligte Patienten. Wir machen Veranstaltungen für Ärzte, die über neue Behandlungsmethoden informiert werden. Da läuft eine heute Nachmittag hier im Haus.

I: Hm.

E: Da laden wir Referenten ein oder tragen selber vor. Ein nicht epileptisches Thema, da geht es um Entzündungen. Das ist das Thema.

I: Okay.

E: Dann geben wir Presseerklärungen heraus. Das haben wir gerade in Arbeitsgruppen. Das haben wir gerade... Im Moment laufen zum Thema „Hirntod - Diagnostik“ läuft übers Internet.

I: Okay.

E: Dann haben wir eine eigene Homepage. Da informieren wir Patienten, dass sie wenig erwartet, welche Erneuerungen es gibt. Das wird ständig upgedatet. Also, das ist auf vielen Kanälen möglich.

I: Okay.

Noch irgend welche Kommentare? Oder?

E: Ähm, nö, ich glaube, Sie haben die wesentlichen Fragen gestellt. Ne?

I: Ja.

Interview 6

I: Ich fange mit meinen Fragen einfach an. Ähm, welche medikamentösen oder nicht medikamentösen Behandlungsmethoden für Epilepsie bieten Sie an?

E: Ja, medikamentös, alle Antiepileptiker, die es in Deutschland gibt -

I: Hmhm.

E: - oder zur Not auch Auslandsimporte. Dann haben wir die Vagusnervstimulation als implantierte Verfahren oder auch für ausgewählte Patienten, als Stimulation der Ohrmuschel. Das ist kassenabhängig.

I: Hm.

E: Dann die tieferen Stimulationen mit implantierten Elektroden und dann die resektive, operative Therapie.

I: Okay. Und wie identifizieren Sie Bereiche in Ihrer Klinik, ähm, die Verbesserung bräuchten oder wie entwickeln Sie Strategien, um, ähm, dieses Bedürfnis anzugehen?

E: Um? Das habe ich akustisch nicht verstanden. Um was anzugehen?

I: Ja, wie identifizieren Sie Bereiche in Ihrer Klinik, die vielleicht Verbesserung bräuchten in Bezug auf Epilepsie und wie entwickeln Sie Strategien dafür, also um dieses Bedürfnis anzugehen? Gibt es überhaupt Bereiche, wo Sie denken, die bräuchten Verbesserung? Oder?

E: Meinen Sie Bereiche unserer Klinik oder Patienten, die sich vorstellen?

I: Also, ähm, einfach Bereiche von der Klinik.

E: Bereiche von der Klinik. Na ja, wir haben hier in der Uniklinik ein Qualitätsmanagementsystem in dessen Rahmen die Abläufe von, ähm, der Therapie und den Diagnostikverfahren immer wieder geprüft werden. Das ist ja eine

I: Hm.

E: - ständige Evaluation, über die Abläufe, die ja in so einem Haus stattfinden. Also, darüber wird geprüft, ob das alles auch sinnvoll und funktional ist.

I: Hmhm.

E: Die Mitarbeiter werden geschult in verschiedenen Verfahren und für manche der Verfahren gibt es auch einzelne Ärzte, die eben speziell sich damit beschäftigen und dann auch hier speziellere Schulung erfahren durch den Hersteller, z.B. von den Stimulationsgeräten.

I: Hmhm.

E: Hm, wir haben eine eigene Qualitätsmanagerin im Haus, die zusätzlich zu dem Qualitätsmanagement und System der Uniklinik auch noch mal die Abläufe der einzelnen Arbeitsbereiche hier, Station oder Ambulant oder wie, auch immer prüft und dann Anregungen gibt, was man optimieren kann im Alltag.

I: Okay.

E: Solche Sachen.

I: Okay. Interessant. Und bieten Sie in der Epilepsie auch Komplexbehandlung an?

E: Ja.

I: Okay. Und was, ähm, ist Bestandteil bei Ihnen in dieser Behandlung?

E: Na ja, das ist, das ist ja vorgegeben vom Gesetz, so. Wir bieten an, was man da anbieten darf, -

I: Ach so.

E: - gruppentherapeutische Gespräche, einzeln psychotherapeutische, ja, Gespräche, Ergotherapie, Krankengymnastik, Beratung durch die Sozialarbeiterin und natürlich die ärztliche und pflegerische Betreuung.

I: Okay. Und was denken Sie? Welche Patienten profitieren am meisten von dieser Komplexbehandlung?

E: Hm. Na ja, in die Komplexbehandlung kommen ja nur Patienten mit einer schweren, bislang nicht gut behandelbaren Epilepsie. Es ist ja eine bestimmte Gruppe von Kranken dort, die mit so was behandelt werden dürfen oder behandelt werden. Also, dürfen im Sinne der Vergütung. Ähm, insofern sind die zwar sehr unterschiedlich krank und sehr unterschiedlich lange krank, aber irgendwo in der Schwere, in der Schwere ihrer Erkrankung ähnlich und die profitieren alle mehr oder weniger. Die Frage ist ja für uns so ein bisschen, ob die sehr lange nachdem, nach ihrer Rückkehr in ihre Heimat, ähm, von so einer Behandlung profitieren. Hier vor Ort in der Woche oder den zwei Wochen, die stationär sind, empfinden viele Patienten das als sehr gut, weil sie dann Gruppenarbeit haben, weil man ihre Fragen beantwortet und weil man nicht nur die Medikamente ändert, sondern auch auf ihre persönlichen Bedürfnisse eingeht. Wenn man das dann aber nach hält, wenn man das mal macht, wir haben das mal gemacht und die Patienten ein halbes Jahr später angerufen und mithilfe von Telefoninterviews versucht herauszubekommen, wie viel sie davon noch profitiert haben. Und dann ist da der Gewinn nicht mehr so ganz deutlich.

I: Okay. Und was sind die Gründe, weshalb Sie Ihre derzeitigen Behandlungsmethoden in Ihr Behandlungsprotokoll aufgenommen haben? Einfach, weil die konventionell üblich sind oder gibt es dort andere Gründe noch?

E: Das habe ich nicht so wirklich verstanden.

I: Ähm, ja, was sind die Gründe, weshalb Sie Ihre derzeitigen Behandlungsmethoden in Ihrem Behandlungsprotokoll aufgenommen haben?

E: Sie meinen die medikamentöse und chirurgische Therapie? Oder was?

I: Ja, einfach generell, wie Sie Epilepsie behandeln.

E: Na ja, die Dinge, die ich Ihnen genannt habe sind, auf bis auf das Biofeedback, -

I: Hmhm.

E: - von dem wir nicht so viel halten, die einzigen, die es gibt. Und wir sind ja eine Sozialklinik, da wenden sich Patienten an uns und wir bieten denen natürlich alles an, was momentan verfügbar ist, um ihnen die besten therapeutischen Chancen zu bieten.

I: Okay. Und sehen Sie Bedürfnisse bei Ihren Patienten, die durch diese Methoden nicht berücksichtigt werden? Oder denken Sie, ähm, ja, das alle Bedürfnisse berücksichtigt werden?

E: Na ja, das Einzige, dass wir hier nicht machen, ist die Biofeedback – Behandlung. Das ist so eine - weiß nicht, ob Sie wissen was das ist – das ist eine Behandlung, wo man ein Training, ein kognitives Training mit den Patienten macht, so dass sie versuchen können, durch bestimmte Gedankengänge, einen Anfallsbeginn in seiner Ausbreitung zu bremsen.

I: Hmhm.

E: Und nicht den Anfall zu verhindern, sondern zu verhindern, dass aus einem kleinen kein großer wird. Das ist eine ziemlich umstrittene Methode, die nur wenige anbieten. Da sind wir ein bisschen kritisch, was das bringen soll. Deswegen, weil es sehr personal aufwendig ist, bieten wir das hier nicht an. Dass das eine wesentliche Lücke im Profil ist, haben wir bisher noch nicht so erlebt. Es sind wenige Patienten, die da überhaupt nach fragen und auch von der Konstitution der Bedingungen das überhaupt vorgeführt haben und damit umgehen könnten. Vielleicht sind das gar nicht so viele. Aber gut, ja. Das ist eine Lücke mit vielen Stellen hinterm Komma. Ja.

I: Okay. Und was würde Sie dazu veranlassen, Ihr Behandlungsprotokoll generell zu überarbeiten oder zu ändern?

E: Wenn Sie mir eine neue Behandlungsmethode bieten, dann nehmen wir die auf.

I: Okay (*kurzes Lachen*). Ähm, ja, und wie läuft die Entscheidungsfindung bezüglich neuer Behandlungsmethoden in Ihrer Klinik generell ab? Also, wer entscheidet dort darüber?

E: Es gibt ja keine neuen Behandlungsmethoden.

I: Ja, wenn es eine geben würde. Also, generell, wie, wie wird dort entschieden?

E: So, ob hier eine Methode durchgeführt wird oder nicht, dass entscheidet der Direktor der Klinik.

I: Und das ganz alleine oder, ähm, bespricht er das mit dem ganzen Team?

E: Es gibt immer Gespräche, die letzte Entscheidungsgewalt liegt immer bei dem Direktor. Das ist immer so.

I: Okay. Und wie weit beeinflussen das Evidenzlevel und das Nebenwirkungsprofil jetzt im Bezug auf eine neue Behandlungsmethode Ihre Entscheidungsfindung, ob Sie jetzt ins Protokoll aufgenommen werden sollte oder nicht?

E: Also, es gibt Methoden, über die berichtet wird. Nennen wir mal ein Beispiel: Es gibt verschiedene Möglichkeiten, Gewebe zu zerstören im Rahmen der operativen Therapie. Das kann man raus operieren, man kann bestrahlen, man kann es mit Ultraschall zertrümmern, mit Kälte kühlen und was es alles gibt.

I: Hmhm.

E: Ähm, das schauen wir uns eben an, so in den Daten, die berichtet werden und in den Gruppen, da laden wir dann auch mal die Leute ein, die das machen, um so ein Gefühl zu vermitteln, was dahinter steckt. Wenn das alles sehr plausibel wirkt, machen wir unsere eigenen Erfahrungen damit. Und wenn wir denken, das wirkt nicht mehr solide, dann lassen wir das sein.

I: Okay. Und haben Sie Ungewissheiten bezüglich der derzeitigen Behandlungsmethoden in Epilepsie? Oder gar nicht?

E: Was haben wir?

I: Ähm, ob Sie jegliche Ungewissheiten bezüglich der derzeitigen Behandlungsmethoden von Epilepsie haben?

E: Seien Sie nicht böse, wahrscheinlich höre ich schwer. Wie heißt das Wort, dass Sie -

I: Ach so, kein Problem. Ähm, haben Sie Ungewissheiten bezüglich der -

E: Ungewissheiten!

I: Genau.

E: Was heißt das, Ungewissheiten?

I: Ja, also haben Sie, denken Sie, ähm, ja, Ungewissheiten, was meine ich damit? Ähm, ja, denken Sie, dass mit den derzeitigen Behandlungsmethoden von Epilepsie alle Patienten abgedeckt werden oder, ähm, zweifeln Sie an manchen Methoden, ob die, ob die wirksam sind?

E: (*lange Pause*) Ähm, das ist eine schwierige Frage.

I: Ja. Gibt es -

E: Ähm, das Problem ist, was man mit solchen Dingen bewirken will. Also, es gibt Methoden, wie z.B. die Vagusnervstimulation und da gehen wir davon aus, dass der Einfluss geringer bis nicht messbarer ist.

I: Hmhm.

E: Aber man sieht, dass die Menschen z.T. andere positive Effekte haben, z.B. eine Verbesserung ihrer Stimmung, was nicht unwichtig ist.

I: Hm.

E: Und insofern kann die Methode hilfreich sein für Menschen, die chronisch krank und sehr depressiv sind. Ne?

I: Okay.

E: Das würde nicht bedeuten, dass die bei den klassischen Anfällen hilft, aber doch in der allgemeinen Befindlichkeit des Kranken.

I: Okay.

E: Insofern ist es immer ein bisschen schwierig. Es gibt natürlich Methoden, die sind wuchtiger in ihren messbaren Effekten, aber die sind ja auch nicht für alle anwendbar.

I: Hmhm.

E: Es gibt Methoden, um es mal so auszudrücken, die würde man auf eine Mars - Expedition nicht mitnehmen.

I: Okay. (*kurzes Lachen*) Okay. Ähm, was – jetzt kommt ein anderer Themenblock – was für Partnerschaften haben Sie momentan, also mit, also haben Sie Partnerschaften mit Forschungs- oder Behandlungsprogrammen? Oder gar keine? Oder, wie sieht das aus?

E: Ja, es gibt natürlich Partnerschaften im Kleinen innerhalb der Uniklinik selbst. Ich weiß nicht, ob Sie das so meinen?

I: Hm.

E: Also, mit der Neurochirurgie haben wir eine sehr enge Partnerschaft, weil die eben beider operativen Behandlung mit kooperieren. Das geht gar nicht ohne die. Ähm, in der medizinischen Betreuung sonst, hm, gibt es sonst so keine ganz starken Partnerschaften. In der Forschung ist das schon viel mehr. Es gibt ja hier neben der neurologischen, ähm, neben der klinischen Epileptologie auch einen Bereich der Klinik, der sich auch mit Forschung beschäftigt und die sind natürlich im Rahmen von Forschungsprojekten mit anderen Kliniken oder mit anderen Instituten vernetzt, z.B. das Kernforschungszentrum in Jülich, damit werden immer wieder Untersuchungen gemacht. Aber natürlich auch andere Unikliniken und Institute. In Israel gibt es Kooperation auf dem Boden der Forschung von Elementarprozessen der Epilepsie, also experimentelle Neurophysiologie. Ähm, es gibt Genethikprojekte mit der Klinik in, ähm, früher in Ulmen, jetzt in, ähm, Tübingen. Ja, das sind Dinge. Es gibt, gewisse Gruppen unserer Klinik sind auch vernetzt mit den Demenz – Zentren, hier in Bonn. Es gibt ein großes, deutsches Demenz – Zentrum -

I: Hmhm.

E: Weil die Konzentrations- und Kognitionsdefizite der Epilepsiepatienten auch ein Modell zu Gedächtnisproblemen sind. Solche Kooperationen z.B.?

I: Ja genau, das meinte ich. Und was sind die spezifischen Gründe, warum Sie mit einer Organisation eine Partnerschaft aufbauen würden?

E: Warum wir mit denen, was machen würden?

I: Warum Sie eine Partnerschaft aufbauen würden? Also, warum haben Sie diese Partnerschaften?

E: Na ja, meistens ist es so, das andere eben technische Möglichkeiten haben, die vor Ort noch nicht zur Verfügung stehen.

I: Hmhm.

E: Also, z.B., ich habe noch ein anderes Beispiel, gibt es eine Epilepsieform, die auf dem Boden (?) 14:50min.) Krankheit entsteht, sogenannte limbische (?) 14:56 min), die auch hier behandelt werden. Die werden dann mit Immunsuppressiva behandelt. Und da gibt es z.B. die Uniklinik in Münster, die da noch wesentlich besser aufgestellt ist, als wir in der Immunologischen Diagnostik. Und da gibt es eine Kooperation zwischen denen und uns. Die helfen uns eben in der Untersuchung des

Nervenwassers, des Liquors und beim Herausfinden, ob da Antikörper vorhanden sind und wie relevant das ist. Und das, ähm, ähm, nutzen wir dann eben die Expertise der anderen, die in solchen Dingen noch spezieller ausgerüstet ist, als unsere. Während wir hier eben Patienten haben, die sich dort eben nicht vorstellen. So kommt es zu einer Kooperation.

I: Okay. Und gibt es irgend welche Partnerschaften, die Sie sich für die Zukunft für die Klinik wünschen? Oder sind Sie zufrieden, wie es ist?

E: Ich weiß nicht, ob ich diese Frage so pauschal für die Klinik beantworten kann, weil ich gar nicht alle Fäden der Arbeitsgruppen kenne. Das ist -

I: Okay.

E: - z.T. auch eine sehr isolierte und dann auch nicht für alle so einsehbare, weil man ja so in seinen eigenen Gruppen ist.

