

# What is anthroposophic medicine?

Anthroposophic medicine is an extension of academic medicine. It is established on academic medicine, but also includes insights and experiences of the philosophy of anthroposophy, developed by Rudolf Steiner (1861–1925).

Every anthroposophic physician is trained in academic medicine. and is familiar with all relevant diagnostic and therapeutic methods of his/her respective field.



In academic medicine, human beings are often reduced to their physical bodies. However, with such a narrow perspective, a great deal of potential knowledge regarding a particular disease is lost. Anthroposophic medicine encompasses the spiritual and psychological needs of a patient. In this way, health and sickness are presented in a new light and are perceived as processes that not only involve the physical body, but also spiritual and psychological forces. This means that diagnostic and therapeutic measures are not based on rigid standards, but adapted to the individual needs of each patient.

To provide holistic support, our physicians are trained in a broad spectrum of complementary treatment methods. Through an anthroposophic understanding of nature and human beings, there are many opportunities for targeted implementation of the healing powers of a mineral or plant: internally as globules, tablets, or drops, in the form of an injection, or across the skin as an external application.

## Development

Specialty trained therapists and nurses also apply anthroposophic medicine in care therapy (wrapping and embrocation), artistic therapies such as music therapy, therapeutic speech, therapeutic painting and sculpting, as well as healing eurhythmy and physiotherapy. The goal of these therapies is to activate the healthy forces



of the patient, to support self healing, and thereby influence the disease process.

In the early 1900's, Rudolf Steiner founded the philosophy of anthroposophy, a world view and knowledge theory centered on the human being (anthropos = Greek «human», sophia = Greek »wisdom«). Steiner and anthroposophic views had great influence on the overall cultural environment. The Waldorf schools and kindergartens as well as special education are examples of the influences of anthroposophy. Organic agriculture under the name «Demeter» also had its origins here.

Steiner also inspired the field of medicine with new ideas. Together with Ita Wegman, he developed anthroposophic medicine in



today's Clinic Arlesheim. They formulated their knowledge in the book titled «Fundamentals for Extending the Art of Healing». They researched new opportunities for medication manufacturing and the effects of artistic therapies. Today, medicine incorporating anthroposophic principles is an important part of our healthcare system.

## Locations/Contacts

#### ZIO Zürich

Hardturmstrasse 133 CH-8005 Zürich Telefon +41 44 448 30 00 info@integrative-onkologie.ch

## **ZIO Paracelsus-Spital Richterswil**

Bergstrasse 16 CH-8805 Richterswil Telefon +41 44 787 27 07 info@integrative-onkologie.ch

#### **ZIO Glarus**

Schweizerhofstrasse 3 CH-8750 Glarus Telefon +41 55 640 44 44 info@integrative-onkologie.ch

