

Would you like to know more about leech therapy?

Then visit Biebertaler Blutegelzucht's website at [www.leech.de](http://www.leech.de)

As well as providing further information on leeches, leech therapy, and our facility in Biebertal, you will find a list of leech therapists in the European Union, searchable by city or by postal code.

Would you like to see how and where our leeches live and breed?

Our leeches live primarily in ponds similar to their natural environment. We are firmly convinced that leeches which are confronted with environmental factors much as they would be in the wild will be healthier, more vigorous, and more efficacious than those bred in quasi-industrial leech factories.

Visit us!

For an appointment, just give us a call or send us an email. We'd be glad to show you around our facility.



**Pharmaceutical Product: Medirud®Biebertal**

**Applications:** acute and chronic painful arthrosis, such as of the knee and thumb; varicose veins, spider veins, leg ulcers; tendinitis and tenosynovitis (tennis elbow, golf arm); high blood pressure (as a supplemental treatment); rheumatic diseases; otitis media, tinnitus; furuncles, carbuncles, abscesses; spinal and sacrum syndromes; circulation problems following skin and tissue transplantation.

For information on risks and side effects please read the package insert, or consult your physician, alternative practitioner or pharmacist.

**Pharmaceutical Product: Medirud®Biebertal**  
(medicinal leeches: hirudo medicinalis/verbana/orientalis)

Pharmaceutical Enterprise:  
**Biebertaler Blutegelzucht GmbH**

*Manufacturing authorisation for ingredients of animal origin, human and veterinary medicinal products according to Art. 13, paragraph 1 of the German Drug Code (Arzneimittelgesetz – AMG §13 Abs.1)*



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*Compliments of:*



## Leech Therapy

### A traditional healing method in modern medicine



LEECH THERAPY IN MODERN MEDICINE

## What role does leech therapy play in modern medicine?

Medical use of leeches has a long and fascinating tradition. In ancient Egypt at the time of the pharaohs as well as in classical Greco-Roman civilization, leech therapy was widely practised. While the efficacy of leech therapy was previously thought to be primarily due to the simple removal of blood, much as with other forms of bloodletting, this aspect currently plays only a subordinate role. With modern methods of analysis, many of the active ingredients to be found in the saliva of medicinal leeches have been clearly identified as decisive in therapeutic applications. The leech is nature's own pharmacist, providing numerous active substances which are also used in modern medicine. However, the leech's exact combination of these natural active substances is unique. These active ingredients are helpful in treating painful inflammation of the joints and the back as well as a variety of circulatory ailments including varicose veins.

Medicinal leeches have been categorized as a medicinal product and are as such subject to the same safety, quality and efficacy requirements as apply to all forms of licensed medication.



*A view of one of Biebertaler Blutegelzucht's ponds recreate as nearly as possible the leech's natural environment, important for the care and breeding of leeches which are to meet the high quality standards required of leech therapy.*

*Biebertaler Blutegelzucht GmbH was the first pharmaceutical company within the European Union to comprehensively meet these high standards regarding cultivation and breeding.*

## Which diseases warrant leech therapy ?

Indications involving circulatory disorders and inflammation can often be treated with leech therapy. Examples of successful leech therapy application include cases of:

- acute and chronic painful arthrosis, such as of the knee and thumb
- varicose veins, spider veins, leg ulcers
- tendinitis and tenosynovitis (tennis elbow, golf arm)
- high blood pressure (as a supplemental treatment)
- rheumatic diseases
- otitis media, tinnitus
- furuncles, carbuncles, abscesses
- spinal and sacrum syndromes
- circulation problems following skin and tissue transplantation

Application of leech therapy requires the comprehensive knowledge of a professionally trained therapist and should not be attempted on one's own.

## What happens during leech therapy?

Treatment normally lasts anywhere from 60 to 90 minutes. Depending on the exact indications, a single treatment is often sufficient. Treatment begins by placing the leech on a pre-selected spot on the skin. The leech affixes itself to the skin by means of suction, then uses its minuscule teeth to cut its way into the skin. This process is largely painless, as the leech most likely secretes a painkilling substance. During the subsequent sucking process (15 to 90 minutes), the leech releases further active substances into the skin. Once the process is completed, the leech will drop off of its own accord. The bite wound may continue to bleed for a further 8 to 12 hours due to calin, an active substance. During this period, the wound must be bandaged with absorbent material. The period of time between treatment and manifestation of the healing effect is variable, but it often starts immediately after treatment and frequently lasts for months.



Leech therapy has over the centuries established itself as a natural healing method and is today recognized as a modern method of treatment with a broad spectrum of effective applications showing a high level of compatibility.