

Press release

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Basic information

Name: Allan Hansen Email: ah@clin.au.dk Phone:

Department of: Clinical Medicine

Main supervisor: Professor, Consultant, DMSc, PhD Per Borghammer

Title of dissertation: Flortaucipir PET imaging of Parkinson's disease

Date for defence: October 2nd, 2018 at (time of day): 14:00 Place: Aarhus University Hospital, Nørrebrogade 44, DK-8000 Aarhus C, M-auditorium, building 3, 2nd floor

Press release (Danish)

Billeddannelse af Alzheimer-relaterede forandringer ved Parkinsons sygdom

De primære symptomer på Parkinsons sygdom er rystelser, stivhed og langsomme bevægelser. Flere år efter disse symptomer vil patienter ofte opleve tab af kognitive evner. Efter 20 år med Parkinsons sygdom har op til 80% af patienterne udviklet demens.

Et bidrag til demens ved Parkinsons sygdom kommer fra forandringer som ses ved Alzheimers sygdom, i form af hyperfosforyleret tau protein, der danner neurofibrillære tangles (NFT'er). Blandt demente patienter med Parkinsons sygdom har 40% tilstrækkelige mængder af Alzheimer-forandringer ved obduktion til også at stille en Alzheimer-diagnose. For nyligt er det blevet muligt at studere NFT'er i den levende hjerne ved hjælp af flortaucipir PET-skanninger. Samtidig arbejdes der på at udvikle behandlinger til at fjerne Alzheimer-forandringer fra hjernen. Hvis man kan identificere Parkinsonpatienter med tillæg af Alzheimer-forandringer, kan de måske drage fordel af sygdomsmodificerende behandlinger udviklet til Alzheimers sygdom.

Muligheden for at identificere Parkinsonpatienter med Alzheimer-forandringer ved brug af flortaucipir PET-skanninger er blevet undersøgt i forbindelse med et nyt ph.d.-projekt fra Aarhus Universitet, Health. Projektet er gennemført af Allan Hansen, der forsvare det den 2. oktober.

Forsvaret af ph.d.-projektet er offentligt og finder sted den 2/10, 2018, kl. 14:00 i M-auditoriet, Aarhus Universitetshospital, 2. sal bygning 3, Nørrebrogade 44, 8000 Aarhus C. Titlen på projektet er "Flortaucipir PET imaging of Parkinson's disease". Yderligere oplysninger: Ph.d.-studerende Allan Hansen, e-mail: ah@clin.au.dk.

Bedømmelsesudvalg:

Professor, overlæge (neurologi) Troels Staehelin Jensen (formand og ordstyrer ved forsvaret)
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Professor, overlæge (klinisk fysiologi og nuklearmedicin) Ian Law
Klinik for Klinisk Fysiologi, Nuklearmedicin og PET, Rigshospitalet, Blegdamsvej 9, 2100, København Ø

Press release (English)

Imaging of Alzheimer-related changes in Parkinson's disease

The primary symptoms of Parkinson's disease are tremor, rigidity, and bradykinesia. In addition to these symptoms, however, patients will often experience cognitive decline. After 20 years of living with Parkinson's disease, up to 80% of patients may have become demented.

One contributor to dementia in Parkinson's disease is Alzheimer disease pathology, in shape of hyperphosphorylated tau protein, forming neurofibrillary tangles (NFTs). Among demented patients with Parkinson's disease, 40% have enough Alzheimer disease pathology for an additional diagnosis of Alzheimer disease at autopsy. Recently, it has become possible to study NFTs in the living human brain, using flortaucipir PET scans. Meanwhile, treatments are being developed to remove Alzheimer disease pathology from the brain. If one can identify the Parkinson's disease patients with Alzheimer disease pathology, they may benefit from disease modifying treatments developed for Alzheimer disease.

The present PhD-project attempted to identify Parkinson's disease patients with Alzheimer disease pathology, using flortaucipir PET scans. The project was carried out by Allan Hansen, who is defending his dissertation on October 2nd.

The defence is public and takes place on October 2nd in the M-auditorium in Aarhus University Hospital, 2nd floor building 3, Nørrebrogade 44, Aarhus. The title of the project is "Flortaucipir PET imaging of Parkinson's disease". For more information, please contact PhD student Allan Hansen, email: ah@clin.au.dk.

Assessment committee:

Professor, Consultant (Neurology) Troels Staehelin Jensen (chairman and moderator of the defence)
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