

Press release

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Basic information

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Department of: Clinical Medicine

Main supervisor: Mette Sommerlund

Title of dissertation: Allergic contact dermatitis in children

Date for defence: 05.04.2018 at (time of day): 14.15 Place: Auditorium 1, Department of Dermatology and Venerology, Aarhus University Hospital, P.P. Ørumsgade 11, 8000 Aarhus C

Press release (Danish)

"Allergisk kontakteksem hos børn"

"Allergisk kontakteksem hos børn" er et nyt ph.d.-projekt fra Aarhus Universitet, Health. Projektet er gennemført af læge Anne Birgitte Simonsen, der forsvare det d. 05/04-2018.

Kontaktallergi og allergisk kontakteksem blev tidligere betragtet som sjældent blandt børn, fordi man opfattede børns immunsystem som umodent, og fordi man mente, at børns udsættelse for potentielle allergener var begrænset. Man ved, at allergisk kontakteksem er hyppigt blandt voksne eksempatienter, hvorimod den eksisterende viden om sygdommen hos børn, indtil dette ph.d.-studie, var begrænset. I ph.d.-studiet undersøgte man desuden forekomsten af kontaktallergi hos børn med atopisk eksem. Hvorvidt skjulte kontaktallergier kan spille en rolle for hudsymptomerne hos denne patientgruppe er uafklaret.

Projektet bestod af tre studier: En epidemiologisk undersøgelse, en follow-up undersøgelse og et klinisk studie.

De overordnede mål var 1) at undersøge forekomsten af kontaktallergi hos danske børn og unge 2) at undersøge forløbet af hudsymptomerne og 3) at undersøge forekomsten af kontaktallergi og allergisk kontakteksem hos børn med atopisk dermatitis.

Baseret på resultaterne fra de tre undersøgelser fandt man, at allergisk kontakteksem er en hyppig diagnose blandt danske børn og unge med eksem. Der er en betydelig risiko for, at eksemsygdom i barndommen bliver kronisk, og vedvarende eksem er en stærk risikofaktor for nedsat livskvalitet. Endelig fandt man at børn med atopisk eksem meget vel kan have uerkendt kontaktallergi, der kan bidrage til eller forværre hudsymptomerne.

Forsvaret af ph.d.-projektet er offentligt og finder sted den 05/04-2018 kl. 14.15 i Auditorium 1, Dermato-Venerologisk Afdeling, Aarhus Universitetshospital, P.P. Ørumsgade 11, 8000 Aarhus C. Titlen på projektet er "Allergisk kontakteksem hos børn". Yderligere oplysninger: Ph.d.-studerende, læge Anne Birgitte Simonsen, e-mail: anne.birgitte.simonsen@regionh.dk, tlf. XX.

Bedømmelsesudvalg: Professor Per Brøndsted Höllsberg, Institut for Biomedicin, Aarhus Universitet, Professor Regina Fölster-Holst, Universitätsklinikum Schleswig-Holstein, Kiel, Tyskland, og Professor An Goossens, Contact Allergy Unit, University Hospital Leuven, Belgien.

Press release (English)

"Allergic contact dermatitis in children"

Contact allergy and allergic contact dermatitis were previously considered rare in children because the immune system of children was believed to be immature and because children's exposure to potential allergens was thought to be limited. It is well known that allergic contact dermatitis is common among adult dermatitis patients, whereas the existing knowledge on the disease in children, until this PhD

study, was limited. In the PhD study, the prevalence of contact allergy in children with atopic eczema was also investigated. Whether unacknowledged contact allergies play a role, either exacerbating or maintaining the skin symptoms in this patient group, is unclear.

This project consisted of three studies: An epidemiological study, a follow-up study, and a clinical study.

The overall objectives were 1) to investigate the prevalence of contact allergy in Danish children and adolescents 2) to investigate the course of skin symptoms and 3) to investigate the prevalence of contact allergy and allergic contact dermatitis in children with atopic dermatitis.

Based on the results of the three studies, it was found that allergic contact dermatitis is a frequent diagnosis among Danish children and adolescents with eczema. There is a significant risk that childhood eczema becomes chronic, and persistent eczema is a strong risk factor for impaired quality of life. Finally, it was found that children with atopic dermatitis may well have unknown contact allergies that may contribute to or aggravate skin symptoms.

The project was carried out by Anne Birgitte Simonsen, MD, who is defending her dissertation on 05/04-2018.

The defence is public and takes place on 05/04-2018 kl. 14.15 i Auditorium 1, Department of Dermatology and Venerology, Aarhus University Hospital, P.P. Ørumsgade 11, 8000 Aarhus C. The title of the project is "Allergic contact dermatitis in children". For more information, please contact PhD student Anne Birgitte Simonsen, MD, email: anne.birgitte.simonsen@regionh.dk, Phone +45 XX.

Assessment committee: Professor Per Brøndsted Höllsberg, Department of Biomedicine, Aarhus University, Professor Regina Fölster-Holst, Universitätsklinikum Schleswig-Holstein, Kiel, Germany, and Professor An Goossens, Contact Allergy Unit, University Hospital Leuven, Belgium

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