

# Managing Chemotherapy in an Drug Addict in our Dayclinic

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# Case

Patient from Lebanon, non-leave resident in Berlin for over 30 years

Longterm drug-abuse with heroin and cocaine, in Methadon-program for a couple of years

Admitted to hospital with stomach pains, fever, weakness

Diagnosed with a Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma

Need of at least six bouts of chemotherapy

# Problems

Patient was very in compliant on the ward

Did not see the necessity of arrangements

Played of the staff against each other

Reacted highly aggressive against staff and other patients

No way to apply chemotherapy under these circumstances



# Period of Treatment...

After discharge from the ward he showed at least signs of compliance when he came in to our day-clinic- he tried to be nice and compliant

We offered him to come in every day, so he would get his Methadon and food on a regular base in our clinic- he agreed

Since we were a small team it was easy for him to build up a relationship to each one of us- he began to see us as companions

During the period of his chemotherapy he only had few emotional or aggressive outbreaks, that were easy to handle for us

# Conclusion

There are no patients you cannot handle- a lot of it depends on the settings you offer

You need a motivated team and you need time for the patient

It only works when everyone is involved and you won't let yourself forced into the game of „good nurse/doctor-bad nurse/doctor“

Thank you for your attention