

ISCADOR® in combination with Chemo- and Radiotherapy, Immuno- and Targeted therapies

Studies support the use of mistletoe therapy in Integrative Oncology.



Combination with Chemo or Radiotherapy: Higher treatment adherence and improved outcomes due to lower side effect profiles

Mistletoe therapy has been used for decades as an adjuvant to conventional chemo and radiotherapy. A large number of studies have documented

- an improvement in quality of life^(1, 2)
- a reduction of undesirable side effects⁽²⁻⁴⁾
- an alleviation of tumour- or therapy-related fatigue syndrome^(2, 5)
- an improvement in therapy adherence due to reduced side effects of chemo-^(3,4) or radiotherapy⁽⁶⁾

Three meta-analyses from 2020 and 2022 confirmed the positive influence of mistletoe therapy on quality of life⁽¹⁾, survival time⁽⁷⁾ and tumour-related fatigue⁽⁵⁾. An independent double-blind, randomised and placebo-controlled study from 2024 also found no evidence of negative interactions between mistletoe therapy and standard chemotherapy regimens⁽⁸⁾.

Combination with Immune and Targeted therapies: Improved outcomes with modern oncological Immune and Antibody Therapies

Although immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICIs) and targeted therapies (TTs) have a more specific effect

than conventional chemotherapies, these modern treatments also have significant side effects, such as autoimmune reactions, rashes, colitis, stomatitis or fatigue⁽⁹⁾.

Here, a combination with mistletoe therapy can improve tolerance and treatment adherence^(10, 11, 13, 14).

- A review from 2024⁽¹⁰⁾ and the results of a safety study indicate that the combination of mistletoe extracts and ICIs⁽¹¹⁾ does not raise safety concerns
- A recent real-world data study (RWDS) in patients with advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) under ICI therapy (pembrolizumab) demonstrated a prolonged survival period in patients who received additional mistletoe therapy compared to those who received immunotherapy alone⁽¹²⁾
- In a RWDS of 310 patients with various tumours, the treatment discontinuation rate was significantly lower with mistletoe therapy in conjunction with TT than with TT alone⁽¹³⁾
- In a RWDS with 242 gynaecological tumour patients, no negative interactions were found between mistletoe therapy and TTs. On the contrary, this group of patients had better adherence to the therapy⁽¹⁴⁾

Key facts: Results of the latest research corroborate the safety of mistletoe therapy when used in conjunction with conventional oncological therapies and modern immunotherapies.

References: 1. Loeff M, Walach H. BMC Complement Med Ther 2020;20: 227 | 2. Tröger W et al. Breast Cancer – Basic and Clinical Research 2009;3:35-45 | 3. Loewe-Mesch A et al. Forsch Komplementmed 2008;15:22-30 | 4. Pelzer F, Tröger W. Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine 2018;24: 954–961 | 5. Pelzer F et al. Support Care Cancer 2022; 30:6405-6418 | 6. Schad F et al. Radiation Oncology 2023;18:47 | 7. Ostermann T et al. Complement Med Res 2020;27:260–271 | 8. Wode K et al. Dtsch Arztebl Int 2024;121:347-54 | 9. Shuel SL, Canadian Family Physician 2022;68(7):515-518 | 10. Fuller-Shavel N, Krell J. Current Oncology Reports 2024;26(2):164-174 | 11. Thronicke A et al. BMC Complement Altern Med 2017;17(1):534 | 12. Schad F et al. Cancers 2024;16:1609 | 13. Thronicke A et al. Medicines 2018;5:100 | 14. Schad F, Thronicke A. Int J Environ Res Public Health 2023;20(3)

Our Services



Infoline for medical professionals

We are at your service for technical questions on the use of ISCADOR in integrative cancer therapy and for medical-scientific advice.

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ISCADOR Academy E-Learning

Become a mistletoe expert with our systematically structured online course based on scientific publications

Drug information for Switzerland: ISCADOR® **active ingredient:** fermented aqueous extract from the fresh mistletoe plant (*Viscum album* L.) from various host trees; sometimes with an addition of metallic salt. **Indication:** Supplementary treatment for malignant and benign tumour diseases. **Application:** for subcutaneous injection (s.c.). **Contraindications:** Allergy to mistletoe preparations; Temperatures > 38°C; chronic granulomatous diseases, florid autoimmune diseases and those under immunosuppressive therapy; hyperthyroidism. **Undesirable side effects:** Allergic or allergoid reactions may occur; general allergic (anaphylactic) reactions with Quincke oedema, chills, shortness of breath, bronchospasm and shock are observed rarely, in this case emergency anti-allergy treatment should be carried out and the preparation should be discontinued. **Interactions:** No studies have been carried out on interactions. **Submission category:** B. **Further information:** see information for healthcare professionals at www.swissmedinfo.ch. **IsCADOR AG**, Kirschweg 9, 4144 Arlesheim

Drug information for Germany: ISCADOR® **solution for injections.** **Active ingredient:** fermented, aqueous mistletoe extract. **Composition:** fermented, aqueous extract from *Viscum album* from various host trees. **Other ingredients:** sodium chloride and water for injection. **Indications:** according to the anthroposophic understanding of human being and nature. This includes in adults: in malignant tumours, also with accompanying impairment of haematopoietic organs; in benign tumours; in defined precancerous disorders; for prevention of tumour recurrence after surgery. **Contraindications:** known allergy to preparations of European mistletoe (*Viscum album* L.). Disorders accompanied by acute inflammation or high fever. Chronic granulomatous diseases, florid autoimmune diseases, and diseases treated with immunosuppressive drugs. Hyperthyroidism with tachycardia. **Side effects:** locally restricted inflammatory reactions around the subcutaneous injection site, fever, flu-like symptoms, swellings of regional lymph nodes as well as activation of inflammations/allergic reactions. The occurrence of chronic granulomatous inflammation, autoimmune diseases and symptoms of an increase in brain pressure in brain tumors/metastases during mistletoe therapy have also been reported. **Pharmaceutical forms and packs:** solution for injection in series packs: 2 x 7 ampoules cont. 1 ml (bundle package), series 0 also 1 x 7 ampoules cont. 1 ml. Solution for injection in single strength packs: 1 x 7 ampoules cont. 1ml, Iscador special also 2 x 7 ampoules cont. 1ml (bundle package). **IsCADOR AG**, Spitalstr. 22, 79539 Lörrach.