

In 1973 my illness manifested itself for the first time. I had kidney stones that were removed surgically; they were calcium oxalate stones. My serum creatinine was 2.0 mg/dl. No doctor at that time was concerned about the origin of the stones or my future health. In 1980 I became dialysis-bound very quickly. I went for treatment to a renowned University Clinic. The diagnosis was chronic pyelonephritis. This diagnosis was not abandoned without constant new evidence of another underlying disease. Examination results which led to the suspicion of oxalosis were neglected, misinterpreted or declared irrelevant.

Until my first transplantation in 1981 I was on maintenance hemodialysis. At the end of the 1980s, my kidney function deteriorated rapidly; I was on dialysis for six weeks and then received a kidney again, the function of which was initially limited, so it was punctured three times. Oxalate crystals were found. In later sonographies of the kidney, there was repeated evidence of calcification. In 1997 joint and bone pain occurred. In September 1998 the kidney function was lost and I started a peritoneal dialysis. In the following year my vision deteriorated and the ophthalmologist described crystalline deposits in the retina. In a rheumatological consultation a crystalline arthropathy was diagnosed. At the same time soft tissue calcifications were found in arms and hands. At the beginning of 2000 a retinal detachment occurred. Because of the increasing pain in bones and joints an iliac crest biopsy was performed, which showed distinct oxalate crystals. The performing pathologist spoke of "primary or secondary oxalosis". Comment of a senior physician of the University hospital: "This gives us pause for thought."

A professional liver biopsy was performed at another University, the result of which showed a low residual AGT activity. On 26.11.2002 I successfully received a combined liver and kidney transplantation.

In the meantime, I am almost blind, can hardly read without a magnifying glass and cannot read perseveringly,

I can no longer drive a car, no longer practice my profession and suffer more from bone and joint pain. Because of the strong crystalline deposits in the skin, extremely painful tension and increasing neuropathic pain occur there.

Despite all this, I have not given up hope that I will be able to achieve a better quality of life again in the coming years - also with the help of new medication.