I: Klar.

E: Ähm, ich würde es mal so beantworten, wenn sich Forschungsfragen ergeben in bestimmten Zusammenhängen und man Know how braucht, weil andere Gruppen spezielles Wissen haben, wird man mit denen in Kontakt treten und versuchen, zu kooperieren.

I: Okay.

E: Das wird in Zukunft sicherlich genauso sein, wie es in der Vergangenheit war. Aber wo das speziell jetzt sein wird, ich glaube, das kann ich Ihnen gar nicht sagen.

I: Okay. Und jetzt kommt auch der letzte Fragen-, die letzten Fragen. Ähm, was für Medien nutzen Sie, um sich über neue Behandlungsmethoden und Innovationen generell jetzt im Gesundheitswesen zu informieren? Sind das Fachzeitschriften? Sind das Kongresse? Ähm, was -

E: Na ja, eigentlich ist alles, Kongresse natürlich, wird natürlich besucht. Die Zeitschrift so als Paperprint wirkt ja wesentlich verloren. Das gibt es auch, ich denke mal, die meisten schauen dann ins Internet oder (? 17:27min.), wir haben ja auch viele Zeitschriften digital.

I: Hmhm.

E: Das ist, glaube ich, so das Gebräuchlichste. Natürlich gibt es auch Information von Pharmaindustrie oder Herstellern von Stimulationsgeräten, die dann da ihr Wissen vermitteln, aber das ist, glaube ich, der ganz, ganz, ganz kleine Teil. Wir laden hin und wieder Referenten ein, wenn uns bestimmte Themen interessieren. Das hatte ich Ihnen schon gesagt.

I: Hmhm.

E: Ich glaube, das meiste läuft dann, wenn es um kreatives Wissen geht, über das Internet und die Publikationen. Und im Zweifelsfall schicken wir auch Leute dann irgendwo in die Welt hin, dass sie sich vor Ort mit Leuten, die etwas bestimmtes machen unterhalten, auch hospitieren und dann mal gucken, wie valide das ganze ist, was da publiziert ist oder ob es, wenn man es im Alltag dann erlebt, schon ein bisschen weniger präzise sich darstellt. Oder wir laden die Leute hier zum Vortrag ein und dann hören wir mal, was die da -

I: Okay. Ähm, und was sind die online und offline Kommunikationskanäle, mit denen Sie am liebsten kommunizieren in Ihrem Beruf? Ist es Email, ähm, Telefon, ähm, ja? Wie kommunizieren Sie mit Partnern oder generell in Ihrem Beruf?

E: Ja also, mich, ich würde sagen, beides gibt es noch. Die Mail natürlich. Telefon gibt es auch noch.

I: Hm.

E: Vieles läuft natürlich übers Email. Ja.

I: Okay. Und jetzt die letzte Frage. Ähm, welche Form von Informationsverbreitungsmitteln sind Ihrer Meinung nach am effektivsten im Deutschen Gesundheitswesen oder spezifisch im Epilepsiesektor? Z.B. wenn ich jetzt ein neues Behandlungsprogramm für Epilepsie, ja, Information darüber verbreiten möchte, durch welche Kanäle sollte ich das am besten tun? Was meine Sie? Also, durch Artikel in Zeitschriften oder auch im Internet oder was meinen Sie dazu?

E: Also, so generelle Internet - Allgemeininfos, die glaube ich, nimmt keiner so richtig ernst.

I: Okay.

E: Also wenn, dann wäre es schon gut, es würde in einer angesehen Zeitung stehen. Ne? Und nicht in irgend einem Käseblatt.

I: Ja, ja. Ja.

E: Ähm, das macht dann natürlich viel her, gerade wenn die Zeitung renommiert ist. Ansonsten, wenn Sie jetzt ein Programm aggressiv betreiben wollen oder wenn ich Ihre Frage so verstehen soll, ist es natürlich auch immer gut, hier her zu kommen und es vorzustellen.

I: Okay. Also, auch persönlich -

E: Hm.

I: Okay. Gut.

Interview 7

I: Die erste Frage ist: Was sind die Gründe, weshalb Sie Ihre derzeitigen Behandlungsmethoden in Ihr derzeitiges Behandlungsprotokoll aufgenommen haben?

E: Unsere derzeitigen Behandlungsmethoden?

I: Hm.

E: Na, das ist, ähm, ja, was sind jetzt die Gründe? Also, wir bieten, ähm, Therapie an, im Sinne von psychoedukativen und psychotherapeutischen Gruppen.

I: Hm.

E: Und ähm, ähm, da gibt es Studien dazu, dass die Psychoedukation zum Thema Epilepsie die Complaintes der Patienten verbessert und damit natürlich auch den Behandlungserfolg verbessert

-

I: Hmhm.

E: - und ähm, die psychiatrischen oder psychologischen (? 00:39 min.) mitbehandelt. Das ist der Grund, warum wir die, ähm, ähm, Angebote mit in unser Behandlungsspektrum aufgenommen haben.

I: Okay. Und sehen Sie Bedürfnisse oder Probleme bei Ihren Patienten, die durch das gegenwärtige Behandlungsprotokoll nicht berücksichtigt werden?

E: Jaaaa. Und zwar vor allem die Patienten, die wir nicht stationär sehen sondern ambulant.

I: Hmhm.

E: Und die Patienten, die dann eben wieder unser stationäres Setting verlassen und wieder zurück gehen nach Hause. Da ist sicherlich eine Behandlungslücke. Ja.

I: Okay. Und was würde Sie dazu veranlassen, Ihr Behandlungsprotokoll zu überarbeiten bzw. zu ändern?

E: Wenn es neue, wissenschaftlich fundierte Erkenntnisse gibt, neue Programme gibt, neue Therapiemethoden gibt. Da sind wir immer offen, da etwas einzubauen in unsere aktuellen Programme.

I: Okay. Ähm, und wie läuft die Entscheidungsfindung bezüglich der Integration neuer Behandlungsmethoden in Ihrer, ja, in Ihrem Zentrum ab? Wer entscheidet dort?

E: Das läuft so ab, dass jedes Therapeuten - Team natürlich sich informiert und weiterbildet im jeweiligen Fachbereich.

I: Hm.

E: Und wenn es dann neue Vorschläge gibt, die werden im Team diskutiert und dann natürlich auch der Leitung vorgestellt.

I: Hm.

E: Und im Teamprozess wird dann entschieden, was angeboten wird, was auch, ähm, ähm, vom Personal her möglich ist. Es liegt ja manchmal auch daran, dass es aus Stellengründen nicht möglich ist. Und da versuchen wir regelmäßig zu erneuern, zu verbessern und neu zu ergänzen.

I: Okay. Und was sind die Faktoren, die zu einer Diskussion über eine neue Methode, ähm, führen würden? Einfach, dass Sie, ähm, interessiert sind, ähm, an einer neuen Methode und das dann mit Ihrem Team besprechen und der Leitung vorstellen? Oder was sind das für Faktoren?

E: Na, die Faktoren, um so besser die wissenschaftlich begründet sind.

I: Hm.

E: Also, wenn z.B. eine Studie gibt, die positive Ergebnisse zeigt über eine bestimmte Methode, dann sind das ganz wichtige Faktoren, die dann auch in die Entscheidungsfindung mit einfließen.

I: Okay.

E: Ähm, also, also der wissenschaftliche Hintergrund ist sicherlich wichtig.

I: Okay. Und ähm, beeinflusst die Hierarchie, so nenne ich es mal, in Ihrem Zentrum, die Entscheidungsfindung? Also, wer hat das letzte Wort? Ist es der Leiter oder?

E: Na, das letzte Wort hat natürlich der Leiter. Der hat ja auch die Verantwortung.

I: Hm.

E: Das ist der Chefarzt.

I: Ja.

E: Aber das ist doch sehr kollegial, weil ja nun der Chefarzt auch nicht in allen Bereichen gleich gut informiert sein kann, -

I: Natürlich.

E: - so dass das dann also schon von den unteren Hierarchieebenen nach oben gearbeitet wird und kommuniziert wird.

I: Okay. Und inwiefern beeinflussen Risiko und Ungewissheit z.B. in Bezug auf das Evidenzlevel oder das Nebenwirkungsprofil einer neuen Methode die Entscheidung darüber, ob Sie die jetzt aufnehmen würden oder nicht?

E: Da müssen Sie jetzt den ersten Satz noch mal wiederholen.

I: Tut mir leid (lachend).

E: Das habe ich akustisch nicht verstanden.

I: Ja. Ähm, inwiefern beeinflussen Risiko und Ungewissheit, also z.B. in Bezug auf das Evidenzlevel und das Nebenwirkungsprofil von einer Methode, also Ihre Entscheidungsfindung darüber, ob Sie diese Behandlungsmethode aufnehmen würden?

E: Okay. Na, das ist natürlich schon wichtig, obwohl Sie jetzt ja mit einer Psychologin sprechen und da ist ein Risikoprofil ja anders und geringer, als bei neuen Medikamenten z.B.. Ne?

I: Ja.

E: Aber natürlich würde man sehr kritisch reflektierte Methoden, die auch schon viel Kritik bekommen haben, vorsichtiger oder nicht einsetzen im Vergleich zu anderen Methoden, die eben nicht so kritisch sind.

I: Okay. Und ähm, haben Sie Ungewissheiten bezüglich der derzeitigen Behandlungsmethoden von Epilepsie oder sind Sie da sehr zufrieden?

E: Was meinen Sie da mit Ungewissheiten?

I: Ja also, ob die wirklich wirksam sind oder, ja, ob Sie damit zufrieden sind auch.

E: Also, ich denke, wir bieten schon ein recht breites Spektrum an. Das kann man aber sicherlich, da kann man jedes Angebot verbessern. Also, ich denke nicht, dass wir da allumfassend und alles machen. Nicht? Aber ich denke, wir sind da schon ziemlich sicher, bei dem, was wir da machen.

I: Hm. Okay. Und was für Partnerschaften hat Ihr Zentrum. Hat es Partnerschaften mit Behandlungs- oder Forschungsprogrammen? Oder?

E: Wir führen selber Forschungsprogramme durch, auch in Zusammenarbeit z.B. mit der Uniklinik Hamburg.

I: Hmhm.

E: Ähm, wir haben Kooperation mit Kinderkrankenhäusern, hier in der Umgebung und auch wieder mit der Uniklinik auf klinischem Bereich, mit der Chirurgie, mit der Neuroradiologie. Ähm, wir haben Kooperation, enge Kooperation mit unseren ambulanten Neurologen, die hier im Umfeld wohnen und unsere Zuweiser sind. Ähm, wir haben auch fachspezifisch dann Kooperation deutschlandweit oder auch so im deutschsprachigen Raum. Z.B. die Neurochirurgen haben sich sehr gut vernetzt mit Epilepsiezentren.

I: Hm.

E: Ähm, da gibt es natürlich auch Kooperation.

I: Okay. Und wie funktioniert der Aufbau von Partnerschaften mit anderen Institutionen in Ihrem Zentrum?

E: Das kommt eben drauf an.

I: Hm.

E: Also, wenn man hier die regionalen Kooperationspartner, die hier in Hamburg und Umgebung sind, da geht es, ähm, dann, da werden Fälle besprochen, da wird angerufen, da trifft man sich zu regelmäßigen Konferenzen oder auch Fallbesprechungen, ähm, ähm, MAT – Visiten werden gemeinsam gemacht über die Häuser hinweg. Und die ferner entfernten Kollegen, wo dann der Austausch auch nicht auf Patientenebene, sondern eher so auf der größeren Ebene, dass man sich so theoretisch abstimmt, das läuft dann über Email oder jährliche Treffen. Neuropsychologen treffen sich z.B. zweimal im Jahr in einem Arbeitskreis in der Epileptologie und da gibt es dann auch fachlichen Austausch.

I: Hmhm. Okay. Und was sind die spezifischen Gründen, weshalb Sie mit einer Organisation eine Partnerschaft aufbauen würden?

E: Unterschiedlich. Es kommt eben auf das individuelle Ziel an.

I: Hm.

E: Also, z.B. dieser Arbeitskreis Neuropsychologie, der hat sich, ähm, zur Aufgabe gemacht, ähm, die Diagnostikmethoden und die Therapiemethoden zu standardisieren, Empfehlungen zu geben an neue Kollegen, so dass man eine Art Richtlinie entwickelt und ähm, an die sich dann, ähm, alle halten können, -

I: Hmhm.

E: - nicht müssen. Ne? Das ist ja jedem seine Expertise, ähm, was er denn daraus macht.

I: Hmhm.

E: Und ähm, für die regionalen Partner ist es der Grund, dass wir, ähm, ähm, die Patienten gemeinsam behandeln. Z.T. werden ja die Patienten in verschiedenen Kliniken, ähm, diagnostiziert behandelt. Und da arbeitet man zusammen oder mit den ambulant weiter Behandelnden. Ähm, also da gibt es unterschiedlichste Gründe.

I: Okay.

E: Und in der Uniklinik z.B. laufen Forschungsprojekte, ähm, das ist dann wieder nicht auf Patientenebene.

I: Okay. Und gibt es bestimmte Kriterien, die Ihre Partnerschaftsorganisation erfüllen müsste?

E: Das ist ganz individuell verschieden.

I: Okay.

E: Also, auf Patientenebene müssen es natürlich die Fachleute sein, das erklärt sich von selbst. (Lachen) Auf der neuropsychologischen Ebene, handelt es sich halt um Neurologen und Neuropsychologen (lachend).

I: Okay.

E: Da gibt es eben fachliche Voraussetzungen und man muss sich natürlich im Bereich Epilepsie zusammentun. (lachend)

I: Ja. Und was für Partnerschaften wünschen Sie sich für die Zukunft? Oder sind Sie zufrieden, so wie es ist?

E: Ach, ich bin eigentlich schon ziemlich zufrieden, aber man kann ja immer noch ausbauen. (Lachen) Da habe ich jetzt aber keine spezifischen Wünsche.

I: Okay. Jetzt kommen auch schon die letzten Fragen. Ähm, was für Medien benutzen Sie, um sich über neue Behandlungsmethoden und Innovationen im Gesundheitswesen zu informieren? Sind das -

E: Ganz viel Internet, Newsletter, die Seiten, der, ähm, ähm, einzelnen Fachzeitschriften

I: Hmhm.

E: - dann auch Emails mit Kollegen, nach dem Motto: „Hier hast du den schon gelesen? Hier ist ein Artikel super.“.

I: Also, auch so Mundpropaganda?

E: Ja. Es gibt Newsgroups, wo man sich, ähm, also austauschen kann. Dann klinikintern natürlich Mund zu Mund, ne?

I: Hm.

E: Ähm, Fachveranstaltungen, Tagungen, Kongresse, da tauscht man sich aus.

I: Okay. Und was sind die Online und Offline Kommunikationskanäle, mit denen Sie am liebsten kommunizieren, z.B. mit Ihren Partnern? Ähm, ist es eher Email, Telefon, Brief -

E: Na, hier im Haus, persönlicher Kontakt und alles darüber hinaus, bin ich ein Fan von Email, weil es zeitlich einfach ein bisschen ungebundener ist, als Telefon.

I: Das stimmt.

E: Ähm, wenn man da wieder im Patiententermin ist, kann man da so schlecht ran gehen.

I: Ja. Und die letzte Frage schon. Ähm, welche Art von Informationsverbreitungsmitteln sind Ihrer Meinung nach am effektivsten im Deutschen Gesundheitswesen und spezifisch im Epilepsiesektor? Haben -

E: Kommt drauf an, wen man erreichen will.

I: Okay.

E: Also, die Patienten erreicht man, ähm, sicherlich nicht über Rundmails, über Fachverteiler -

I: Hm.

E: - aber die Epilepsieerkrankten sind gut über Selbsthilfe, ähm, organisiert. Da gibt es Zeitschriften, da gibt es inzwischen auch Emailverteiler. Es gibt Selbsthilfegruppen, die über Emails laufen. Ähm, und, ähm, das gleiche, gilt, gilt für die Fachleute. Ne?

