

**PALL-OLU.DE: A NEW DATABASE ON THE OFF-LABEL USE OF DRUGS IN PALLIATIVE MEDICINE**

Stefanie Pügge, Aleksandra Dukić-Ott, Stephanie Büsel, Julian Baumgärtel, Constanze Rémi

Department of Palliative Medicine, LMU University Hospital, Munich, Germany

**Background and importance**

The main focus of palliative care is the relief of distressing symptoms. Off-label drug use (OLU, off-label use) has become an integral part of daily practice. Up to 50% of drugs are used off-label; yet there is limited support for these uses in official recommendations such as guidelines. In addition to liability and reimbursement issues, the efficient search for evidence-based information for treatment planning is of particular importance.<sup>2</sup> However, in everyday clinical practice, health care professionals often lack the time and resources for such research.

**Aim and objectives**

The database pall-OLU.de is designed to provide healthcare professionals with quick and easy access to evidence-based treatment recommendations for OLU in palliative care free of charge.

**Materials and methods**

Relevant drugs and their OLU in palliative care are identified using a systematic approach. Treatment recommendations are subsequently developed based on the best available evidence and agreed in a web-based, two-round Delphi process with international palliative care experts.<sup>3</sup> The consented off-label treatment recommendations are eventually presented in drug monographs and include additional information, e.g. on monitoring or alternative pharmacological and non-pharmacological treatment options (Fig. 1).

**Results**

The first 38 treatment recommendations were agreed upon in 2022. Seventy experts participated in each round (response rate: 1<sup>st</sup> round 72,9% / 2<sup>nd</sup> round 67,9%). Since 2023 recommendations are accessible free of charge on the website pall-olu.de. In the meantime, further 46 treatment recommendations from the second and third Delphi processes are also available in the database. Figure 2 shows an example of a monograph from the database.

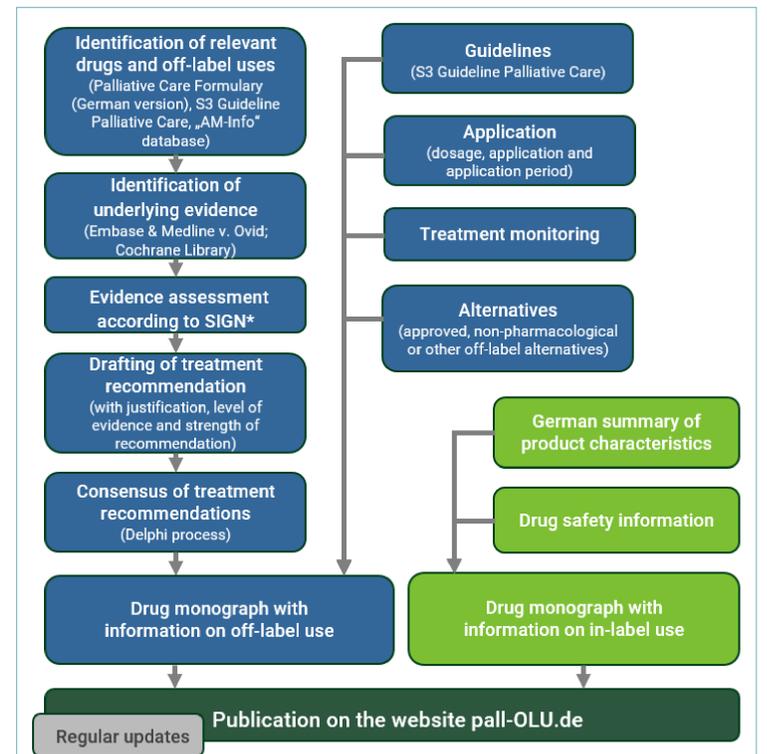


Fig.1: Systematic process of developing treatment recommendations for off-label drug use in palliative care and additional drug information, \*SIGN: Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network

