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Heidelberg's chief pathologist calls for more autopsies of vaccinated people

In order to better understand the effect of vaccines, many more corpses would have to be autopsied, the Heidelberg chief pathologist demands. Peter Schirmacher assumes that there is a considerable number of unreported deaths from vaccinations - but he receives clear contradiction.

The chief pathologist at the University of Heidelberg, Peter Schirmacher, is pushing for many more autopsies of vaccinated people. In addition to corona deaths, the corpses of people who die in connection with a vaccination should also be examined more frequently, said Schirmacher of the German Press Agency in Stuttgart.

The director of the Pathological Institute in Heidelberg even warns of the high number of unreported deaths from vaccinations and laments: The pathologists don't even notice most of the patients who die after and possibly from a vaccination. However, other scientists disagree with him on this point, as do the Standing Vaccination Commission (Stiko) and the Paul Ehrlich Institute.

For a year now, corona deaths have been autopsied at the university clinics in the southwest in order to better understand the disease. The state supports the Covid-19 autopsy research of the university pathologies with around 1.8 million euros. Schirmacher is leading the autopsy project.

"Restrictions for non-vaccinated adults foreseeable from autumn"

The findings of more than 200 autopsies so far have led, among other things, to better treatment and ventilation of Covid patients, he says. "The knowledge gained here helps to treat the sick better and more successfully and to save lives," says Science Minister Theresia Bauer (Greens). Schirmacher, who has been a member of the National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina since 2012, hopes that the funding will continue next year.

The doctor now wants to get to the bottom of the rare, serious side effects of vaccination – such as cerebral vein thrombosis or autoimmune diseases. The problem from his point of view: Vaccinated people usually do not die under clinical observation. "The doctor examining the corpse does not establish any context with the vaccination and certifies a natural death and the patient is buried," reports Schirmacher. "Or he certifies an unclear manner of death and the public prosecutor sees no third-party negligence and releases the body for burial."

40 vaccinates autopsied within two weeks

In Baden-Württemberg, the pathologists therefore work together with public prosecutors, the police and resident doctors, reports Schirmacher. More than 40 people have already been autopsied who died within two weeks after a vaccination. Schirmacher assumes that 30 to 40 percent of them died from the vaccination. From his point of view, the frequency of fatal vaccination consequences is underestimated - a politically explosive statement in times

when the vaccination campaign is losing momentum, the delta variant is spreading rapidly and restrictions on non-vaccinated people are being discussed.

Schirmacher also receives clear contradiction from other scientists. The statements that too little is currently known about side effects and that the dangers of vaccination are underestimated are incomprehensible, said the Paul Ehrlich Institute. According to the Infection Protection Act, there is an obligation to report serious reactions, which also include when a person dies after a vaccination. "I don't know of any data that would allow a justifiable statement to be made here and I don't go by an unreported number," said the head of the Standing Vaccination Commission, Thomas Mertens.

Vaccinated preferred - but what about the involuntarily unvaccinated?

The immunologist Christian Bogdan from the University Hospital Erlangen also emphasized that there is no reason to assume that there are many unreported vaccination complications or even deaths. "There is also no question of neglecting possible dangers of COVID-19 vaccines." The last few weeks and months in particular have shown that the surveillance system is working well. In Germany, for example, the rare occurrence of cerebral vein thrombosis after vaccination with Astrazeneca (1-2 cases per 100,000 vaccinations) was recognized as a complication very early on, says Bogdan.