

October 10, 2021

KØS Museum of Art in Public Spaces
Køge, Denmark
Ref: Sick Leave

Dear Ulrikke Neergaard,

Following my accidental fall on May 30th 2021, I started having pains on my right hip and leg. Because the pain didn't lessen over time I decided to seek medical care and arranged several appointments with Dr. Morten Christensen in July and August 2021. After several visits, he thought that it was a rheumatological problem, and then he referred me to a rheumatologist (also a physiotherapist), but there were no availabilities in Copenhagen region until November. In the meantime, I was left with no concrete diagnosis or adequate treatment for my pain (nor for my poor health condition or coughing).

As the pain in my leg increased, to find a quicker medical treatment, I had to fly to Turkey, and on the 9th of September I visited Orthopedist Prof. Dr. Abdullah Gogus at Florence Nightingale Hospital in Istanbul who examined me and asked for scans, first X-Ray and then MRI of my leg and lower back and some tests. As he diagnosed lesions on my right leg, he asked for further scans (PET CT) to see if the lesions are present in any other parts of my body. On the 13th of September, I had a PET CT at Medica Istanbul and on the 14th of September, I was diagnosed with lung cancer, with metastasis on the right leg, a smaller one on the left leg, and additionally, on the left part of the end of the spine and the kidney glands (report in English is available if needed).

Afterwards, I had a bronchoscopy on the the 20th of September by doctor of pulmonary diseases Dr Benan Caglayan at Koc University Hospital in Istanbul to take cell samples from my lungs for pathology, and the first report by pathologist Dr. Pinar Arikan Firat arrived on the 27th of September.

On the 23rd of September, I was examined by oncologist Dr. Fatih Selcukbiricik (Oncology Department at Koc University Hospital) and he asked further scans (brain MRI) and a more extensive pathology analysis. He stated that the methodology for treatment would be decided on the pathology results, however, that it will most probably take 3 to 4 months.

Dr. Selcukbiricik referred me to radiologist Dr. Duygu Sezen for further examination if radiotherapy would help reduce the pain and strengthen the right leg bone. Upon her examination (her report is attached), I received radiotherapy treatment between 27th of September and 8th of October, 2021.

On the 11th of October, I have an appointment with my oncologist Dr. Selcukbiricik to learn his proposal for the systematic treatment. His report will be sent in due course.

Having come to Istanbul with the expectation of having a simple orthopedic problem that could be cured easily, I was caught unprepared with the diagnosis of my life-threatening

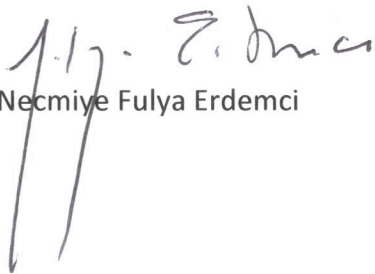
sickness. However, I understood quickly from the doctors' talks and reports that I had no choice but to start the treatment in Istanbul immediately without losing any further time.

Although I had state health insurance coverage in Turkey, because of the urgency of my health condition, I have been treated in a private hospital (Koc University hospital) that fortunately has an agreement with the state health insurance for the %50 percent of the expenses. However, the half I am paying by myself is still very high and already increased over 50.000 Dkk (If needed the invoices are available).

Hereby, I would like to ask for a paid sick leave from the 13th of September 2021 onwards for 5-6 months.

I am grateful for your understanding and support.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Necmiye Fulya Erdemci', with a long vertical stroke extending downwards from the signature.

Necmiye Fulya Erdemci