I: Okay. Also, Sie würde man auch dadurch, also die Zentren würde man auch dadurch -

E: Emails, dann die Fachzeitschriften, das Deutsche Ärzteblatt. Ne? Wenn Sie in Richtung Werbung überlegen oder ähm, ähm, die spezifischen Zeitschriften Epilepsi oder die Zeitschrift für Epileptologie im deutschsprachigem Raum. Ich denke da, mit einer groben Rundmail wird man nicht weit kommen, sondern da dann in die Fachmagazine gehen.

I: Okay.

6.5.3 Semi-structured interview with outpatient medical institutions

Interview 1

I: Die erste Frage ist: Was sind die Gründe, weshalb Sie Ihre derzeitigen Behandlungsmethoden in Ihr Behandlungsprotokoll aufgenommen haben?

E: Wir reden jetzt von der Behandlung von Epilepsiepatienten?

I: Ähm, generell ja.

E: Was meinen Sie mit generell?

I: Also, so generell Ihre Behandlungsmethoden in Ihrer Praxis.

E: Bei Epilepsie, oder jetzt, oder, oder grundsätzlich?

I: Ja, also Epilepsie. Das wäre schön.

E: Bei Epilepsiepatienten. Und was war noch mal die Frage?

I: Ähm, was sind die Gründe, weshalb Sie Ihre derzeitigen Behandlungsmethoden in Ihr Behandlungsprotokoll aufgenommen haben?

E: Ja, ähm, also persönliche Erfahrungen?

I: Hmhm.

E: Das muss ich als erstes Mal setzen. Ähm, Studiendaten,

I: Hm

E: ähm, ja, ähm Gespräch-, also Vorträge mit Experten -

I: Okay

E: - Empfehlungen, Expertenempfehlungen und Einholung von zweiten Meinungen in den Epilepsiezentränen, also so, es gibt so in Kliniken Epilepsiezentränen -

I: Okay.

E: - und da holt man sich Zweitmeinungen ein.

I: Und sehen Sie Bedürfnisse oder Probleme bei Ihren Patienten, die durch das gegenwärtige Protokoll nicht berücksichtigt werden?

E: Also, so ein Protokoll, da weiß ich nicht, wie Sie sich das vorstellen? So ein richtiges Protokoll indem Sinne gibt es nicht. Nein.

I: Okay.

E: Gut. Es gibt verschiedene Epilepsieformen natürlich, die sehr unterschiedlich ansprechen -

I: Hm

E: - auf Medikamente und dann muss man natürlich die Begleiterkrankungen, das Alter oder ähm, ähm, irgend wie Schwangerschaftswünsche oder ähm, solche Sachen mitberücksichtigen und dann suchen Sie eins aus. Also, das ist nicht protokollartig so angelegt.

I: Okay. Ja. Und was würde Sie dazu veranlassen, das Protokoll, also die Behandlungsmethoden zu verändern oder das zu überarbeiten?

E: Ähmmm, also das ist immer eine individuelle Entscheidung. Also, ich -

I: Hmhm.

E: - also, wir haben da keine, ich habe da keinen festen Plan.

I: Okay.

E: Das wird individuell immer, immer wieder neu entschieden. Also, wenn sich da mal so eine neue Behandlungsmethode eröffnet, ein neues Medikament, was Sinn macht, ähm, was wir in letzter Zeit auch immer wieder mal hatten, -

I: Hm.

E: - dann nehme ich das, dann nehme ich das auch gern mal mit rein.

I: Hm.

E: Ne? Also, wenn da gute Studiendaten waren, vielleicht da noch eine Expertenempfehlung dazu, ähm, und dann, und dann probiert man das. Also, bei Epilepsie ist doch auch relativ viel, ähm, try and error, ne? Also, wenn sie mit der ersten, mit der ersten Substanz nicht hinkommen, dann ist da so – man sagt immer, man sagt immer, bei ca. 60% kommen sie mit der ersten Substanz hin. Ähm und dann, dann, dann, ähm, dann kommt eine zweite Substanz hinzu, aber dann wird es auch schon komplizierter. Ne?

I: Okay. Und ähm -

E: Oder einer dritten, also wir haben Leute, die nehmen vier Antiepileptika ein.

I: Hm. Okay. Und wie verläuft die Entscheidungsfindung bezüglich der Integration neuer Behandlungsmethoden in Ihrer Praxis ab? Ähm, entscheiden Sie das selber oder?

E: Ja. Also, im Endeffekt muss ich das ja selber entscheiden, weil ich ja da im Grunde medizinisch hafte.

I: Hmhm.

E: Zum einen, gut, wir haben da als Kassenärzte natürlich auch noch mal, natürlich haften wir auch wirtschaftlich, also um Fehlverordnung -

I: Okay.

E: - also, ,mit Mitteln außerhalb der Zulassung, damit die Kliniken und Ambulanzen dort Empfehlungen machen, die sind da, ähm, außen vor, weil sie das ja nicht verordnen in der Regel. Die haben keine Kassenzulassung, so dass sie dann selber verordnen. Sie müssen dann auch für die Verordnung selber grade stehen.

I: Okay.

E: Und das heißt also, im Endeffekt, also es kann einmal eine gute Empfehlung von einer Klinik kommen, aber ich muss das trennen. Ich kann das nicht Eins zu Eins übernehmen, ich muss das schon einmal ab checken, ob das so möglich ist, ansonsten hafte ich nicht nur so dafür, sondern kriege dann irgend wann mal von den Prüfgremien ein Schreiben und da sagen die: „Ja, begründen Sie das mal. Es geht hier um ein paar Tausende Euro.“. Ähm, ob sich das begründen lässt oder nicht, ähm, ob man das verordnet hat, weil das off label ist z.B., also außerhalb der Integration. Ne? Es kann Sinn machen, dass man das gibt. Ne?

I: Hm.

E: Aber es gibt, es gibt dann eben off label.

I: Okay. Und inwiefern beeinflussen Risiko und Ungewissheit, z.B. im Bezug auf das Evidenzlevel oder das Nebenwirkungsprofil von einer neuen Methode, ähm, wie Sie darüber entscheiden, also ob Sie die z.B. aufnehmen würden -

E: Ja.

I: - oder nicht?

E: Ja schon. Schon. Man ist natürlich in erster Linie, versucht man halt auf Sicherheit zu gehen. Ne? Also, dass man ein Reservemittel, das sehr, sehr schwerwiegende Nebenwirkungen hat, das würde man dann auch als Reservemittel behalten. Ne?

I: Okay.

E: Also, man muss, man wartet schon darauf am Anfang Erfahrungen zu machen. Ja?

I: Ja.

E: Also, man nimmt, man nimmt gleich so das Mittel, das hochgepriesen wird von den Vertretern vielleicht oder auf einem Kongress hochgepriesen wird, denn das ist ja nicht so, dass das dann gleich

in der Epilepsiebehandlung, dann gleich hier voll einschlägt. Also, man ähm, man wartet schon ein bisschen zu, guckt auch in der Zulassung, was noch so an, an, ähm, an Nebenwirkungen auftritt, ich sage mal so in der freien Wildnis -

I: Ja.

E: - was bleibt in der Zulassung, denn es sind ja auch mehrere Patienten, die da eingestellt werden in dem Zulassungsstrudel. Wir haben einen Strudel, der hat vielleicht 400 – 1000 Patienten, wenn es hochkommt, aber wenn es dann zugelassen wird, dann nehmen es plötzlich 30 – 40.000 Patienten. Dann können sie das erste Jahr mal abwarten, wie da die Zuläufe sind, was die Nebenwirkungen angeht. Ne?

I: Okay.

E: Wenn das nicht schon vorher zugelassen ist, also in den anderen Integration, aber das ist bei der Epilepsie nicht so der Fall. Also, bei anderen, semiologischen Erkrankungen, wo ich auch viel mit arbeite, da haben wir dann schon Erfahrungen aus anderen Krankheitsbildern meist, dann ist dieser Prozess, ähm, verkürzt. Aber bei Epilepsie, das sind meisten Mittel, die neu, neu entwickelt worden sind für diese Erkrankung. Da warten wir häufiger auch, wie ist die Erfahrung so und geben das selber erst mal nur bei wenigen Patienten und gucken, wie die das vertragen, auch mit den Dosierungen. Häufig haben sie ja Schwankungen. Die Dosierungen, die in Studien da, ähm, irgend wie gegeben worden sind, ähm, die passen dann oft nicht zu dem, was man selber so für Erfahrungen macht in der Epilepsiebehandlung. Ne?

I: Okay.

E: Man muss ein Gefühl für die Dosierung entwickeln, ähm und daher, ähm, also, ähm, eher so ein bisschen konservative Vorgehen. Ne?

I: Okay.

E: Und in der Epilepsie gibt es mittlerweile eben auch Mittel, die sehr gut etabliert sind. Die haben ihre, ich sag jetzt mal so, mindestens sechs – sieben Jahre gebraucht, bis die ein bisschen dahin gekommen sind.

I: Okay.

E: Ja? Also, die sind, ähm, das sind so Prozesse, die brauchen einfach mehr Zeit.

I: Okay. Ist interessant. Und haben Sie, ähm, Ungewissheiten bezüglich der derzeitigen Behandlungsmethoden von Epilepsie oder sind Sie damit zufrieden?

E: Ja, wir haben schon, schon, sage ich mal, bei den meisten, da sind wir zufrieden. Ja?

I: Hm.

E: Sagen wir mal so zwei Drittel der Patienten.

I: Hm.

E: Und ein Drittel gestaltet sich sehr schwierig.

I: Okay.

E: Das sind dann eben die, ähm, die eine Polypharmakotherapie brauchen. Wo sie dann, ähm, ähm, sage ich mal, im Alltag Probleme haben dadurch oder sozial beruflich da nicht integriert werden können dadurch. Ähm, Patienten, die dann, ähm, immer wieder auch in Vorbereitungen sind für epilepsiechirurgische Verfahren, ähm, oder eben andere invasive Verfahren, Stimulationsverfahren, damit sie den Anfall reduziert kriegen. Da ist schon Anfallsfreiheit kein, kein Ziel mehr. Ne? Die wollen einfach nur, dass sie weniger Anfälle kriegen. Ne?

I: Hm. Okay.

E: Und wo die (? 07:41 min.) dann natürlich auch weniger sind. Ne? Also, durch die Krankheit selber, durch die sozialen Folgen, durch die, ähm, Medikamentennebenwirkungen, dass die, dass die dann

auch psychisch belastet sind.

I: Okay. Und haben Sie Partnerschaften mit Forschungs- und Behandlungsprogrammen oder, ähm, gar nicht? Oder was für Partnerschaften haben Sie überhaupt?

E: Ja, also Partnerschaften? Also, enge Zusammenarbeit -

I: Ja.

E: - ne? Wir haben Zusammenarbeit mit Epilepsiezentren.

I: Okay.

E: Also, da haben wir hier in Buch, da haben wir zum Glück ein Epilepsiezentrum, ähm, wo die meisten dann, ähm, von den komplizierteren Fällen, ähm, angebunden, mit angebunden sind -

I: Okay.

E: wo der Patient jetzt allerdings nicht einfach, wenn er mal wieder einen Anfall hatte, einfach hingehen kann. In der Regel nicht. Ne?

I: Okay.

E: Es muss dann schon härter kommen. Also, die, die laufen dann erst mal hier auf. Ne? Und wir können die da jetzt auch nicht einfach mal so schnell hinschicken, das ist dann schon mit Hürden, mit Anmeldeformularen, mit, ähm, Darlegung aller Gründe. Das sind vielseitige Formulare, die man erst mal ausfüllen muss, damit die da einen Termin kriegen. Also, mit anderen Worten, völlig überlaufen, überlastet und hohe Hürden, da überhaupt hinzukommen. Ne?

I: Okay.

E: Also, wir haben quasi an der Stelle eine Unterversorgung, was diese Epilepsiezentren angeht. Also, ähm, in Buch haben wir zum Glück so ein Epilepsiezentrum und nach Bonn schicke ich auch einige Patienten. Bonn ist ja so traditionell das Epilepsiezentrum in Deutschland, vielleicht mit Erlangen zusammen, und da habe ich noch einige Patienten, die da -

I: Okay.

E: - da auch hingehen.

I: Und ähm, wie funktioniert der Aufbau mit anderen Partnerschaften, also mit so Epilepsiezentren und Ihrem -

E: Ja also, -

I: Also wird sich da einfach bei Interesse zusammengesetzt und gesagt: „Wir würden gern zusammenarbeiten.“ oder wie, wie läuft das ab?

E: Ja also, so, ich sage mal so, dass ist dann schon so, dass sich diese Epilepsiezentren sich vorstellen. Also, wenn dann z.B. in Bochum ein neuer, neuer Leiter hingekommen ist und der sich da eben vorstellt, indem er da Vorträge hält -

I: Ja.

E: - und da die ersten Kontakte entstehen. Und dann natürlich im Laufe der Zeit über die Patienten einfach. Ne?

I: Ja.

E: Also, die sehen ja schon, wer jetzt da einen Patienten in die Heide schickt und wer mehr hat und ähm, ähm, reflektieren, ähm, das siebt sich dann so aus. Ne? Die sehen, wer jetzt mehr Epilepsiepatienten hat oder wer dem Epilepsiepatienten zu verstehen gibt, dass er nicht damit soviel zu tun hat, dass er sich lieber andere Neurologen sucht. Ne? Ähm, und dann selektiert sich das schon so aus. Und dann, gut, und dann entstehen dann auch, dann auch, ähm, wenn kompliziertere Fälle sind, dass man dann auch telefoniert und so. Ne?

I: Und was sind die Gründe genau, warum Sie mit einer Organisation eine Partnerschaft aufbauen würden? Ist es das, ähm,

E: Ja?

I: - dass man sich gegenseitig gut ergänzt, so in der Behandlung oder?

E: Ja. Ja.

I: Hm.

E: Also genau. Eine einfache Basiseinstellung oder auch eine zweite Basiseinstellung, das machen wir hier natürlich auch bei komplizierten Fällen -

I: Hm.

E: - weil, ähm, sage ich mal, ähm, dann, ähm, die Problematik dann auch ist, ähm, dass die Epilepsie - Typus erst mal immer eingestuft werden muss.

I: Hmhm.

E: Wir haben Leute, die eben dann z.T. nicht nur einen Epilepsie – Typ haben -

I: Okay.

E: - sondern mehrere gleichzeitig.

I: Okay.

E: Ja? Also, quasi, dann müssen die da in der Semiologie irgend wie rauskriegen, ähm, ähm, wo entstehen die Anfälle.

I: Hmhm.

E: Ja? Dann muss das dann entsprechend dann auch noch mal, ähm, topografisch, entweder im Gehirn zugeordnet werden. Das ist oft schon eine speziellere EEG – Untersuchung, die wir hier in unserem Bereich nicht anbieten können.

I: Okay.

E: Ja? Um dann zu entscheiden, mit welchen Mitteln, mit welchen Kombinationen man hantieren kann oder geht das in Richtung Epilepsiechirurgie. Ja?

I: Okay.

E: D.h., ähm, dass sowohl vom Zeitaufwand, ich sage mal so, wenn da jemand ist in der Klinik, der sitzt da vielleicht eine Stunde und länger und dann wird da erst mal alles ganz genau minutiös erfragt. Das kann man gar nicht in der Form hier leisten.

I: Okay. Und und gibt es bestimmte -

E: Und dann, dann gehen -

I: Ja?

E: - gehen die da ran und dann suchen die noch mal Mittel und, ähm, empfehlen das. Gut, in der Umsetzung, da sind wir dann wieder dran. Dann diese (? 12:03 min.) - therapien, da in der Fein- in der Feindosierung dann hier das umsetzen müssen, in Abwägung der Nebenwirkungen -

I: Hm.

E: - so. Ne? Und sie brauchen dann eben dieses stationäre Setting bei einigen Patienten. Ne? Wo das unklar ist. Ja? Und dann müssen sie die, dann kommen die dahin, dann bekommen die so ein Video – EEG – Monitoring oder auch über Nacht. Und dann läuft da, dann filmt da oder auch mehrere Tage ein EEG, das sind auch Sachen, die wir nicht machen können. D.h., sie brauchen von der Diagnostik her, ähm, Sachen, ähm, Untersuchungen, die wir hier nicht anbieten können.

