



Medical background of the
medical field **oncology**

1 Definition

The term cachexia describes a condition of pathological weight loss. The dramatic weight loss occurring as a result of an advanced tumor disease is referred to as cancer cachexia.

2 Prevalence

Up to 80 % of patients with an advanced tumor disease can be affected, about 20-30 % of them die of cachexia.

3 Diagnosis

One can speak of cachexia if due to a disease:

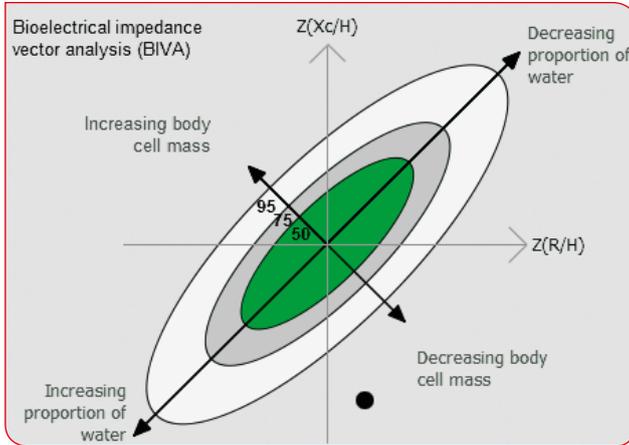
- More than 5 % of the body weight is lost within a period of six months
- The BMI falls below 20.00 kg/m² and the loss of weight exceeds 2 %

4 Therapy

As in a very advanced stage only treatments designed to alleviate symptoms can be used, experts recommend initiating a suitable treatment as early as in the stage of pre-cachexia.

5 Benefits offered by the seca mBCA

The bioelectrical impedance vector analysis (BIVA) helps to detect cachexia and allows to monitor the severity in the course of the therapy. The fact that the patient's values are in the area of low body cell mass is an indication of cachexia.



The body composition chart (BCC) enables the diagnosis of sarcopenia. Sarcopenia means low free fat mass (FFM) or low skeletal muscle mass (SMM).