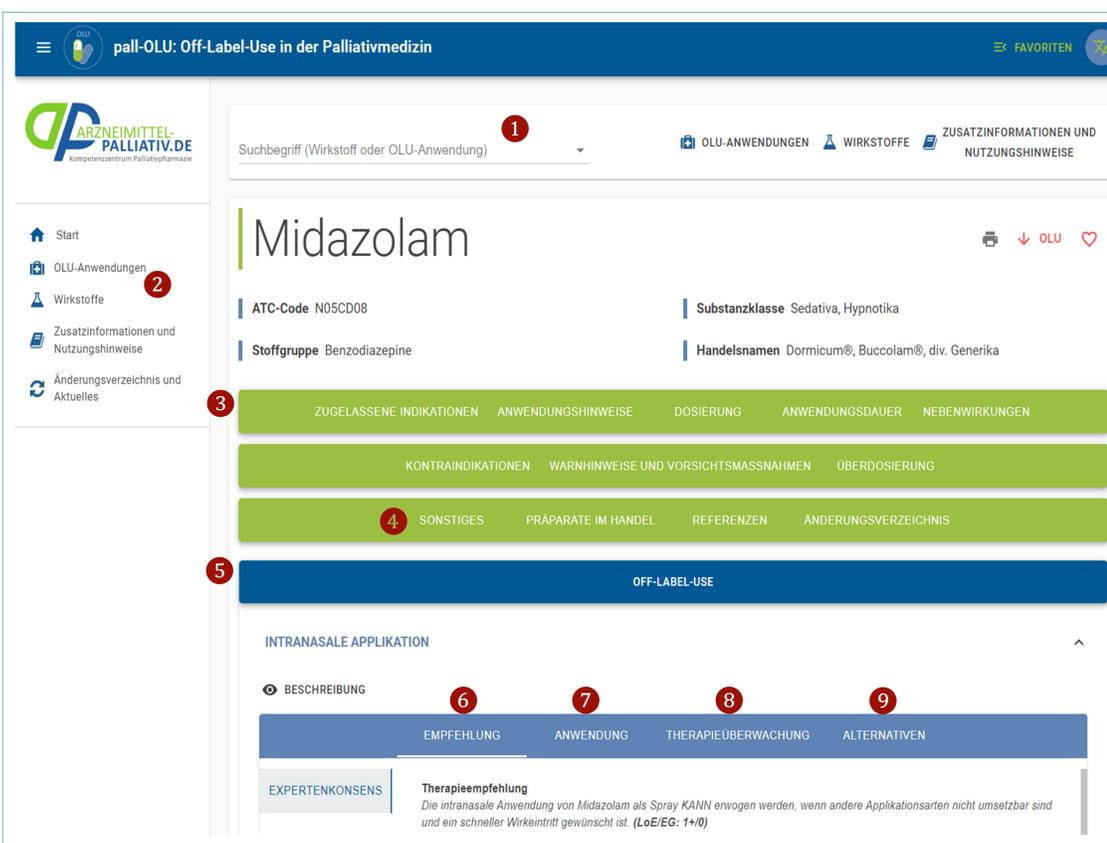


Fig.2: Screenshot of the midazolam monograph from pall-OLU.de database

**Conclusion and relevance**

pall-OLU.de provides a quick and easy access to evidence-based information. The database fills an information gap and makes an important contribution to safe and effective pharmacotherapy in palliative care. In total, the aim is to publish around 400 treatment recommendations for around 80 drugs. A smartphone app is under development.

The programming of the database was technically supported by Noventi Healthcare GmbH und PharmaCode.DEV Sp. z.o.o.

**References**

1. Leitlinienprogramm Onkologie, Erweiterte S3-Leitlinie Palliativmedizin für Patienten mit einer nicht-heilbaren Krebserkrankung Langversion 2.2 – September 2020 AWMF-Registernummer: 128/001OL. 2020
2. Rémi, C., Bausewein, C., Zum Umgang mit Off-Label-Use in der Palliativmedizin. Februar 2020; verfügbar unter [https://www.dgpalliativmedizin.de/images/RZ\\_200219\\_Offlabel\\_DS\\_ONLINE\\_aktuell\\_v2.pdf](https://www.dgpalliativmedizin.de/images/RZ_200219_Offlabel_DS_ONLINE_aktuell_v2.pdf). [Abrufdatum 20.10.22]
3. Rémi, C., Weingärtner, K., Hagemann, V., et al., Off-label drugs in palliative care: a Group Delphi treatment recommendation process. *BMJ Support Palliat Care*, 2021. 11(2): p. 180-187.

supported by **Deutsche Krebshilfe** HELFEN. FORSCHEN. INFORMIEREN **ARZNEIMITTEL-PALLIATIV.DE**

Fördernr. 70113910; 70115882

NP-004