

Science & Society Initiative

SciSo is a group of people working at DESY, universities and other research institutes and who believe, that **successful research and development** is only possible, if

- it embeds in political and social discussions,
- it respects equal rights to participate in research and science,
- it is committed to sustainable concepts, and
- it has goals that are exclusively peaceful and improves the peaceful interaction and coexistence.

We want to promote these ideas with a series of talks and discussion sessions.

Use of chemical nerve agent Novichok against Navalny

- **August 2020** Russian opposition leader loses consciousness on a flight in Russia (bbc.com)
After 2 days, he is transported to German hospital Charité in Berlin
Russian prosecutors say there is no sign that a crime had been committed
- **September 2020** German government: Toxicology tests showed he was poisoned with a nerve agent
Kremlin denied involvement in the poisoning of Navalny (bbc.com)
- **September 2020** French, Swedish labs confirm Navalny poisoned with Novichok (opcw.org)
- **October 2020** OPCW: cholinesterase inhibitor (Novichok group) found in Navalny's blood, urine, skin samples and his water bottle (opcw.org)

Use of chemical nerve agent Novichok against Navalny

THE LANCET

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Novichok nerve agent poisoning

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On Aug 20, 2020, a 44-year-old man who was previously healthy suddenly became confused and began to sweat heavily on a domestic flight in Russia approximately 10 min after departure; he vomited, collapsed, and lost consciousness. After an emergency landing, the man was admitted to the toxicology unit of a local hospital in Omsk, Russia, approximately 2 h after symptom onset.

According to the discharge report, the patient presented comatose with hypersalivation and increased diaphoresis and was diagnosed to have respiratory failure, myoclonic status, disturbed carbohydrate metabolism, electrolyte disorders, and metabolic encephalopathy. Therapeutic measures included intubation, mechanical ventilation, and unspecified drugs for symptom control and neuroprotection. On

Aug 22, 2020, the patient was transferred by a German air ambulance to the Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin at the request of his family. Severe poisoning with a cholinesterase inhibitor was subsequently diagnosed. 2 weeks later, the German Government announced that a laboratory of the German armed forces designated by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) had identified an organophosphorus nerve agent from the novichok group in blood samples collected immediately after the patient's admission to Charité,¹ a finding that was subsequently confirmed by the OPCW.² Here, we report clinical details of this case.

Background

Numerous prominent Putin critics/enemies were poisoned/murdered:

2006 – Alexander Litvinenko (former officer of the FSB and KGB) – poisoned with plutonium in the UK

2006 – Anna Politkovskaya (human rights activist) – assassinated in Russia

2015 – Boris Nemtsov (opposition politician) – assassinated in Russia

2015 and 2017 – Vladimir Kara-Murza (opposition politician) – poisoned with unknown substance in Russia

2018 – Sergei Skripal (former Russian military officer) – poisoned with Novichok in the UK

2018 – Pyotr Verzilov (activist) – "highly probable" that he had been poisoned (said Charité, Berlin) in Russia

2020 – Alexey Navalny (opposition politician) – poisoned with Novichok in Russia

and more...

Consequences: EU and UK sanctions

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/10/15/use-of-chemical-weapons-in-the-assassination-attempt-on-alexei-navalny-eu-sanctions-six-individuals-and-one-entity/>



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● Council of the EU | Press release | 15 October 2020 | 11:20

Use of chemical weapons in the assassination attempt on Alexei Navalny: EU sanctions six individuals and one entity

The Council today imposed restrictive measures against **six individuals** and **one entity** involved in the **assassination attempt on Alexei Navalny**, who was poisoned with a toxic nerve agent of the “Novichok” group on 20 August 2020 in Russia.

Consequences: US sanctions

<https://www.state.gov/u-s-sanctions-and-other-measures-imposed-on-russia-in-response-to-russias-use-of-chemical-weapons/>

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U.S. Sanctions and Other Measures Imposed on Russia in Response to Russia's Use of Chemical Weapons

FACT SHEET

OFFICE OF THE SPOKESPERSON

MARCH 2, 2021