I: Okay.

E: Ja? Ähm, wir haben ja häufig das Problem bei so chronischen Epilepsiepatienten, dass die mit der Zeit, besonders, ähm, bei einigen Epilepsietypen, dass die auch psychogene Anfälle entwickeln -

I: Okay.

E: - so bestimmte Epilepsie-, Temporallappenepilepsie z.B.. Da, da kann man sagen, die Hälfte aller Anfälle, die die haben, sind dann nicht mehr organisch, die sind dann psychogen. Ne?

I: Ja.

E: Ähm, das müssen sie erst mal rauskriegen. Das lässt sich dann aber, weil die ja wissen, wie die Anfälle ablaufen, dann wird das ja kopiert und ähm, unterbewusst, ne? Vom Ablauf ist ja für den Außenstehenden erst mal nichts zu unterscheiden. Ja? Und da müssen wir dann eben über eine entsprechende EEG – Diagnostik, die dann auch über mehrere Tage läuft, versuchen, das rauszukriegen. Oder über Provokation, wo sie dann auch schon mal so einen psychogenen Anfall auch mal provozieren. Da gibt es so Tricks -

I: Ja.

E: - über Infusionen von angeblichen, anfallsreduzierenden Medikamenten. Es wird dem Patienten suggeriert, dass er gleich einen Anfall kriegt, ne?

I: Okay.

E: Dabei spritzen sie ihm nur Kochsalzlösung. Das ist, ist ein Modell, da gibt es verschiedene Modelle.

I: Hm. Okay.

E: Und dann kriegt, wer denn dann einen Anfall kriegt und das gleichlaufende EEG ist nicht auffällig, dann ist das hoch verdächtig auf einen psychogenen Anfall.

I: Okay.

E: Was nicht heißt, dass er jetzt nicht noch normale Anfälle dazu hat. Nur, wenn die meisten psychogen sind, dann tun sie ihm falsch, wenn, wenn sie irgend welche Medikamente immer wieder steigern oder irgend welche Medikamente zu probieren. Das sind aber Sachen, die kriegt man ambulant nicht mehr raus.

I: Okay.

E: Da brauchen Sie wirklich so ein, so ein Konstrukt im Hintergrund, was sie dann nutzen. Aber sie können den Verdacht äußern und so, ne? Aber, ähm, es ist ambulant schwierig, das rauszukriegen. Ne?

I: Okay. Und noch mal zurück zu den Partnerschaften. Gibt es bestimmte Kriterien, die Ihre Partnerschaften erfüllen müssen?

E: Ja.

I: Ja? (kurzes Lachen) Was denn?

E: In erster Linie die Qualifikation. Ne?

I: Okay.

E: Ähm, weil, ähm, weil, ähm, na, ich sage jetzt mal so, wenn das eine qualifizierte Geschichte wäre, dann würde ich für eine Meinung auch schon mal jemanden durch halb Deutschland schicken. Da hab ich kein Problem.

I: Okay.

E: Also, ich würde auch Leute nach Hamburg oder so. Aber, ähm, ähm, ähm, wir haben jetzt das Glück, dass wir jetzt zwei, ähm, ähm, Zentren jetzt hier in der Nähe haben -

I: Hm

E: - und von daher passt jetzt Qualifikation und Nähe, da kommt dann beides gezielt für uns zusammen.

I: Okay.

E: Ähm, ich würde aber, den, den Ortsfaktor nicht zu sehr über dimensionieren. Es ist zwar schön. Wir haben natürlich auch Leute, die dadurch häufiger da aufkreuzen. Das wäre blöd, wenn die dann immer nach München dafür fahren müssten, -

I: Ja.

E: - aber, ähm, so in erster Linie die Qualifikation.

I: Okay. Und gibt es bestimmte Partnerschaften, die Sie sich für die Zukunft wünschen würden oder sind Sie zufrieden, so wie es ist mit den Zentren?

E: Also, mit den Zentren selber zufrieden. Ähm, gut, ähm, was, was natürlich ein Punkt ist, sind die Hürden, die wir dann auch überwinden müssten -

I: Ja.

E: - ähm, die ich jetzt vielleicht als besondere zuweise oder besondere Kontakte, dass wir schon mal eher einen Termin kriegen, aber es ist natürlich auch schon nicht so einfach, wenn sie da keine Termine kriegen. Also, so dieser Versorgungsdruck, den wir hier ja natürlich auch erleben oder andere bei uns erleben, denn zum Neurologen kommen sie nicht so einfach -

I: Ja.

E: - ähm, wenn sie natürlich akut etwas haben, der darf natürlich sofort hierbleiben. Ne?

I: Ja.

E: Aber sagen wir mal, wenn man jetzt so anruft und da, da, da muss man ihn jetzt nicht sofort ran nehmen. Ne? Ja?

I: Okay.

E: Und das gleiche erleben wir so ein bisschen, wenn das so in Richtung spezialisierte Zentren geht, dass man da nicht so einfach sagen kann: „Jetzt gehen sie mal und besprechen das einfach mal dort.“, ne? Also, die, so wie ich das vorhin geschildert habe, man muss denen schon ein bisschen, ähm, das muss schon, das muss schon begründet sein, sonst war es das letzte Mal, dass sie jemanden auch schnell unterkriegen.

I: Okay.

E: Denn wenn die das Gefühl haben, da ist nur jemand, der schiebt einfach nur weiter, ja?

I: Ja. Ja klar.

E: Der beschäftigt sich mit dem Fall nicht, dann, dann machen die irgend wann auch zu. Klar.

I: Okay. Und jetzt noch, ähm, die letzten Fragen. Was für Medien benutzen Sie, um sich über neue Behandlungsmethoden und Innovationen im Deutschen Gesundheitswesen zu informieren? Ähm, mit Medien meine ich einfach, -

E: Hm.

I: - benutzen Sie Fachjournale, Fachbücher, Internet -

E: Also, ähm, in erster Linie Fachjournale -

I: Hm. Gibt es da bestimmte, haben Sie bestimmte Namen für mich, also ein bestimmtes Journal?

E: Ja, also, also, was ich dann immer sooo, also, eines der besten Journale ist (? 17:12 min.).

I: Okay.

E: Also, da bin ich Mitglied bei der Amerikanischen Neurologen Gesellschaft. Ich kriege das also auch immer alle paar Wochen. Also (? 17:19 min.) das ist so und dann gibt es auch noch deutsche Journale, die eigentlich auch ganz gut sind, die eigentlich auch ganz gut updaten, nicht? „Die aktuelle Neurologie“, -

I: Okay.

E: „Der Nervenarzt“, (? 17:32 min.) -

I: Okay.

E: und ähm, ähm, also, also „Infoneurologie“, das ist auch noch eine sehr gute Zusammenfassung und dann gibt es noch so ein, zwei, die ich auch hier, die ich bestellt habe.

I: Aber -

E: Und, und, und die Kongresse. Also, -

I: Hm.

E: ähm, ähm, ähm, jetzt in zwei Wochen in Philadelphia wieder. Das ist eine ganze Woche, ein Fortbildungskongress mit 1000 Programmen. Und da gibt es so update – Kurse, da können sie verschiedene Kurse belegen.

I: Hm.

E: Und ähm, da ist dann auch ähm, also Epilepsie ist da auch immer ein Thema.

I: Okay. Und was für eine Rolle spielt Mundpropaganda? Spielt das eine Rolle für Sie?

E: Ja gut, also, Sie meinen so Pharma?

I: Ja.

E: Ja.

I: Okay.

E: Ja auch. Die versorgen einen ja auch mit aktuellen Veröffentlichungen und Daten.

I: Okay. Und was sind die Online und Offline Kommunikationskanäle mit denen Sie am meisten kommunizieren, speziell jetzt mit Ihren Partnern? Z.B. ist es eher Email, Telefon, persönliche Meetings?

E: Ähm, mit den Partnern schriftlich.

I: Schriftlich. Okay.

E: Hm. In der Regel Briefe.

I: Okay. Und welche Arten von Informationsverbreitungsmitteln sind Ihrer Meinung nach am effektivsten im Deutschen Gesundheitswesen? Also, z.B. wenn ich jetzt Informationen über eine neue oder bestimmte Methode zu Epilepsiebehandlung in Deutschland, ähm, verbreiten möchte, wie sollte ich das anstellen? Eher auch durch Fachjournale oder Kongresse?

E: Ja genau. Fachartikel in diesen meistgelesenen, deutschsprachigen Zeitungen.

I: Hmhm.

E: Also, ich denke, das da, dass das am meisten ankommt. Und sie kriegen hier natürlich auch ständig irgend welche Emails, wenn man da eingetragen ist. Gut, wenn man sich jetzt ganz besonders, ähm, ja, ähm, mit Emails ist es ein bisschen schwierig. Da fliegt man denn schon mal häufiger weg und muss die dann ausdrucken und so. Also, ich denke mit Fachzeitschriften wird die Positionierung, ähm, am effektivsten.

I: Okay.

Interview 2

I: Dann fangen wir mal an. Ähm, was sind die Gründe, weshalb Sie Ihre derzeitigen Behandlungsmethoden in Ihr Behandlungsprotokoll aufgenommen haben?

E: Warum ich meine Behandlungsmethoden aufgenommen habe?

I: Genau. Einfach die Gründe.

E: Hm, okay. Also, wenn man ambulant tätig sein will, dann hat man ja nur die Wahl, wenn man von der, also wenn man eine Kassenzulassung möchte und von der Kassenärztlichen Vereinigung zugelassen werden möchte und von der Krankenkasse auch akzeptiert werden möchte, dann gibt es eben nur die beiden Methoden, entweder analytisch fundiert zu arbeiten -

I: Hm.

E: - da gibt es dann wieder verschiedene Möglichkeiten, aber eben die große Unterscheidung ist analytisch oder verhaltenstherapeutisch.

I: Okay.

E: Und ähm, da ich mich mehr – das hat eigentlich auch mehr mit meiner eigenen, ähm, Biografie zu

tun – mich mehr für die kognitive Verhaltenstherapie interessiert habe, habe ich mich dann für diese Ausbildung entschieden.

I: Okay.

E: Und ähm, ja. Das war eigentlich der Grund.

I: Okay. Und sehen Sie irgend welche Bedürfnisse oder Probleme bei Ihren Patienten, die durch gegenwärtige Behandlungsprotokoll, dass Sie haben, nicht berücksichtigt werden oder denken Sie, dass das alles abgedeckt ist mit den Methoden, die Sie anwenden?

E: Also ich, also kein Therapeut arbeitet ganz streng genommen nur nach einer einzigen Therapierichtung.

I: Hm. Okay.

E: Das ist eher ein Schwerpunkt. Und dann gibt es verschiedene Techniken, die man dann zusätzlich erlernen kann, z.B. Hypnose oder ENDER (?) oder Techniken auf der Transaktionsanalyse. Also, da gibt es ganz verschiedene Dinge, -

I: Hm.

E: - die man dann als Techniken sozusagen mit in das, in den Behandlungsbereich aufnehmen kann. Nicht?

I: Hm hm.

E: Die auch sinnvoll sind, auch dringend notwendig sind.

I: Okay.

E: Also, rein kognitiv zu arbeiten, würde den Patienten sicherlich nicht gerecht werden.

I: Okay.

E: Das ist aber der Schwerpunkt. Das ist der Schwerpunkt.

I: Okay. Und was würde Sie dazu veranlassen, Ihr Behandlungsprotokoll zu überarbeiten oder zu ändern?

E: Ähm, z.B. wenn ich mich jetzt für eine bestimmte, für ein bestimmtes Klientel mehr interessieren würde. Also, sagen wir mal, wenn ich jetzt, ähm, mehr Patienten aufnehmen wollte, mehr mit Patienten arbeiten wollte, die jetzt Paarprobleme haben, z.B..

I: Hm.

E: Oder ähm, Patienten, die neurophysiologische Störungen haben, da, die könnte ich jetzt mit dieser Therapieform nicht abdecken.

I: Okay.

E: Da müsste ich dann noch mal wieder eine neue Richtung erlernen, die Neurophysiologie oder auch, es gibt ja jetzt auch mittlerweile, ähm, psychoonkologische Therapieverfahren, die ich jetzt – Natürlich habe ich manchmal auch Krebspatienten.

I: Hm.

E: Aber wenn ich mich jetzt nur darauf spezialisieren würde, dann würde ich halt noch mal, eine andere Richtung mir aneignen.

I: Okay. Ähm und wie läuft die Entscheidungsfindung bezüglich der Integration neuer Behandlungsmethoden in Ihrer Praxis ab? Also, entscheiden Sie das ganz allein oder?

E: Das entscheide ich ganz allein.

I: Okay. Und ähm, in wie weit beeinflussen z.B., ähm, also Risiko und Ungewissheit auf, ähm, über bestimmte Methoden, z.B. jetzt, ähm, in Bezug auf das Evidenzlevel oder das Nebenwirkungsprofil jetzt Ihre Entscheidung darüber, ob Sie jetzt diese Methode in Ihr Behandlungsprotokoll aufnehmen würden?

E: Das hängt von der Diagnose ab. Also, das mach ich sehr stark von der Diagnose abhängig.

I: Okay.

E: Also, wenn ich – ja? Reicht das?

I: Ja.

E: Okay.

I: Ähm, und haben Sie momentan Partnerschaften mit irgend welchen Forschungsprogrammen, Behandlungsprogrammen, anderen -

E: Was ist mit dem Begriff Partnerschaften gemeint?

I: Also, arbeiten Sie mit anderen Institutionen zusammen oder schicken Sie Ihre Patienten vielleicht zu andern Instanzen?

E: Ja. Ja, ja. Auf jeden Fall. Es gibt ja die Möglichkeit, stationäre Therapien zu machen oder ähm, in eine Tagesklinik zu gehen oder einen Therapeuten aufzusuchen, der eventuell eine Technik, gerade so bei traumatisierten Patienten z.B., ja, eine Technik anwendet, die ich nicht anwende. Da wäre das rein theoretisch schon möglich, da die das dann selber bezahlen, die Patienten und dann, ja, eine gewisse Zeit dann diese Technik dann anwenden mit einem anderen Therapeuten.

I: Hm.

E: Ansonsten, ähm, das müssten die dann aber privat bezahlen, weil in unserer Rechtsprechung ist das so, dass eine Psychotherapie an den Therapeuten gebunden ist, für den die Therapie bewilligt wird. Also,

I: Okay.

E: - der Patient sagt, er möchte gern bei dem oder dem eine Therapie machen und die Bewilligung ist eben dann auch spezifisch für diesen Therapeuten.

I: Okay. Und was – Ja? Entschuldigung. Ja?

E: Und es kann also nicht gleichzeitig mit zwei verschiedenen Therapeuten bei ein und der selben Krankenkasse abrechnen. Das ist nicht möglich.

I: Okay. Und was sind die Gründe, warum Sie mit einer Organisation oder ähm, einer anderen medizinischen Institution eine Partnerschaft aufbauen würden?

E: Ähm, das wird ja nicht aufgebaut. Das ergibt sich einfach durch die Situation.

I: Okay.

E: Ja, aufgebaut hört sich jetzt sehr großartig an.

I: Hm.

E: Das müssen Sie sich so vorstellen: Ich habe eine Patientin und im weiteren Verlauf verschlechtert sich das Krankheitsbild aufgrund irgend welcher Ereignisse, z.B. im privaten Umfeld oder arbeitstechnisch. Und die Patientin, die kompensiert, dann reicht eine Stunde in der Woche nicht mehr aus und dann braucht die Patientin mehr Betreuung. Und dann lege ich ihr nahe, vorübergehend die Therapie, ähm, unsere Therapie auf Eis zu legen und sich z.B. in eine Tagesklinik zu begeben, wenn ich denke, dass das notwendig und gut und richtig für die Patientin ist.

I: Okay.

E: Und das wird nicht aufgebaut, diese Strukturen sind ja schon längst gegeben.

I: Okay.

