

## Contributions – German Cancer Congress 2026 Berlin, February 19-21, 2026

**Highlight Session** (February 21, 2026)

« **Socioeconomic Consequences of Cancer in Germany:  
The Perspective of Patients and their Relatives** »



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(Berlin, Parliamentary  
Evening, November 2025)

### 1. **Invited Presentation:**

***Facts & Figures*** from the ongoing research programs  
of the Organisation of European Cancer Institutes (OEI)

### 2. **Panel Discussion:**

with Ulrike Krämer (Düsseldorf), Anne Wieninger (Heidelberg) and Bernd Crusius (Bonn):  
«**Germany ‘Quo vadis?’**»

**Research Presentation** with Julien Frick (first author), Daniela Doege, Rachel D. Eckford, Lena Koch-Gallenkamp, and Volker Arndt (senior author):

### **Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Cancer Care and Health-Related Quality of Life:**

A Cross-Sectional Registry Study in Baden-Württemberg, Germany

Registry-based information on cancer patients up to five years post-diagnosis was analyzed. Modalities (e.g. primary care), reasons, extent (e.g. cancellation), and decision-makers of pandemic-related changes in cancer care were self-reported. HRQoL was assessed using the EORTC scale, QLQ-C30. 21.7% of study participants (n>2,400) reported at least one change in cancer care. Health-related quality of life (HRQoL) was most impaired in patients with changes affecting both primary and secondary care, in cases of cancellation of appointments, and when physicians were involved in the decision to postpone or cancel medical care.

Summing up, pandemic-related changes in cancer care were associated with globally worse HRQoL. In conclusion, strengthening continuity in primary and secondary cancer care is essential to mitigate psychosocial impairments in future crises, and postponements should be prioritized over cancellations, with active patient involvement in decision-making being recommended.

[The presentation will be soon available for download on Michael Schlander's website.]