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A vaccine will not solve the problem  
by Bernd Hontschik

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The majority of medical professional associations and two virologists in Germany are demanding hygiene concepts instead of going out.

When members of my generation hear the sentence: "Swallow vaccination is sweet", they immediately think of the continuation: "Polio is cruel". In the 1960s, the oral polio vaccination succeeded in reducing the incidence of polio by 99 percent within only four years. There are now many vaccinations against infectious diseases. What is a vaccination actually?

When our organism is confronted with foreign substances, the immune system is activated and forms antibodies. These attack the foreign substance and render it harmless. Most of the time, those affected do not even notice anything. But in the case of major attacks and correspondingly considerable defensive measures of the immune system, this leads to illness, in the worst case to death.

With a vaccination the immune system is tricked, so to speak. One makes dangerous pathogens harmless or kills them completely and uses them as a vaccine. The immune system also recognizes these no longer dangerous, inoculated invaders and forms antibodies. This is the principle of immunization, stored in a kind of immune memory that can be immediately recalled and activated in case of a new attack by the same pathogens. Depending on the pathogen, such immunity can last only a short time or even a lifetime.

The current pandemic has triggered frantic activity around the world to develop a vaccine. About 250 vaccines are being researched, about fifty of which are already in the first stage of clinical trials. Since the coronavirus is associated with hundreds of thousands of deaths and millions of cases of disease, the usual steps in vaccine development and testing are being compressed into the shortest possible time frame. Vaccine development typically takes four to five years.

However, the vaccine against the coronavirus Sars-CoV-2 is expected to be ready by the end of this year or at the beginning of next year at the latest. The distribution battle has already begun. That makes me suspicious.

Only part of the research is working with dead vaccine, i.e. with inactivated viruses. Other, partly novel concepts are emerging: mRNA-based vaccine, dead vaccine with genetically engineered virus antigen (nanoparticle technology), RNA-based vaccine

(with self-propagating RNA), DNA-based vaccine, subunit vaccine (genetically engineered trimeric spike protein), dead vaccine with genetically engineered protein antigen, vaccine with genetically engineered bifidobacteria.

The knowledge about these new methods is still very limited. You have to be extremely deeply involved with the matter to understand it. I am not. Nevertheless, I can see that with some of these vaccines interventions in the human genome are being made. This makes me suspicious.

But the extremely rapid approval of a vaccine against the corona virus Sars-CoV-2 will not be able to stop the worldwide pandemic. Even if it should be possible to produce a genetically safe vaccine within a year, it is still an illusion that it would then be possible to provide vaccine doses for eight billion people on this earth.

One would actually have to look for a concept to live with the virus. Everything else is a dead end. On past Wednesday the National Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians together with 53 medical professional associations and the virologists Streeck and Schmidt-Chanasit called for curfews to be made superfluous with good hygiene concepts, for commandments to be used to take the population along instead of patronizing them with bans, and for endangered population groups to be given special protection without isolating them.

There is hardly more medical expertise in our country. But it does not receive any attention. Sixteen prime ministers\* and one female chancellor know better. I don't recognize my state: The city of Menden in North Rhine-Westphalia wants to barrack fellow citizens who do not comply with the quarantine regulations in a gym. An SPD health expert wants to violate the basic right to inviolability of the home. A green prime minister - and not only him - calls for denunciation. The city of Essen even had an extra - meanwhile withdrawn - online form for denunciations on its homepage. All this leaves me saddened.

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## opinions

More and more I get the impression that governments and authorities are not primarily concerned with fighting the pandemic, but rather with introducing an electronic vaccination card or electronic identity. All those who have been vaccinated and can prove it with a corresponding app on their cell phone will be allowed to travel again, attend major events and will no longer have to wear masks.

This app could then of course be used for general surveillance.

Hopefully this is a conspiracy theory.

Mathias Wyss, on November 6, 2020

Gerhardus Lang, on November 6, 2020

Thank you. I could observe that the consumption of alcohol, due to its disinhibiting effect, makes protection concepts quickly forgotten. After the third beer, some people speak of a deception and an economic-political move, as if there were no pathogen. We already know the problem from HIV. According to our experience in our counselling work, about 75% have become infected with HIV under the influence of alcohol. (HIV displacer) I have the impression that this is strongly hidden in the media. The human being has a right to intoxication and relaxation. But to make a holy cow out of alcohol is irresponsible in my opinion. Besides, alcohol has an

immune-suppressing effect from a certain degree, which can promote infections. This topic also belongs in a hygiene concept, unfortunately prevention is difficult when it comes to alcohol. Not always, but all too often.

Urs P. Gasche, on November 6, 2020

The fact that a vaccination is suddenly to be launched on the market in one year instead of three to four years does not necessarily increase confidence.

The problem is made much worse by another circumstance:

In many countries today, the strategy is to keep the number of infections as low as possible. This goes far beyond the goal of avoiding overburdening hospitals. This strategy is extremely expensive in economic terms. And it really only makes sense if a safe and effective vaccine is available in the foreseeable future. Otherwise, this strategy will only prolong the pandemic.

This means that in many countries a very high stake is placed on the fact that this vaccine will soon be available.

Now it is a well-known pattern of human behavior that one tends to tunnel vision when pursuing a goal with the utmost ambition. Obstacles, dangers and weaknesses in your strategy are then easily overlooked. In concrete terms, there is a high risk that the approval of a vaccine will be pushed forward even though the vaccine does not actually meet the requirements. Simply because the vaccine must not be allowed to fail.

It would really be desirable for the authorities to make a serious effort to come up with a plan B: what to do if the vaccine fails?

Daniel Heierli, on November 6, 2020

Dr. Hontschik is of course right in everything that he and the majority of German medical professional associations have published. But they are not elected, and the representatives of the people who have to undergo this procedure know better from their own experience: we, the citizens, are in the majority too selfish to follow these reasonable recommendations. The irony is that as long as the principle of competition is raised to the top of the podium by the same politics and the economy, cohesion will not work. Our great teachers already knew this thousands of years ago: If we humans would listen to commandments instead of prohibitions, we would not have to be afraid of the virus or other dangers.

Michel Mortier, on November 6, 2020

That would certainly be a good idea.

But that is not what they (the political and economic complex around Big Data and Big Pharma) are concerned about. They are concerned with control and the expansion of power.