E: Ne? Es gibt all diese Möglichkeiten hier in unserem Land und ähm, ähm, da muss nichts aufgebaut werden.

I: Also, es ist nicht so, wie z.B. wenn Krankenhäuser z.B. Partnerschaften mit andern Krankenhäusern haben oder mit bestimmten Forschungsprogrammen?

E: Nein.

I: Das ist ganz anders. Okay.

E: Das gibt es nicht. Es ist halt so, dass wir alle miteinander arbeiten, Hand in Hand.

I: Hm.

E: Wenn ich jetzt z.B. den Eindruck habe, ich bin ja Psychologin -

I: Hmhm.

E: - wenn ich den Eindruck hab, die Patientin oder der Patient wäre gut bedient, wenn er zusätzlich zur Therapie noch ein Antidepressiva einnimmt, -

I: Hmhm.

E: - dann würde ich ihm, dann würde ich diese Complaintes erst mal verstärken und würde versuchen, ihn dahingehend zu motivieren. Und wenn er damit einverstanden ist, was jetzt natürlich nicht so ist: „Entweder Sie machen das oder ich arbeite nicht mehr mit Ihnen!“ (lachend), sondern, ne? Also, so. Ich gebe das zu bedenken, dass das hilfreich sein könnte für die Stabilisierung und er macht das, dann rufe ich auch schon mal persönlich beim Psychiater an und versuche, einen Platz für den Patienten zu bekommen, weil das sehr schwierig ist sonst.

I: Okay.

E: Für den Patienten, ne? Also vermitteln, praktisch.

I: Okay.

E: Ja?

I: Ja. Und ähm, jetzt kommen wir auch schon zu den letzten Fragen, zu dem letzten Thema. Ähm, was für Medien benutzen Sie, um sich über neue Behandlungsmethoden oder Innovationen im Gesundheitswesen zu informieren? Sind das Fachjournale oder das Internet oder Bücher?

E: In erster Linie ist das der Berufsverband.

I: Hmhm.

E: Dann ist das die psychotherapeutische, psychologisch, psychotherapeutische Kammer.

I: Hmhm.

E: Ähm, dann sind das natürlich die Fachzeitschriften und die Information über Broschüren über Fortbildungen, die dann jedes Jahr neu zugeschickt werden.

I: Okay. Und spielen vielleicht Zuspielungen von Kollegen oder der Mundpropaganda da auch eine Rolle? Oder gar nicht?

E: Mundpropaganda eher nicht, -

I: Hmhm.

E: - weil so viel redet man nicht mit Kollegen. Also, die trifft man ja nicht jeden Tag.

I: Nee. Ja.

E: Aber ähm, es passiert schon mal im Qualitätszirkel, dass jemand sagt: „Ich habe ein Seminar gemacht, ich würde euch das gerne vorstellen.“ Und dann freuen wir uns alle.

I: Ja klar.

E: Dann stellt der das vor und dann überlegt der eine oder andere, vielleicht auch dieses Seminar zu machen, weil es sehr interessant zu sein scheint oder eben auch nicht. Ne?

I: Ja. Ja.

E: Also, das ist Mundpropaganda indem Sinne jetzt, weiß ich nicht. Also, wenn man das jetzt als Mundpropaganda bezeichnen will, kann man das so nennen.

I: Hmhm.

E: Aber im Grunde ist es ja ein organisiertes Treffen und keine Mundpropaganda.

I: Okay. Also, einfach so persönliche Meetings, wo man dann, ja, mit anderen austauschen kann.

E: Das habe ich jetzt nicht verstanden.

I: Ähm, persönliche Meetings meinte ich. Es sind einfach Meetings, dass man sich mit anderen

austauscht, meinten Sie. Ne? Also nicht, dass es wirklich Mundpropaganda ist, sondern einfach.

E: Nein, nein! Eben das ist nicht beim Einkaufen und da treffe ich jemanden: „Hör mal, da und da.“ (lachend). So nicht. Ne?

I: Okay.

B: Und unter Mundpropaganda, verstehe ich eher, wenn die Patienten erzählen: „Ich bin einer Therapeutin und die ist ganz toll oder die ist ganz furchtbar.“ (Lachen)

I: Okay.

B: (Lachen) Aber so, das sind ja organisierte Treffen und die sind ja auch dafür da, dass man auch Fortbildung macht und dass man sich da untereinander informiert und ähm, das ist auch ganz wichtig.

I: Okay.

B: Das ist ein ganz wichtiger Punkt.

I: Und -

B: Also, wir machen das gern so, im Qualitätszirkel, dass man sagt: „Du Mensch, Du, ich habe da jetzt was von Thematherapie, da habe ich jetzt ein Seminar gemacht und das ist total Klasse. Das werde ich weiter machen.“ und denn: „Ja, wer macht das denn?“ und „Wo ist das denn?“ und so. Und dann, ähm, so, so ein Austausch findet auf jeden Fall im Qualitätszirkel dann statt.

I: Okay. Und -

B: Ja?

I: Ja. Und was sind so die Online- und Offline - Kommunikationskanäle, mit denen Sie am liebsten kommunizieren in Ihrem Beruf? Ist das, ähm, sind das so Email oder ist das eher so, persönliche Treffen oder Telefon?

B: Habe ich jetzt auch wieder akustisch nicht verstanden.

I: Das tut mir leid. (lachend)

B: Ist schwierig am Handy.

I: Ja. Ähm, was sind die liebsten Online- und Offline – Kommunikationskanäle, mit denen Sie am liebsten kommunizieren in Ihrem Beruf? Also, ist das eher Email oder Telefon?

B: Also, offline würde ja, was würde das jetzt bedeuten?

I: Z.B. persönlich. Also alles, was nicht durchs Internet ist. Also z.B. Telefon wäre z.B. auch offline.

B: Und kommunizieren mit wem?

I: Ähm, einfach in Ihrem Beruf, also mit Ihren Patienten, mit Ihren Kollegen -

B: Ach so, verstehe. Ja.

I: Genau.

B: Also, ähm, was mache ich? Also, ich bin aber nicht repräsentativ, das kann ich Ihnen sagen.

I: Ja, kein Problem. Das ist kein Problem. (lachend)

B: Ja, ich mach viel, also Kommunikation zusätzlich zu der Therapiesitzung, auch über mein Handy. Also, die Patienten können mir auch, ähm, schreiben, können mir Nachrichten schreiben oder wenn sie gerne einen Termin ändern wollen, können sie mich jederzeit über Handy erreichen.

I: Hmhm.

B: Aber nur die Patienten, die sich in Therapie befinden.

I: Okay.

B: Und ähm, dann online. Online kommuniziere ich nicht mit den Patienten, das kann man so nicht sagen, also nicht per Email oder so.

I: Hmhm.

B: Also, nur in Ausnahmesituationen.

I: Ja.

B: Und ähm, ansonsten nicht. Das wäre viel zu viel. Das ist nicht überschaubar.

I: Hm.

B: Stellen Sie sich vor, ich arbeite sieben Stunden und dann muss ich hinter her noch drei Stunden Email machen.

I: Stimmt. Das wäre ein bisschen – (lachend)

B: (Lachen) Das ist nicht praktikabel.

I: Nee.

B: Ähm, aber was ich online mache ist, ich informiere mich häufig, ähm, z.B. über, wenn jetzt ein Patient sozial ängstlich ist oder depressive und wäre inaktiv, dann setze ich mich auch schon mal hin und gucke, was kann man denn da machen, was würde ihm denn liegen.

I: Hm.

B: Ne? So. Also, dass man, hm, sich da so ein bisschen Anregung holt, was der Patient so in seiner Freizeit machen kann. Das mache ich schon öfter, mit dem Patienten zusammen dann.

I: Okay. Und jetzt auch schon die letzte Frage. Welche Arten von Informationsverbreitungsmitteln oder Werbemitteln, kann man auch sagen, sind Ihrer Meinung am effektivsten im Deutschen Gesundheitswesen? Ein Beispiel wäre jetzt z.B., wenn ich eine neue Methode habe, ähm, für Epilepsie und ich möchte, dass die bekannt wird. Ähm, was denken Sie, was da am effektivsten ist? Also, sollte ich einen Artikel im Journal veröffentlichen? Oder sollte ich, ja, ins Fernsehen gehen? Oder was denken Sie, ist da am -

B: Also, ich glaube, dass das Wichtigste erst mal ist, dass die Effektivität erwiesen ist.

I: Hmhm.

B: So das nicht der Fall ist, ähm, kann man da, ja, natürlich kann man irgend wie alles versuchen, irgend welche Interessenten dafür zu finden, aber es wird ja nichts von der Krankenkasse unterstützt.

I: Nee klar. Aber ähm, durch welche Medien sollte ich das denn am besten tun? Also, wäre das eher, ähm, sollte ich einen Artikel schreiben, also jetzt in einem Journal, was Epilepsie – Ärzte lesen oder -

B: Ja. Also wenn das, wenn das etwas fachbezogenes ist für bestimmte Krankheiten, dann wäre sicher das Ärzteblatt sinnvoll.

I: Hmhm.

B: Aber das Ärzteblatt muss es dann natürlich auch rein setzen wollen.

I: Klar. Ja.

B: Und oder, wenn es halt, sagen wir mal eine neue Therapiemethode bei Epilepsie -

I: Hmhm.

B: - darum, darum geht es ja jetzt -

I: Ja.

B: - ja, also eine neue psychotherapeutische für Epilepsie. Das könnte man, wenn man wollte, auch in, in die, ähm, Zeitschriften setzen, die die Psychotherapeuten halt empfangen regelmäßig.

I: Hmhm.

B: Nur, es ist wenig sinnvoll, wenn, ähm, das keine anerkannte Methode ist.

I: Hm.

B: Also dann darf ich die, z.B., gar nicht anwenden -

I: Ja.

B: - in meiner Tätigkeit, weil die ja nicht von der Krankenkasse finanziert werden. Ich muss mich verpflichten, dass ich mich an die Methoden halte, die wissenschaftlich erwiesen Effekte haben.

I: Hm.

B: Nun kann ich natürlich sagen: „Ja, mache ich privat.“ Ne?

I: Hm.

B: Kann ich ja machen offiziell.

I: Ja.

B: Das ist aber sehr, ähm, na ja, sagen wir mal schwammig. Ne?

I: Ja.

B: Ein schwammiger Bereich. Da kann mir die KV natürlich auch vorwerfen, dass ich unter Vortäuschung falscher Tatsachen, weil ich ja KV – Therapeutin bin, also dass ich da ein Vertrauen genieße bei den Patienten und das dann missbrauche, -

I: Hm.

B: - wenn ich Methoden benutze, die gar nicht, wo die Effektivität gar nicht nachgewiesen ist.

I: Okay.

B: Verstehen Sie? Das ist schwierig in Deutschland.

I: Das stimmt. Ja.

B: Als Heilpraktiker ist das alles ganz anders.

I: Ja.

B: Aber als Kassentherapeut ist man da eingeengt. Aso jedenfalls offiziell, muss man ganz schön vorsichtig damit sein.

I: Ja. Okay.

B: Wo man, wo man sich auch noch hinwenden könnte, wäre, es gibt ja diese neue Richtung, die auch anerkannt ist: Die Neurophysiologie.

I: Hmhm.

B: Und ähm, weil die haben auch eine eigene Fachzeitschrift. Da müsste man mal gucken, ob man da eventuell etwas rein setzen könnte.

I: Ja. Aber auf jeden Fall dann Zeitschriften, ist wohl am effektivsten, denke ich dann, also denken Sie.

B: Ja. Also Fernsehen, da habe ich die Erfahrung gemacht, da wird man doch nie wirklich richtig – Das ist doch eine reine Werbeveranstaltung.

I: Genau.

B: Da wird ja nie irgend wie was, ähm – also, ich habe das noch nie erlebt, dass da irgend jemand eine neue Methode vorstellt, die dann auch im Leben praktisch dann auch, ähm, angewandt werden kann

-

I: Ja.

B: - von den Patienten. Ne? Also, wo der Patient dann auch weiß: „Okay, dann kann ich da und da hingehen.“ und der macht das dann.

I: Ja.

B: So was passiert in Gesundheitssendungen? Kann ich mir nicht vorstellen. Nein. Halte ich nicht für, halte ich nicht für seriös.

I: Okay.

Interview 3

I: Dann fange ich mit der ersten Frage mal an. Was sind die Gründe, warum Sie Ihre derzeitigen Behandlungsmethoden in Ihr Behandlungsprotokoll aufgenommen haben?

E: Die derzeitigen Behandlungsmethoden?

I: Hm, hm.

E: Weil ich sie gut finde.

I: Okay. Gut. Gibt es noch andere Gründe oder?

E: Weil ich das Gefühl habe, sie helfen.

I: Okay. Und sehen Sie Bedürfnisse oder Probleme bei Ihren Patienten, die durch das gegenwärtige Behandlungsprotokoll nicht berücksichtigt werden oder sind Sie da relativ zufrieden?

E: Meinen Sie jetzt Behandlungsprotokoll, alles was ich mache?

I: Hm, hm.

E: Medizin, Reden u.s.w.?

I: Ja.

E: Einfach überhaupt?

I: Hm.

E: Da gibt es immer Dinge, wo ich mal mehr zufrieden bin und mal weniger. Das ist sehr allgemein, da müsste man differenzierter auf das Einzelne schauen.

I: Okay. Ähm, ja. Und was würde Sie dazu veranlassen, Ihr Behandlungsprotokoll zu überarbeiten oder zu ändern?

E: Ich würde mir wünschen, dass es mehr noch Fähigkeiten bei mir und Methoden, Medikamente gibt, die weniger eingreifend sind oder besser helfen.

I: Hmhm.

E: Das ist halt sehr allgemein gefragt. Da kann man natürlich bei dem Einzelnen drauf schauen, was da. Wo es klemmt oder wo es schwieriger ist, wo ich mir effektivere Methoden wünsche.

I: Okay. Und nun zu einem anderen Themenbereich. Ähm, wie läuft die Entscheidungsfindung bezüglich der Integration neuer Behandlungsmethoden in Ihrer Praxis ab? Also, wer entscheidet darüber, ob neue Methoden aufgenommen werden oder also praktiziert werden?

E: Da entscheide ich darüber.

I: Hmhm. Nur Sie allein oder auch, wird es mit dem Team besprochen?

E: Also, im Prinzip ist das meine Entscheidung. Ja.

I: Okay.

E: Wenn ich dann was entdecke oder lese oder wahrnehme, wo ich glaube, das passt zu meinem Konzept und dann nehme ich das auf. Ja.

I: Und was sind so Faktoren, die dazu führen, also über die Integration einer neuen Methode diskutiert wird oder in Ihrem Fall, Sie darüber nachdenken?

E: Dass ich erst mal eine neue Methode erkenne und wahrnehme.

I: Hmhm.

E: Diese entweder von jemandem gesagt bekomme oder darauf stoße und dass ich dann den Eindruck habe, dass könnte meiner, meinen Patienten helfen.

I: Hmhm. Okay. Und inwieweit beeinflussen Risiko und Ungewissheit, z.B. in Bezug auf das Evidenzlevel oder das Nebenwirkungsprofil einer bestimmten Methode, Ihre Entscheidung, ob Sie die jetzt aufnehmen würden oder nicht?

E: Das ist ein wichtiger Punkt. Wenn es sehr wahrscheinlich ist, dass das mehr Nebenwirkungen hat oder schlechter verträglich ist, dann will ich das nicht so ohne weiteres aufnehmen.

I: Hmhm. Okay. Und haben Sie jegliche Ungewissheiten bezüglich der derzeitigen Behandlungsmethoden von Epilepsie? Oder sind Sie da auch -

E: Ob ich was? Der Ungewissheit – wie heißt das?

I: Ungewissheiten. Ob Sie Ungewissheiten -

E: Ungewissheiten?

I: Hmhm. Bezuglich -

E: Ob ich unzufrieden bin oder was?

I: Na ja, also ob Sie irgend wie, ähm, ja, Ungewissheit, also ähm, ja, ob Sie mit denen zufrieden sind oder ob es da irgend was gibt, was, wo Sie sich nicht sicher sind, ob die wirklich wirksam sind, bestimmte Methoden für Epilepsie.

