

Outstanding cancer treatment: Two seals of approval for the Thorax Clinic Heidelberg

Thorax Clinic at Heidelberg University Hospital has been certified as a lung cancer centre for a second time / Additional award as Mesothelioma Unit is recognised for great expertise in the treatment of tumours of the pleura

Comprehensive expertise and quality of care in treatment of all types of lung tumours: The Thorax Clinic at Heidelberg University Hospital (UKHD) and National Centre for Tumour Diseases NCT Heidelberg has been certified as a "Lung Cancer Centre" by the German Cancer Society (DGK) for a second time. It has also received the seal of approval as a certified "Mesothelioma Unit". This specifically recognises expertise in the treatment of tumours of the pleura. The assessment is carried out by OnkoZert, an independent institute for quality assurance and data management in medicine and the mandate holder of the DKG, in accordance with strict quality criteria. Patients with tumours in the lungs or of the pleura will be able to identify with the following statement: At the Thorax Clinic, they will be treated by highly experienced interdisciplinary teams of professionals using state-of-the-art medical equipment, e.g.: the operating theatres, and the entire spectrum of treatments and surgical techniques available, including minimally invasive procedures, are of high quality.

"The certification provides our patients with confidence that they will be in safe hands and that they can expect the highest quality treatment while in our care. It makes choosing a clinic all the more straightforward and can help alleviate patients' fears about operations on the lungs and chest which are usually quite complex," says Dr. Helge Bischoff, Director of the Lung Cancer Centre. The Thorax Clinic in Heidelberg is one of six clinics in Germany to be officially certified as a specialist lung cancer centre by the DKG since June 2009. Certified centres have to demonstrate that they continue to meet the prescribed standards on an annual basis and have to reapply for certification every three years.

The Lung Cancer Centre is the largest facility of its kind in Germany, having diagnosed approx. 1,000 new lung cancer patients and performed approx. 370 tumour operations in 2020. "Patients can be treated safely in quality controlled centres even in the midst of a pandemic," asserts Prof. Dr. Felix Herth, Medical Director of the Thorax Clinic.

OnkoZert's current report rates the service provided by both the Lung Cancer Centre and the Mesothelioma Unit as "excellent". "In particular, the report emphasises the constructive working environment at the Hospital as well as the service provided by our staff and their work ethic. I'm very pleased to be able to feed such praise back to our teams: That's something we can be proud of!" says Dr. Bischoff delightedly. Networking with the University Hospital, the National Centre for Tumour Diseases (NCT), and the German Cancer Research Centre is mentioned as a further bonus.

The Thorax Clinic at Heidelberg University Hospital

As one of the largest specialist lung clinics in Europe, we at the Thorax Clinic have been treating diseases of the lungs and chest for more than 100 years and are a clinic based at the Heidelberg University Hospital. Our expert treatment includes all modern diagnostic and therapeutic procedures such as lung function, bronchoscopy, imaging, and robotic assisted surgery in-house. Our internationally recognised hospital departments treat some of the most benign and malignant lung diseases nationwide. Our precision oncology is a main area of research activity within the National Centre for Tumour Diseases (NCT). Over the years, the Thorax Clinic has established the largest Lung Biobank in Germany.