

# TBE Patient Advocacy Group ("Selbsthilfegruppe Zeckenopfer")

for patients suffering from late sequelae of tick-borne encephalitis (TBE), borreliosis, or ehrlichiosis following a tick bite and for people close to them

Tick-borne encephalitis	Viral disease, preventable by <b>vaccination (99.9%)</b>
Borreliosis	Bacterial disease, treatable with <b>antibiotics</b>
Ehrlichiosis	Bacterial disease, treatable with <b>antibiotics</b>

## Services offered to patients and people close to them

Group meetings, exchange of experience	Throughout Austria
Presentations	Topics: health (conventional and complementary medicine), social and practical aspects, treatment options
Physical exercise	Remedial exercises, ismacogy, kinesiology, Tai Qi, Qi Gong
Outings and excursions	
Information and advice	Personal support, telephone support, medical advice
Support in practical questions	e.g., applying for nursing allowance, helping and acting as representative in dealing with authorities

## Public Relations

Information days	Hospitals, pharmacies, local authorities
Fairs	Health fairs, 60plus fairs
Presentations	Nursing schools, social insurance companies, local health alliances, senior citizens associations
Informational material	TBE brochure, borreliosis brochure, folder on the borreliosis lab report, magazine: "Der Stich" (The Tick Bite)

**Organizational form:** incorporated society, ZVR: 379084023

**Funded by:** membership fees, donations, collections, sponsors

**Bank details:** BA-CA, account no. 655 153 500, bank code 12000

In the past 10 years, patient support groups have come to enjoy increasing acceptance in Austria. The internet, providing easy access to information about diseases and patient support groups, has greatly contributed to this development. Most patients contact patient support groups after they have received a diagnosis by their physician or hospital. The close cooperation and interaction with doctors has become an indispensable aspect of the activities of patient support groups.

Each individual group has its own character and agenda. In addition to holding general meetings among our members, we strive to give direct support to patients and their families in times of need. If, for example, a family member requires around-the-clock care and attention, it is almost impossible to also find the time to contact authorities, submit applications, and the like. In such situations, we will, in close cooperation with the patients and their families, correspond with authorities, contact institutions, and help patients enforce their rights (nursing allowance, exemption from prescription fees, wheel chairs, therapeutic aids, etc.) Public relations activities round off our program. Another focus of our organization is to inform the public about effective means of disease prevention (presentations, information days, fairs) to reach those who still underestimate the danger of a tick bite.