

naturstoff-medizin.de

A health site that has promoted unsubstantiated natural remedies and has published false claims about the COVID-19 virus.



Proceed with caution: This website severely violates basic journalistic standards.

Ownership and Financing

The site is owned by Kopp Verlag e.K., a privately held publishing company founded and owned by Jochen Kopp, and based in Rottenburg am Neckar, Baden-Wuerttemberg. Kopp was a policeman in Stuttgart for 11 years before founding Kopp Verlag in 1993.

Kopp Verlag also publishes right-wing and conspiracy-oriented books and DVDs, including books about UFOs, creationism, and Islam. The company states on its website: “With courage, curiosity and passion, we break down existing politically correct barriers of thought.”

Kopp Verlag owns print magazines, including the outdoor magazine *Save Your life*, and *Mystery*, which says that it publishes articles about “paranormal phenomena and things that actually should not exist.” The company also distributes some print magazines, including *Compact*, a monthly magazine that advances the right-wing views of the AfD party.

Naturstoff-Medizin.de runs advertisements for Kopp Verlag’s other publications, and links to the company’s online shop, which sells dietary supplements, including chlorine dioxide solutions, as well as what it calls “crisis precaution products” (“Krisenvorsorge-Produkte”), including foldable water canisters and canned pumpernickel bread.

Content

Naturstoff-Medizin describes itself on Facebook page as “the new big health portal on the internet,” and says that it offers “the most recent information, studies and sources for your natural health.”

Content on the site is published in sections including Healthy Living, Natural Products, Our Body, Nutrition, and Brain & Psyche. The site extensively covers alternative medicinal remedies, and publishes commentaries on health policy. The Our Body section provides more than a dozen separate pages focused on common diseases, including Alzheimer’s, diabetes,

Score: 25/100

- ✗ Does not repeatedly publish false content (22points)
- ✗ Gathers and presents information responsibly (18)
- ✗ Regularly corrects or clarifies errors (12.5)
- ✗ Handles the difference between news and opinion responsibly (12.5)
- ✗ Avoids deceptive headlines (10)
- ✓ Website discloses ownership and financing (7.5)
- ✓ Clearly labels advertising (7.5)
- ✓ Reveals who's in charge, including any possible conflicts of interest (5)
- ✓ The site provides names of content creators, along with either contact or biographical information (5)

Criteria are listed in order of importance.

[More information.](#)

cancer, and COVID-19. The Nutrition section often promotes what it calls “Superfoods,” such as coconut oil and algae, to treat various diseases.

Typical articles have run under headlines including “Amla – A superfruit for health and youth” (“Amla – eine Superfrucht für Gesundheit und Jugendlichkeit”); “Alternative practitioners: Secret plans to abolish a profession” (Heilpraktiker: Geheime Pläne zur Abschaffung eines Berufs”); and “mRNA-vaccine: A ticking time bomb?” (“mRNA-Impfung: Eine tickende Zeitbombe?”).

Credibility

Articles typically name and link to their sources, and feature some original reporting by the website’s writers. However, many articles rely on reporting by American health sites — especially Mercola.com, GreenMedInfo.com, and ChildrensHealthDefense.org (the website of an anti-vaccine nonprofit chaired by Robert F. Kennedy Jr.) — that have been found to be unreliable by NewsGuard.

Naturstoff-Medizin.de itself has frequently published false and misleading information about health-related topics, including the COVID-19 virus.

For example, a May 2020 article, republished from Mercola.com, titled “SARS-CoV-2: Why it must have originated from a laboratory” (“SARS-CoV-2: Warum es aus dem Labor stammen muss”), claimed that the existence of a “furin cleavage point” in the COVID-19 virus — a characteristic that allows virus cells to merge with host cells — “proves that this cleavage site is not mutated, but was inserted after the fact.” The article, written by site owner Joseph Mercola, stated: “I believe that the evidence so far most clearly indicates that SARS-CoV-2 is a laboratory product.”

There is no evidence that the new strain of coronavirus was developed in a laboratory, and scientists have traced the virus’s “furin cleavage” to earlier bat coronaviruses that likely mutated. A March 2020 study published in the journal *Nature Medicine* concluded that the virus “is not a laboratory construct or a purposefully manipulated virus.” An earlier study, published in February 2020 in the journal *Nature*, found that the COVID-19 virus is “96% percent identical at the whole-genome level to a bat coronavirus.” In an April 2020 statement, the U.S. intelligence community said it

“concur with the wide scientific consensus that the COVID-19 virus was not manmade or genetically modified.”

A July 2020 article, original to the site and titled “Medical plant garlic used against high blood pressure, virus infections and cancer” (“Heilpflanze Knoblauch im Einsatz gegen Bluthochdruck, Virusinfektionen und Krebs”), claimed that, “garlic can not only be used to prevent all kinds of virus infections, but can also help in acute cases.... There even is already a study on the effect of garlic on COVID-19, in which consumption of garlic is rated as an ‘acceptable preventive measure.’”

The article relied on a June 2020 study published in the Dutch journal Medical Hypotheses, which describes itself as a “forum for ideas in medicine” and publishes studies that have not undergone a peer-review process.

The World Health Organization states on its website that “Garlic is a healthy food that may have some antimicrobial properties. However, there is no evidence from the 2020 outbreak that eating garlic has protected people from the new strain of coronavirus.”

