

Press release

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Basic information

Name: Johanne Liv Agger Email: johagg@rm.dk Phone: +4521833736

Department of: Clinical Medicine

Main supervisor: Professor Per Fink

Title of dissertation: The role of imipramine and other centrally acting drugs in the management of multiple functional somatic syndromes

Date for defence: January 12 2018 at (time of day): 14.00 Place: DNC auditorium, Noerrebrogade 44, building 10, 8000 Aarhus

Press release (Danish)

Svær funktionel lidelse kan behandles med medicin

Patienter med multiple funktionelle somatiske syndromer (svær funktionel lidelse) har talrige vedvarende og invaliderende symptomer fra flere organsystemer, der ikke kan tilskrives kendt og veldefineret fysisk eller psykisk sygdom. Lidelsen medfører nedsat livskvalitet og tabt arbejdsevne og har store omkostninger også for samfundet i form øgede udgifter i både social- og sundhedssektoren. Det er en lidelse, der ofte betragtes som vanskelig at behandle, men et nyt ph.d.-projekt fra Aarhus Universitet, Health, har vist at behandling med det tricykliske antidepressiva, imipramin, har en gavnlig effekt. Et dobbelt-blindet lodtrækningsforsøg med 125 patienter med svær funktionel lidelse sammenlignede imipramin i lav dosering (25-75mg) med placebo og fandt en signifikant forebring af det overordnede selvvaluerede fysiske helbred. Efter 10 ugers behandling angav 53% af de 65 patienter, som modtog aktiv medicinsk behandling, at de havde fået det 'bedre' eller 'meget bedre'. Dette var tilfældet hos 25% af de 60 patienter, som modtog placebo. Der blev derudover fundet en forbedring af det fysiske funktionsniveau samt en reduktion af symptombelastning og sygdomsbekymring efter imipraminbehandling. Der blev ikke observeret alvorlige bivirkninger, men 6% af de patienter, som fik medicin og 5% af patienterne i placebogruppen forlod forsøget på grund af mulige bivirkninger. Projektet er gennemført af Johanne Liv Agger, der forsvare det d. 12/1-2018

Forsvaret af ph.d.-projektet er offentligt og finder sted den 12/1-2018 kl. 14 i DNC auditoriet, Aarhus Universitet, Nørrebrogade 44, Aarhus. Titlen på projektet er "Imipramin og andre centraltvirkende stoffer i behandlingen af multiple funktionelle somatiske syndromer". Yderligere oplysninger: Ph.d.-studerende Johanne Liv Agger, e-mail: johagg@rm.dk, tlf. +4521833736

Bedømmelsesudvalg:

Nanna Brix Finnerup, prof., dr.med., Dansk Smerteforskningscenter, Aarhus Universitetshospital.
Kurt Kroenke, cand.med., prof., Center for Implementing Evidence-Based Practice, Regenstrief Institute, Indianapolis, USA.

Henningsen, prof., dr.med., Peter Department of Psychosomatic Medicine, University of Munich, Tyskland.

Press release (English)

Patients with multiple functional somatic syndromes benefit from pharmacological treatment

The condition characterised by multiple functional somatic syndromes includes patients with multiple, impairing and persistent bodily symptoms from several organ systems not attributable to conventionally defined diseases. The condition inflicts suffering, reduces work ability and quality of life in the affected patients and poses a burden to society in terms of costs of healthcare and social benefits.

Evidence for pharmacological treatment of multiple functional somatic syndromes has been lacking, but a recent PhD project carried out at Aarhus University, Health, has shown that the tricyclic antidepressant, imipramine, is a beneficial treatment option. In a double-blind randomised trial with 125 patients with multiple functional somatic syndromes, the effect of low-dose imipramine (25-75 mg) was compared with placebo, showing a significant improvement of patient-rated overall health status. After 10 weeks of treatment, the overall health status was reported as “better” or “much better” by 52% of the 65 patients receiving imipramine compared with 25% of the 60 patients receiving placebo. Improvement after imipramine was also noted in level of physical functioning, somatic symptom burden and illness worry. There were no reports of serious adverse event, but 6% of the patients receiving imipramine and 5% of the patients receiving placebo dropped out of the trial due to possible adverse events. The project was carried out by Johanne Liv Agger, who is defending her dissertation on January 12 2018.

The defence is public and takes place on January 12 2018 at 2.00 pm in the DNC auditorium, Aarhus University, Noerrebrogade 44, Aarhus. The title of the project is The role of imipramine and other centrally acting drugs in the management of multiple functional somatic syndromes. For more information, please contact PhD student Johanne Liv Agger, email: johagg@rm.dk, Phone +45 2183 3736.

Assessment committee:

Nanna Brix Finnerup, prof., DMSc., Danish Pain Research Center, Aarhus University Hospital.
Kurt Kroenke, prof., MD, Center for Implementing Evidence-Based Practice, Regenstrief Institute, Indianapolis, USA.

Peter Henningsen, prof., DMSc., Department of Psychosomatic Medicine, University of Munich, Germany.

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