E: Sicher gibt es da aus meiner Sicht in der Schulmedizin oder in der üblichen Medizin halt die medikamentöse Behandlung und ein bisschen Lebensstilberatung. Und das ist natürlich relativ wenig. Und von daher bin ich damit unzufrieden und möchte das erweitern, durch andere Behandlungsmethoden.

I: Hmhm. Okay. Und jetzt zum Thema Partnerschaften. Haben Sie irgend welche, also hat Ihre Praxis irgend welche Partnerschaften mit Behandlungsprogrammen oder Forschungsprogrammen oder Krankenhäusern oder?

E: Es gibt ein Forschungsprojekt mit Herdecke, wo ich mit verbunden bin -

I: Hmhm.

E: - in(? 04:15 Min.). Und wir sind mit der Klinik verbunden in der (Mistelforschung?) -

I: Hm.

E: - Klinik Öschelbronn. Das sind die wesentlichen Verbindungen. Dann ist es natürlich eine große Praxis mit neun oder zehn verschiedenen Partnern, wo wie miteinander auch verbunden sind.

I: Okay. Und wie funktioniert so da der Aufbau von Partnerschaften? Also, haben Sie sich einfach irgend wann entschlossen, das – Also, warum haben Sie diese Partnerschaften?

E: Die erste Partnerschaft mit der Klinik Öschelbronn haben wir, weil aus der Klinik Öschelbronn die Praxis entstanden ist.

I: Hm.

E: Da gibt es einfach eine räumliche und eine inhaltliche und personelle Verbindung. Das ist sozusagen unsere Mutter, wenn man so will.

I: Hmhm.

E: Und das zweite mit Herdecke ist, weil mich Migräne als Thema interessiert und ich mir da eine Frage ausgedacht habe, die ich mit Herdecke bearbeiten möchte.

I: Hm.

E: Das dritte ist das mit der Mistelforschung, dass wir halt auch über die Klinik dann da an Forschungsfragen interessiert sind, zu Mistel.

I: Okay. Und was sind so die Kriterien, die Ihre Partnerschaftsorganisation erfüllen muss? Gibt es da, ähm, bestimmte Kriterien?

E: Das es zu unserem Konzept dazu passt. Dass es eben integrativ orientiert ist, dass es offen ist für neue Ansätze, einfach eine gewisse über das übliche hinausgehende Orientierung.

I: Okay. Und gibt es irgend welche Partnerschaften, die Sie sich für die Zukunft wünschen würden? Oder sind Sie zufrieden mit dem, was Sie?

E: Uh. Ja. Also, im Moment bin ich so zufrieden (lachend), habe genug zu tun und -

I: Hm.

E: - kann dann mir aber auch vorstellen, z.B. bei so einem Projekt, was die Rosa macht, -

I: Hm.

E: - mitzumachen. Das finde ich interessant, also. Ich bin da offen, habe aber jetzt gerade keine neue Idee, denn mit den Ideen, die wir bearbeiten, haben wir genug zu tun.

I: Okay. Gut. Dann kommen wir auch zum letzten Themenbereich. Was für Medien benutzen Sie, um sich über neue Behandlungsmethoden und Innovationen im Gesundheitswesen zu informieren. Sind

das Fachjournale, Fachbücher oder ähm, weiß ich nicht, Internet?

E: Genau. Also, das sind dann Fachzeitschriften, Kongresse, Internet, Austausch zwischen Kollegen. Das ist so das Wesentliche.

I: Okay. Und so die Online- und Offline – Kommunikationskanäle mit denen Sie kommunizieren, sind die dann auch Email und Austausch mit Kollegen und so? Oder?

E: Email, Internet, Telefon, -

I: Telefon.

E: - persönlicher Kontakt, hingehen, Gespräch. Wir haben auch so Qualitätszirkel.

I: Hmhm.

E: Es gibt da ganz verschiedene Ebenen.

I: Gut. Und die letzte Frage. Welche Arten von Informationsverbreitungsmitteln – oder Kanälen sind Ihrer Meinung nach am effektivsten im Deutschen Gesundheitswesen und jetzt spezifisch im Epilepsiesektor? Und mit Informationsverbreitungsmitteln meinte ich so, ähm, denken Sie, es ist sinnvoll, z.B. einen Artikel in einem Fachjournal zu veröffentlichen oder es ist sinnvoller persönlich bei Ärzten mal etwas über diese Methode zu, zu erzählen? Oder was meinen Sie dazu?

E: Also, das Effektivste finde ich schwer zu beurteilen. Ich würde das in der gefühlten Reihenfolge sagen: Persönliches Ansprechen, Fachjournal, Kongress. So. Erstens, Zweitens, Drittens.

I: Okay. Gut.

7. Survey

7.1 Survey outline English

Survey

Dear Madam or Sir,

I am a student at the Hanze University of Applied Sciences in Groningen, The Netherlands, at which I study „International Communication“ with focus on „International Business Communication“ in my 8th and last semester.

In the context of my Bachelor Thesis I am doing a project for a nonprofit corporation that is specialized in psychobehavioral epilepsy intervention methods. This nonprofit corporation, namely the Andrews-Reiter Epilepsy Treatment Program, Inc., is based in California, USA and is mainly active in North America but now also interested in a German market entry. Moreover, there is growing interest of the American Epilepsy Society in complementary treatment methods. Also the manual on which this method is based will be published by Oxford University Press in the USA and is currently being translated into German.

My project does not only aim to identify potential collaboration partners for this organization but also I want to find out more about the decision making processes and partnership building of these partners. Moreover, I want to research the communication related to therapies in Germany and effective advertising tools in the German health care sector.

With my Bachelor Thesis I want to give the Andrews-Reiter Epilepsy Research Program, Inc. an overview about factors that influence their market entry in Germany.

The survey is of course anonymous.

It is of major importance for my project that you will take part in it by answering the following survey questions. This survey is a main part of my whole project.

Thank you very much for your participation and support!

The survey is anonymous and will not take more than approximately 5 minutes of your time!

Yours,

Ursula Michaelis

Questions

1. I am...

Epileptologist	Neurologist	Neuropsychologist	Psychiatrist	Psychologist	Other (please specify)
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Others:

2. What are the factors that lead to the discussion that lead to the discussion about whether to add a new treatment method to the treatment protocol? (Multiple answer choices possible)

The head of my institution thinks the integration is important	Other medical institutions have integrated the method successfully	There is currently a lot of information about the method e.g. in specialist journals	I don't know	Other reasons (please specify)
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Other reasons:

2.1 How does the decision making process within your institution work in terms of deciding to integrate a new treatment method?

The head of my institution decides on that (e.g. director of hospital)	The team decides but the head of my institution has the final responsibility	It is decided as a team	I decide on my own (own doctor's office)	The decision making process works differently (please shortly specify)
--	--	-------------------------	--	---

2.2 Do the hierarchical structures within your institution influence the decision making process?

Yes	No
-----	----

3. What are your current partnerships? (Multiple answer choices possible)

Partnerships with research programs	Partnerships with treatment programs	Partnerships with epilepsy centers	Partnerships with hospitals	Other (please specify)
-------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	------------------------------------	-----------------------------	---------------------------

Other:

--

3.1 What are the specific reasons why you would want to partner with an organization (e.g. research program)? (Multiple answer choices possible)

My institution/I is/am very convinced by the research findings/treatment program	The patients can profit from this partnership	Our/My hospital/center/doctor's office can offer a wider treatment offer due to this partnership	I don't know	Other (please specify)
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3.2 What are the requirements the organization you partner with needs to fulfill? (Multiple answer choices possible)

It should have already have other partnerships with other medical institutions	It should be well known	It should offer an innovative and new treatment method	I don't know	Other (please specify)
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3.3 What kind of partnerships do you desire for the future? (Multiple answer choices possible)

With treatment programs	With research programs	None	I don't know	Other (please specify)
----------------------------	---------------------------	------	--------------	---------------------------

4. What kind of media do you use to inform yourself about new treatment options or innovations in the health care sector in general? (Multiple answer choices possible)

Articles in professional journals	Specialist books	Personal meetings	Internet	Congresses	Word of mouth /Referrals of colleagues	Others (please indicate)
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Others:

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4.1 How frequently are you using the prior named media?

Frequency	Articles in professional journals	Specialist books	Word of mouth /Referrals	Internet	Personal meetings/Congresses	Others
-----------	---	---------------------	--------------------------------	----------	---------------------------------	--------

			of colleagues			
Every day						
Weekly						
Monthly						
Once a year						
Never						

4.2 Please indicate the publisher/name of the journals and books you use:

4.3 In your opinion, what kind of information distribution tools work best in the German health care sector, specifically the epilepsy sector? (Please rate from 1-5, 1 indicating the least preference and 5 indicating the highest preference)

Articles in professional journals	Specialist books	Personal meetings	Internet	Congresses	Other (please indicate)

Other:

4.4 What are the online and offline communication channels you prefer to communicate with and especially with (potential) partners? (Please rate from 1-5, 1 indicating the least preference and 5 indicating the highest preference)

Face-to-face	Email	Telephone	Video-Chat	Congresses/Meetings	Other (please indicate below)

Other:

7.2 Survey outline German

Umfrage

Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren,

Ich bin Studentin der Hanze University of Applied Sciences in Groningen, Niederlande, an der ich im 8. und letzten Semester „International Communication“ mit dem Schwerpunkt „International Business Communication“ studiere.

In Rahmen meiner Bachelorarbeit führe ich ein Projekt für ein gemeinnütziges Unternehmen durch, das sich auf verhaltenstherapeutisch basierte psychologische Interventionen („psychobehavioral epilepsy intervention methods“) für Epilepsie-Patienten spezialisiert hat. Dieses gemeinnützige Unternehmen, das Andrews-Reiter Epilepsy Treatment Program, Inc., ist in Kalifornien, USA, beheimatet und ist bisher hauptsächlich in Nordamerika aktiv und im Rahmen der American Epilepsy Society gibt es zunehmend Interesse an dieser ergänzenden Behandlungsmethode. Nunmehr ist A/R daran interessiert herauszufinden, inwiefern das Unternehmen in Deutschland zur Erfüllung der therapeutischen Bedürfnisse bei der Betreuung von Menschen mit Epilepsie beitragen kann. A/R ist sehr daran interessiert ihren Service auch in Deutschland anzubieten.

Das Manual, auf dem diese Methode basiert, wird bald bei der Oxford University Press in den USA erscheinen und wird bald ins Deutsche übersetzt.

Mein Projekt besteht nicht nur darin, potentielle Partner für diese Organisation zu identifizieren; ich möchte auch mehr über den Prozess von Entscheidungsfindung und Partnerschaftsaufbau in Bezug auf diese therapeutische Behandlungsform für Menschen mit einer Epilepsie herausfinden. Darüber hinaus möchte ich die Kommunikation in Bezug auf Therapien in Deutschland erforschen und effektive Mittel zur Informationsverbreitung in der epileptologischen Gemeinschaft ermitteln.

Mit meiner Bachelorarbeit soll der Andrews-Reiter Epilepsy Research Program, Inc., Faktoren aufgezeigt werden, die ihr Anliegen, sich einen repräsentativen Eindruck von der Integrationsmöglichkeit selbstwirksamer Methoden zur Anfallskontrolle zu verschaffen, beeinflussen.

Die Anliegen des Andrews-Reiter Epilepsy Treatment Program, Inc. sind es, sich einen repräsentativen Eindruck von der Integrationsmöglichkeit selbstwirksamer Methoden zur Anfallskontrolle zu verschaffen.

Diese Umfrage ist ein wesentlicher Teil meiner Forschung und daher möchte ich Sie bitten die folgenden Fragen zu beantworten.

Vielen Dank für Ihre Teilnahme und Unterstützung!

Diese Umfrage ist anonym und wird Sie nicht mehr als ca. 5 Minuten Ihrer Zeit kosten.

Ihre

Ursula Michaelis

Fragen

1. Ich bin...

Epileptologe	Neurologe	Neuropsychologe	Psychiater	Psychologe	Anderes (bitte erläutern)
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Anderes:

2. Was sind die Faktoren, die zu der Diskussion über die Integration einer neuen Behandlungsmethode in Ihr Behandlungsprotokoll führen? (mehrere Antwortoptionen möglich)

Der Leiter meiner Institution empfindet diese Integration als wichtig	Die Methode wird/wurde auch von anderen medizinischen Institutionen kürzlich integriert	Es gibt derzeit sehr viele Informationen über die Methode in z.B. Fachjournalen	Ich weiß es nicht	Andere (bitte erläutern)
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Anderes:

2.1 Wie läuft die Entscheidungsfindung bezüglich der Integration neuer Behandlungsmethoden in Ihrer Institution ab?

Der Leiter meiner Institution entscheidet dies (z.B. Krankenhausdirektor)	Es wird im Team entschieden, aber der Leiter hat das ‚letzte Wort‘	Es wird gemeinschaftlich als Team entschieden	Ich entscheide selbst darüber (eigene Praxis)	Die Entscheidungsfindung läuft anders ab (bitte kurz erläutern)
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Andere:

2.2 Beeinflussen die hierarchischen Strukturen in Ihrer Institution die Entscheidungsfindung?

Ja	Nein
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3. Was für Partnerschaften haben Sie momentan? (Mehrere Antwortoptionen möglich)

Partnerschaften mit Forschungsprogrammen	Partnerschaften mit Behandlungsprogrammen	Partnerschaften mit Epilepsiezentren	Partnerschaften mit Krankenhäusern	Andere (bitte erläutern)
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Andere:

3.1 Was sind die spezifischen Gründe, warum Sie mit einer Organisation (z.B. einem Forschungs- oder Behandlungsprogramm) eine Partnerschaft aufbauen würden? (Mehrere Antwortoptionen möglich)

Meine Institution/Ich sind/bin sehr von der/den Forschungsergebnissen/Behandlungsprogramm überzeugt	Die Patienten können von dieser Partnerschaft profitieren	Unser Krankenhaus/Zentrum/Praxis kann dadurch ein breiteres Behandlungsbogen bieten	Ich weiß es nicht	Andere (bitte erläutern)
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3.2 Was sind die Kriterien, die Ihre Partnerschaftsorganisation erfüllen müsste? (Mehrere Antwortoptionen möglich)

Sie müsste schon Partnerschaften mit anderen medizinischen Instituten haben	Sie sollte bekannt sein	Sie sollte eine innovative und neue Behandlungsmethode anbieten	Ich weiß es nicht	Anderes (bitte erläutern)
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Anderes:

3.3 Was für Partnerschaften wünschen Sie sich für die Zukunft? (Mehrere Antwortoptionen möglich)

Mit Behandlungsprogrammen	Mit Forschungsprogrammen	Keine	Ich weiß es nicht	Andere (bitte erläutern)
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Andere:

4. Was für Arten von Medien benutzen Sie, um sich über Behandlungsmethoden und Innovationen im Gesundheitssektor generell zu informieren? (Mehrere Antwortoptionen möglich)

Artikel in	Fachbücher	Persönlich	Interne	Kongress	Mundpropaganda	Andere
------------	------------	------------	---------	----------	----------------	--------

Fachzeitschriften	r	e Meetings	t	e	a / Empfehlungen von Kollegen	(bitte spezifizieren)
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Andere:

4.1 Wie häufig benutzen Sie die vorher genannten Medien?

Häufigkeit	Artikel in Fachzeitschriften	Fachbücher	Mundpropaganda	Internet	Persönliche Meetings/Kongresse	Ander e
Jeden Tag						
Wöchentlich						
Monatlich						
Einmal im Jahr						
Niemals						

4.2 Geben Sie bitte den Verlag/Namen der Fachzeitschriften und Fachbücher, die Sie nutzen, an:

4.3 Welche Arten von Mitteln zur Informationsverbreitung sind Ihrer Meinung nach am effektivsten im deutschen Gesundheitssektor und speziell dem Epilepsiesektor? (Bitte bewerten Sie von 1-5, wobei 1 Ihre geringste und 5 Ihre höchste Prefärenz ausdrückt)