An August 2020 article, titled “5G - the invisible danger” (“5G – die unsichtbare Gefahr”), claimed that “5G will cause your EMF [electromagnetic fields] exposure to skyrocket, with subsequent health and environmental consequences.” It added, “EMF damage can occur in countless forms, including sleep disorders, anxiety, depression, Alzheimer's and cancer.” The article was first published on Mercola.com.

There is no evidence that 5G technology has any negative health or environmental effects, or that it causes the diseases listed in the article. A March 2020 report from the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection, a Germany-based organization that studies the health effects of non-ionizing radiation such as radio waves, found no evidence that 5G exposure posed a risk to human health. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration says on its website that “to date, there is no consistent or credible scientific evidence of health problems caused by the exposure to radio frequency energy emitted by cell phones.”

A January 2020 article, titled “Can cannabis fight tumors?” (“Kann Cannabis Tumore bekämpfen?”), claimed that cannabis can help cure cancerous tumors.

“Cannabis triggers the programmed cell death (apoptosis) in tumor cells. Healthy cells stay unaffected,” the article said. “[T]he direct antitumor activity of its active components, the so called cannabinoids, is... uncontested.” The article also first appeared on Mercola.com.

Cannabis has been shown to help treat certain side effects of chemotherapy, such as nausea. However, cannabis has not been proven to be an effective treatment for cancer. A 2017 review of existing scientific research on the health effects of cannabis, published by the U.S. National Academies of Science, concluded that “there is insufficient evidence to support or refute the conclusion that cannabinoids are an effective treatment for cancers.”

The CDC warns on its website that “relying on marijuana alone as treatment or for managing side effects while avoiding or delaying conventional medical care for cancer may have serious health consequences.” The National Cancer Institute notes that “the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has not approved Cannabis as a treatment for cancer or any other medical condition.”

A January 2020 article original to the site, titled “Miracle weapon green tea” (“Wunderwaffe grüner Tee”), claimed that “Green tea is a real multi talent. Its positive effects on our health are as surprising as they are various. It prevents diseases, reduces inflammation, fights cancer, gets you fit and slows down the process of aging.”

Although a 2012 study published in the Journal of Advances Pharmaceutical Technology and Research found that both green and black tea have anti-inflammatory effects when tested on cell cultures, the effect in humans has been unproven. Moreover, there has been no conclusive evidence on the efficacy of green tea in treating cancer. A March 2020 review of existing studies on the subject by Cochrane, an international network of health researchers and professionals, concluded: “A beneficial effect of green tea consumption on cancer prevention remains unproven so far. Caution is advised regarding supplementation with high-dose green tea extracts due to the possible adverse effects.”

Because Naturstoff-Medizin.de has published numerous inaccurate or misleading health claims, NewsGuard has determined that the website repeatedly publishes false content, does not gather and present information responsibly, and does not avoid deceptive headlines.

Naturstoff-Medizin.de does not have a stated corrections policy and NewsGuard did not find any corrections on the site.

The site does not disclose an agenda and does not label any content as opinion. Nevertheless, articles frequently promote alternative remedies over conventional treatments, and make negative claims about vaccines and other established medical practices.

For example, an August 2020 article, original to the site and titled “Priceless therapies - pharmaceutical lottery for human lives” (“Unbezahlbare Therapien – Pharmalotterie um Menschenleben”), stated that “Under the pretext of high production costs, prices for drugs increasingly push the boundaries. Those who cannot pay lose their health or even their life. This does not prevent pharmaceutical companies from paying less attention to people's well-being than to the sound of ringing cash registers.”

A June 2020 article, first published on GreenMedinfo.com and titled “What compulsory vaccinations and 5G have in common” (“Was die Impfpflicht und 5G gemeinsam haben”), said, “Freedom of health is under greater threat worldwide than ever before. One threat is compulsory vaccination, the other is the fact that we will be exposed everywhere to mobile phone waves, electromagnetic radiation that is becoming increasingly complex and toxic,” adding, “Behind these plans is a partnership between multinational corporations and would-be state regulators that is becoming increasingly treacherous.”

A July 2020 article, first published on ChildrensHealthDefense.org and titled “More Gates-funded ‘Brave New World’ science: artificial breast milk” (“Mehr Gates-finanzierte ‘Brave-New-World’-Wissenschaft: künstliche Muttermilch”), said, “The increasingly aggressive marketing of breast milk substitutes is worrying... It is pure hubris to believe that you can tamper with Mother Nature in this area as well.”

Because Naturstoff-Medizin.de does not disclose an agenda and frequently includes opinionated claims in articles that advance that agenda, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not meet the standard for handling the difference between news and opinion responsibly

The site did not respond to two NewsGuard emails and a phone message inquiring about the articles cited above, the site's approach to corrections, and its handling of opinion.

Transparency

The Imprint (Impressum) page discloses the site's ownership by Kopp Verlag e.K., and provides a general phone number and email address. Jochen Kopp, the owner of Kopp Verlag, is named as the site's editor-in-chief.

Articles on the site are typically attributed to authors and link to the writer's biographical information. An Authors (Autoren) page, linked at the bottom of the homepage, also provides a list of the site's authors, including the writers of articles republished from other sites.

Advertisements are distinguishable from editorial content.

History

Articles in the site's archive date to January 2020. The site's associated Facebook page was created in February 2020.

Written by: [Elena Bernard](#), [Marie Richter](#)

Edited by: [Eric Efron](#), [Florian Meißner](#)

Send feedback to NewsGuard: [Click Here](#)

Sources

Ownership and Financing

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Content

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Credibility

COVID-19 origin:
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Transparency

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History

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