Artikel in Fachzeitschriften	Fachbücher	Persönliche Meetings	Internet	Kongresse	Andere (bitte spezifizieren)
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Andere:

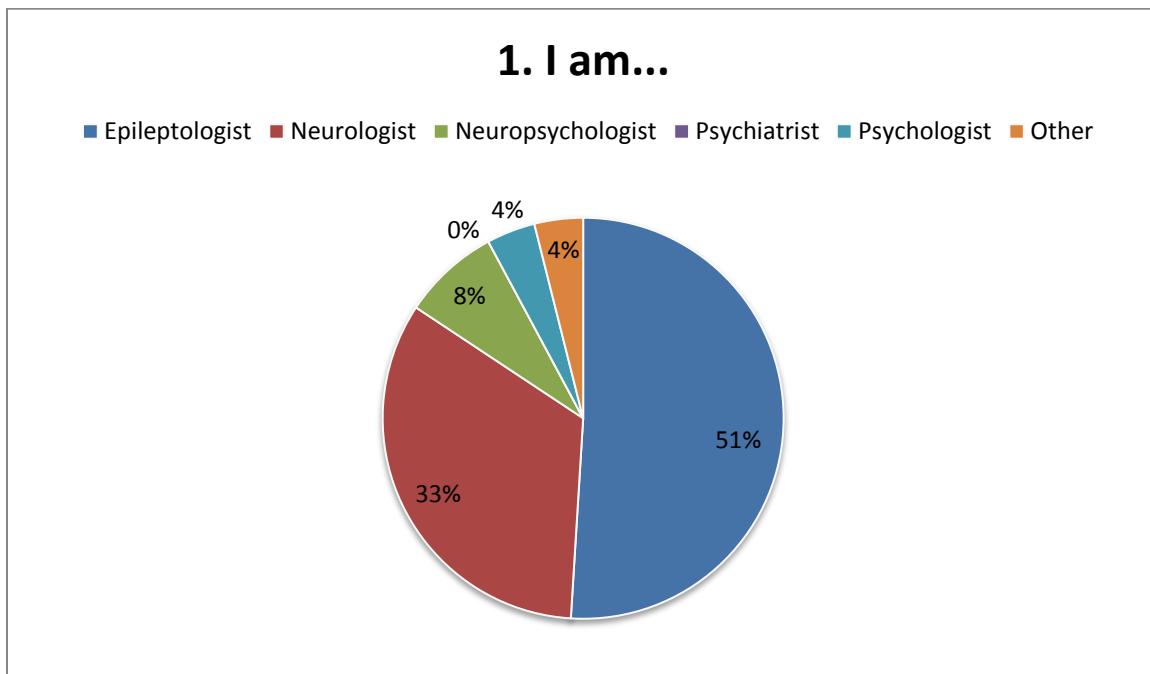
4.4 Was sind die online und offline Kommunikationskanäle, mit denen Sie am liebsten kommunizieren, speziell mit (potentiellen) Partnern? (Bitte bewerten Sie von 1-5, wobei 1 Ihre geringste und 5 Ihre höchste Prefärenz ausdrückt)

Face-to-face	Email	Telefon	Video-Chat	Kongresse/Meetings	Andere (bitte spezifizieren)

Andere:

7.3 Survey outcome graphics

7.3.1 Outcome survey - German stationary medical institutions

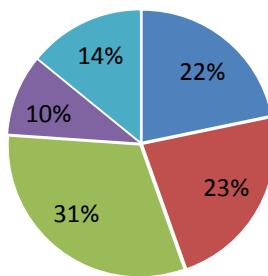


Other:

- Neurologist and Epileptologist
- Physician with focus on epilepsy and professional rehabilitation

2. What are the factors that lead to the discussion about whether to add a new treatment method to the treatment protocol? (Multiple answer choices possible)

- The head of my institution thinks the integration is important
- Other medical institutions have integrated the method successfully
- There is currently a lot of information about the method e.g. in specialist journals
- I don't know
- Other reasons



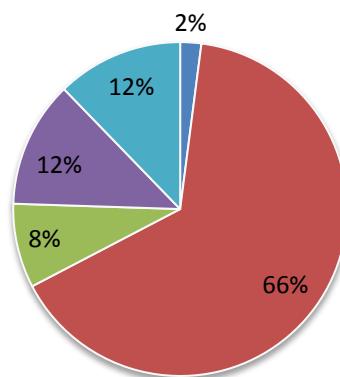
Others:

- There is demand
- Suggestion comes from therapist team and is professionally justified
- Data from studies and personal experience
- It proves to be effective
- I think the integration is important
- Proven benefit in studies
- Convincing proof of efficiency (controlled studies)
- Current studies, guidelines
- Own interest in new treatment methods
- Evidence based studies
- It seems to be researched in a sufficient good way and effective without foreseeable heavy side effects
- Reasonable treatment approach
- Proof of benefit

Note: Two doctors did not answer this question

2.1 How does the decision making process within your institution work in terms of deciding to integrate a new treatment method?

- The head of my institution decides on that (e.g. director of hospital)
- The team decides but the head of my institution has the final responsibility
- It is decided as a team
- I decide on my own (own doctor's office)
- The decision making process works differently (please shortly specify)



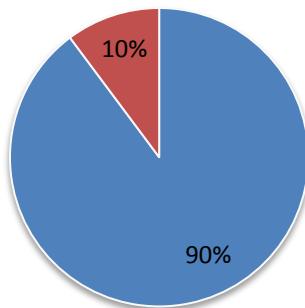
Others (the decision making process works differently):

- I make the decisions, possibly the clinic director and the cooperation partner have 'veto power'
- I am the head
- The head decides about precisely elaborated suggestions (inclusive ideas about financing)
- I decided about the medical reasonableness, if positive, the medicin controlling/management decides about the economic reasonableness
- I decide that on my own but the head has a veto right
- I decide in the department I lead by myself

Note: Two doctors did not answer this question

2.2 Do the hierarchical structures within your institution influence the decision making process?

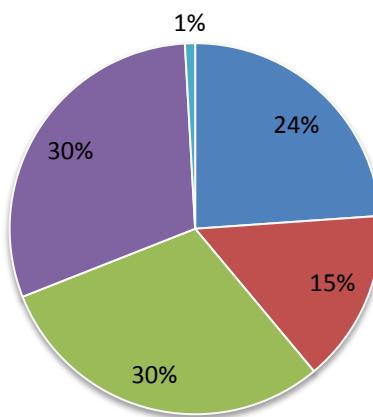
■ Yes ■ No



Note: Two doctors did not answer this question

3. What are your current partnerships? (Multiple answer choices possible)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| ■ Partnerships with research programs | ■ Partnerships with treatment programs |
| ■ Partnerships with epilepsy centers | ■ Partnerships with hospitals |
| ■ Other | |



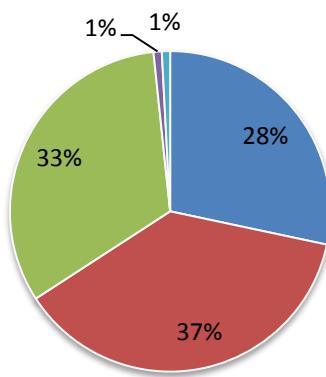
Other:

- Registered physicians

Note: Four physicians did not answer this question

3.1 What are the specific reasons why you would want to partner with an organization (e.g. research program)? (Multiple answer choices possible)

- My institution/I is/am very convinced by the research findings/treatment program
- The patients can profit from this partnership
- Our/My hospital/center/doctor's office can offer a wider treatment offer due to this partnership
- I don't know
- Other

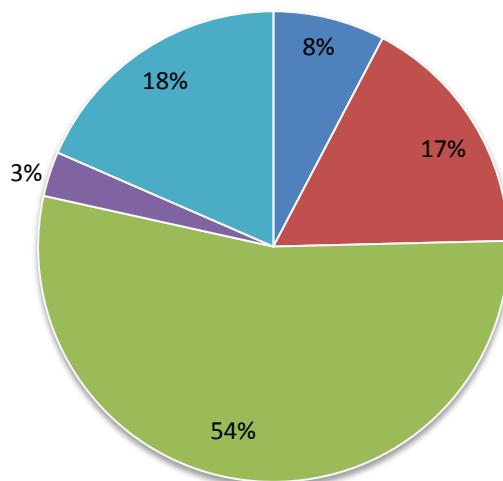


Other: Financial compensation

Note: Four physicians did not answer this question

3.2 What are the requirements the organization you partner with needs to fulfill? (Multiple answer choices possible)

- It should have already have other partnerships with other medical institutions
- It should be well known
- It should offer an innovative and new treatment method
- I don't know
- Other



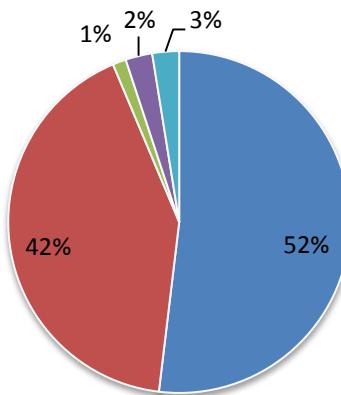
Other:

- Quality
- Convincing work, arguments and ideas
- Integrity, not primarily commercial
- To have a specialized profound background
- Complement to treatment array
- Transparency, reliability, honesty
- It should be convincing
- Convincing publications (controlled studies, peer review, professional journals)
- Reliability
- It should not cost money
- Integrity
- Good and plausibel evidence of efficacy of the concept is crucial

Note: Five physicians did not answer this question

3.3 What kind of partnerships do you desire for the future? (Multiple answer choices possible)

■ With treatment programs ■ With research programs ■ None ■ I don't know ■ Other



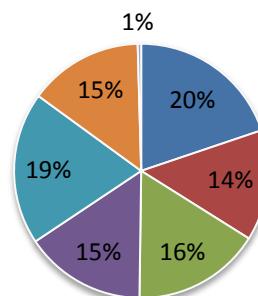
Other:

- Consideration of benefit and cost
- Univerisites with comparable interest

Note: Four physicians did not answer this question

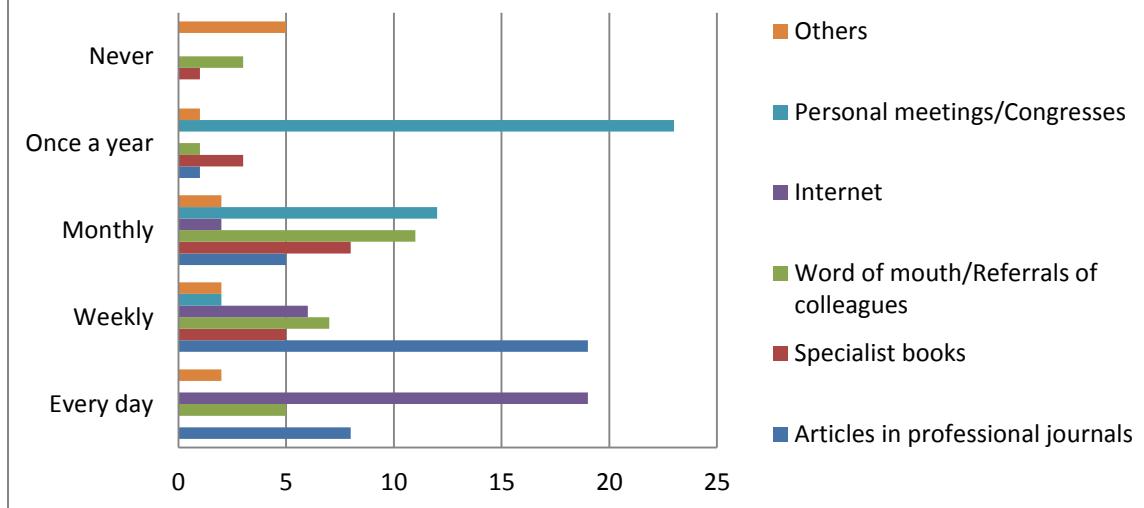
4. What kind of media do you use to inform yourself about new treatment options or innovations in the health care sector in general? (Multiple answer choices possible)

■ Articles in professional journals ■ Specialist books
■ Personal meetings ■ Internet
■ Congresses ■ Word of mouth/Referrals of colleagues
■ Others



Note: Four physicians did not answer this question

4.1 How frequently are you using the prior named media?



4.2 Please indicate the publisher/name of the journals and books you use:

Names of journals (that got named two or more times):

- 12 x Nervenarzt
- 11 x Epilepsia
- 10 x Zeitschrift für Epileptologie
- 9 x Aktuelle Neuropathologie
- 7 x Epilepsy and Behavior
- 5 x Neurology
- 4 x Seizure
- 4 x Epilepsy Research
- 4 x Epileptologie
- 3 x Brain
- 3 x Epilepsy
- 2 x Epileptic Disorders
- 2 x Annals of Neurology
- 2 x Lancet Neurology
- 2 x JNNP
- 2 x PubMed

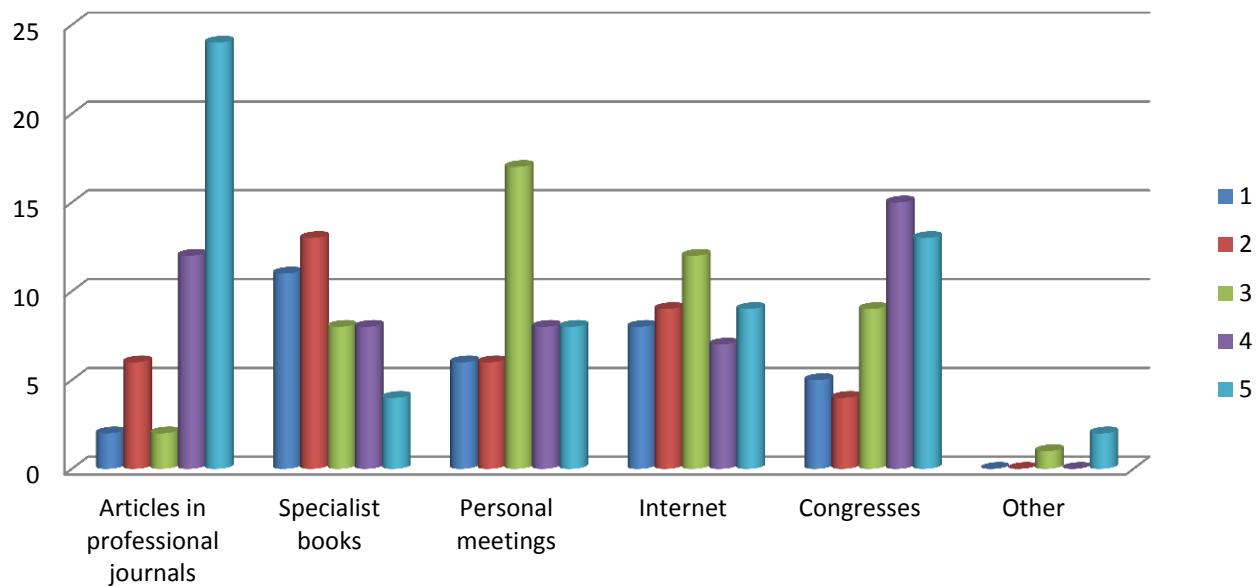
Names of publishers (that got named two or more times):

- 16 x Thieme
- 15 x Springer

- 5 x Elsevier
- 3 x PubMed
- 2 x Schattauer

Note: Ten physicians did not answer this question

4.3 In your opinion, what kind of information distribution tools work best in the German health care sector, specifically the epilepsy sector? (Please rate from 1-5, 1 indicating the least preference and 5 indicating the highest preference)

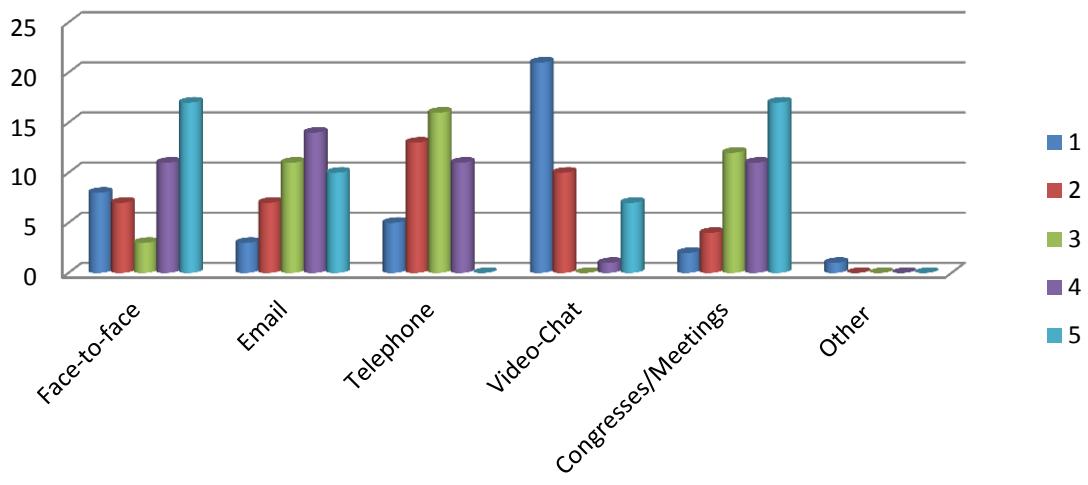


Others:

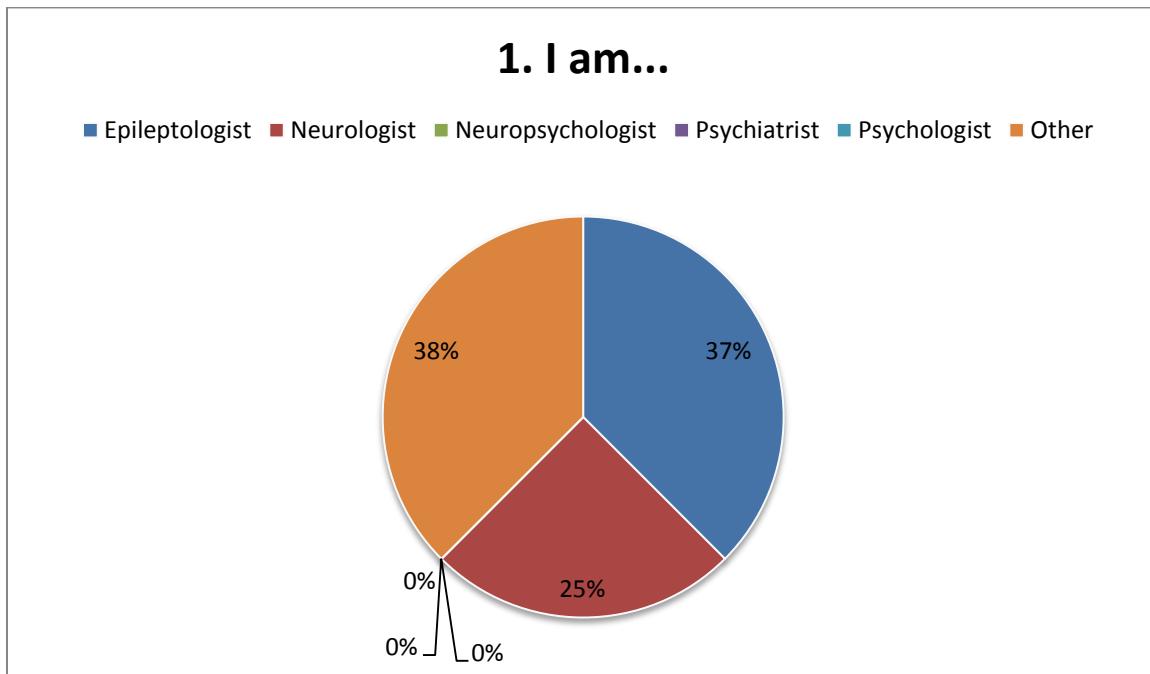
- Quality circle

Note: One physician did not answer this question

4.4. What are the online and offline communication channels you prefer to communicate with and especially with (potential) partners? (Please rate from 1-5, 1 indicating the least preference and 5 indicating the highest preference)



7.3.2 Outcome survey – German outpatient medical institutions

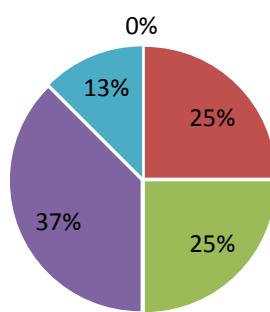


Other:

- Qualified assistance for epilepsy
- Epileptologist, neurologist and psychiatrist
- Neurologist and psychiatrist

2. What are the factors that lead to the discussion about whether to add a new treatment method to the treatment protocol? (Multiple answer choices possible)

- The head of my institution thinks the integration is important
- Other medical institutions have integrated the method successfully
- There is currently a lot of information about the method e.g. in specialist journals
- I don't know
- Other reasons

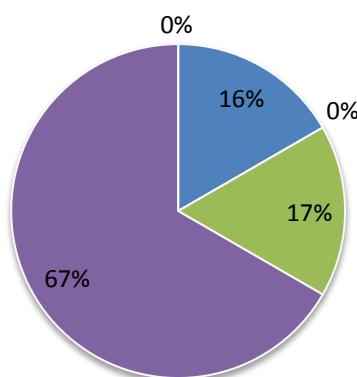


Other reasons: Openness towards new therapeutic methods

Note: Two physicians did not answer this question

2.1 How does the decision making process within your institution work in terms of deciding to integrate a new treatment method?

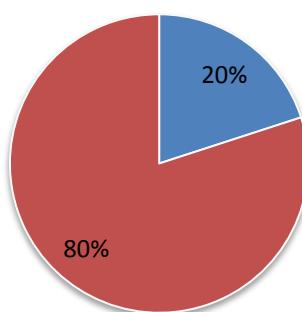
- The head of my institution decides on that (e.g. director of hospital)
- The team decides but the head of my institution has the final responsibility
- It is decided as a team
- I decide on my own (own doctor's office)
- The decision making process works differently (please shortly specify)



Note: Two physicians did not answer this question

2.2 Do the hierarchical structures within your institution influence the decision making process?

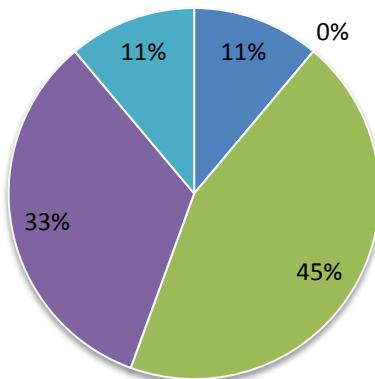
■ Yes ■ No



Note: Two physicians did not answer this question

3. What are your current partnerships? (Multiple answer choices possible)

- Partnerships with research programs
- Partnerships with treatment programs
- Partnerships with epilepsy centers
- Partnerships with hospitals
- Other

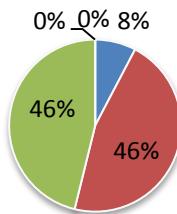


Other: Quality circle

Note: Four physicians did not answer this question

3.1 What are the specific reasons why you would want to partner with an organization (e.g. research program)? (Multiple answer choices possible)

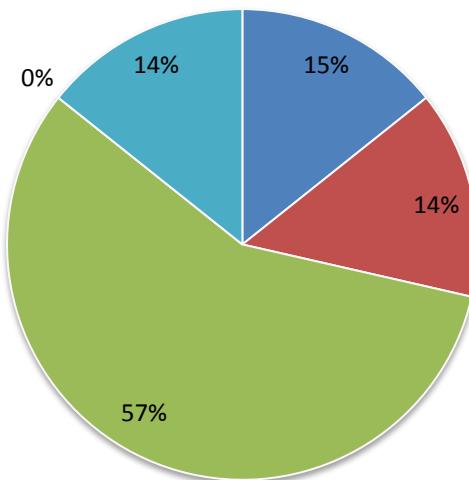
- My institution/I is/am very convinced by the research findings/treatment program
- The patients can profit from this partnership
- Our/My hospital/center/doctor's office can offer a wider treatment offer due to this partnership
- I don't know



Note: Two physicians did not answer this question

3.2 What are the requirements the organization you partner with needs to fulfill? (Multiple answer choices possible)

- It should have already have other partnerships with other medical institutions
- It should be well known
- It should offer an innovative and new treatment method
- I don't know
- Other

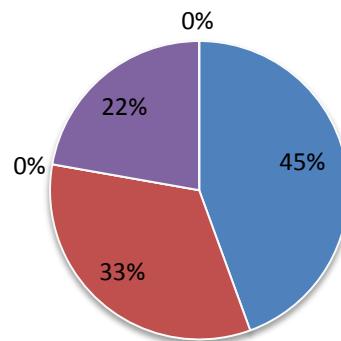


Other: It should be reputable

Note: Two physicians did not answer this question

3.3 What kind of partnerships do you desire for the future? (Multiple answer choices possible)

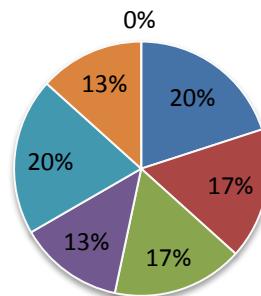
■ With treatment programs ■ With research programs ■ None ■ I don't know ■ Other



Note: Two doctors did not answer this question

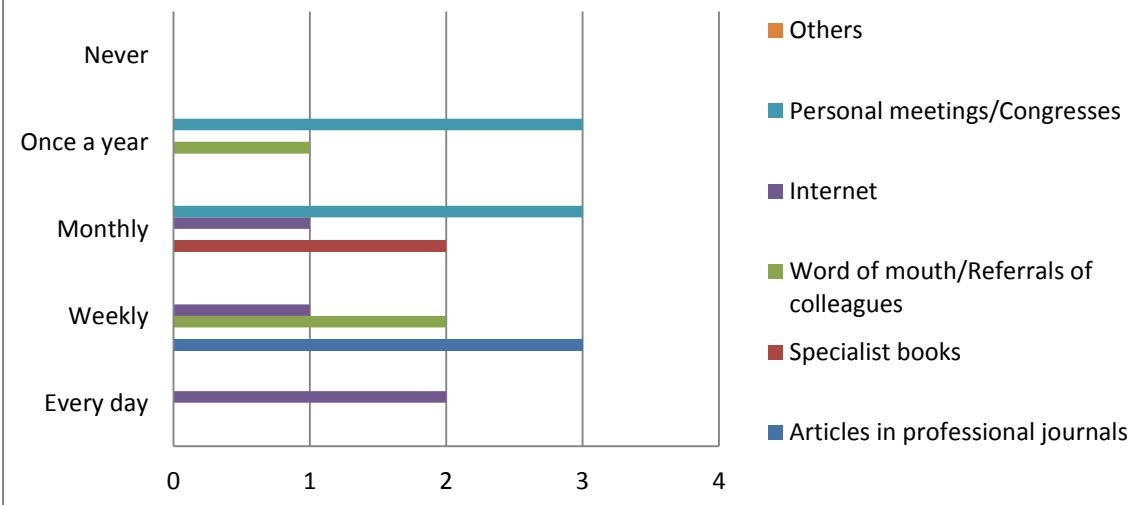
4. What kind of media do you use to inform yourself about new treatment options or innovations in the health care sector in general? (Multiple answer choices possible)

■ Articles in professional journals ■ Specialist books
■ Personal meetings ■ Internet
■ Congresses ■ Word of mouth/Referrals of colleagues
■ Others



Note: Two physicians did not answer this question

4.1 How frequently are you using the prior named media?



4.2 Please indicate the publisher/name of the journals and books you use:

Names of journals (that got named two or more times):

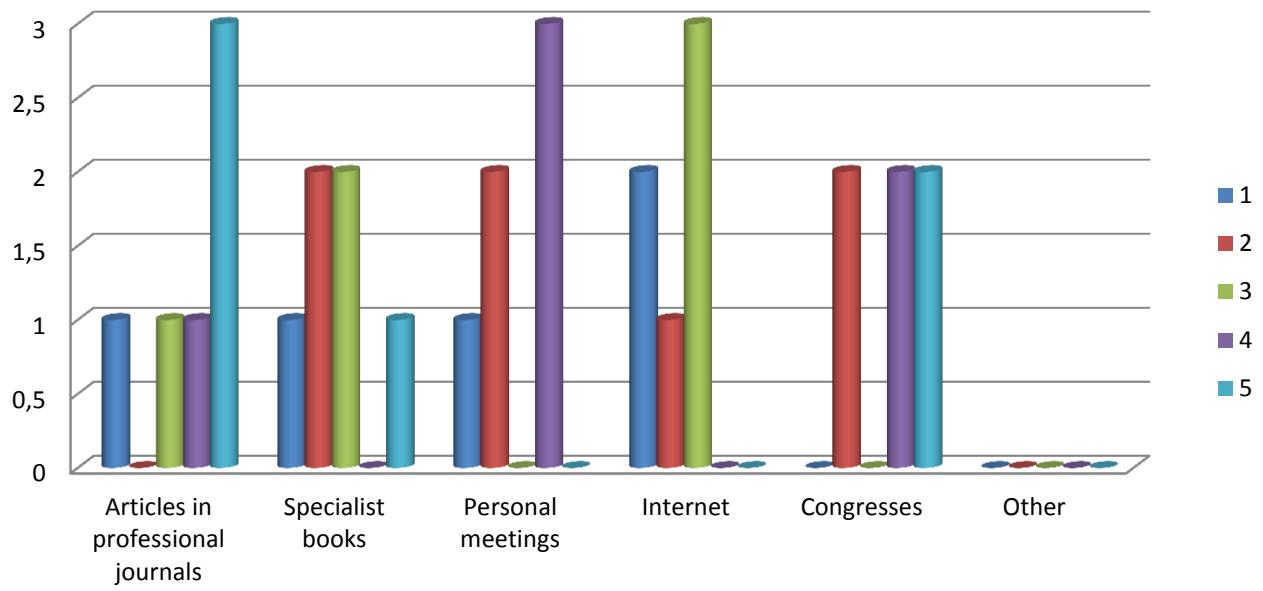
- 2 x Epilepsia
- 2 x Neurology

Names of publishers:

- Schattauer
- Springer
- Verbandszeitschrift

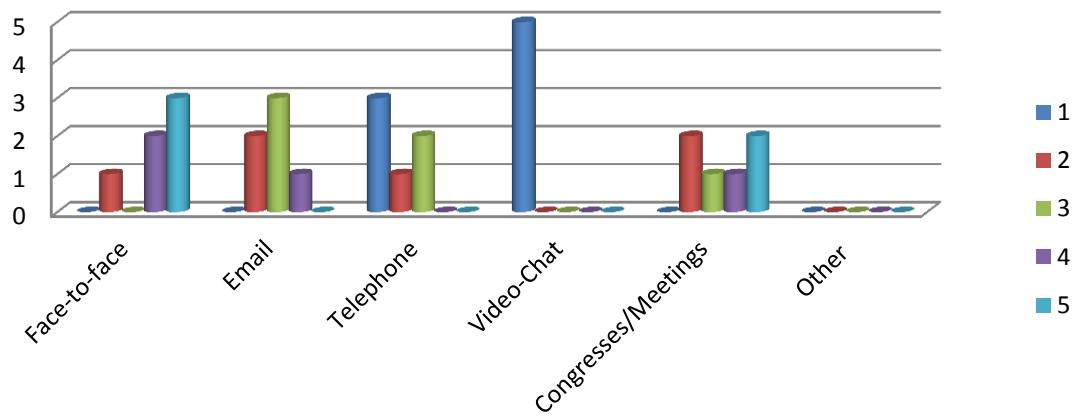
Note: Two physicians did not answer this question

4.3 In your opinion, what kind of information distribution tools work best in the German health care sector, specifically the epilepsy sector? (Please rate from 1-5, 1 indicating the least preference and 5 indicating the highest preference)



Note: Two physicians did not answer this question

4.4 What are the online and offline communication channels you prefer to communicate with and especially with (potential) partners? (Please rate from 1-5, 1 indicating the least preference and 5 indicating the highest preference)



Note: Two physicians did not answer this question