

Press release

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Basic information

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Department of: Clinical Medicine

Main supervisor: Professor Grethe Andersen, MDSc

Title of dissertation: Citalopram in patients with acute ischaemic stroke (TALOS): Citalopram in patients with acute ischaemic stroke (TALOS): A randomised, placebo-controlled, double-blind study.

Date for defence: May 11, 2018 at (time of day): 14.00 Place: Palle Juul Jensen Auditoriet, Bygning 10, AUH, Nørrebrogade 44, 8000 Aarhus.

Press release (Danish)

Effekten af citalopram-behandling ved akut stroke (TALOS).

I et nyt ph.d.-projekt fra Aarhus Universitet, Health har forskere undersøgt, om citalopram (et præparat af typen SSRI) kan bruges til at bedre rehabiliteringen af funktionsniveauet for akutte stroke patienter og samtidig forebygge nye vaskulære hændelser og død. Projektet er gennemført af cand.med. Kristian Lundsgaard Kraglund, der forsvare sin afhandling d. 11/5-2018.

Blodprop i hjernen (stroke) er en katastrofal sygdom med vidtrækkende konsekvenser for patienter og pårørende, i tillæg til betydelige økonomiske omkostninger for pårørende og samfund i øvrigt. Stroke udgør således den hyppigste årsag til erhvervet funktionstab.

Medicinsk behandling samt kateterbaseret fjernelse af blodprop (trombektomi) kan imidlertid kun tilbydes et fåtal, primært da begge behandlinger må opstartes i den akutte fase (timer) efter symptomdebut. Dette efterlader således fortsat et betydelig behov for flere behandlingsmuligheder - særligt efter den akutte fase.

Præparater af typen serotonin-genoptagelseshæmmer (SSRI), der tilhører gruppen af anti-depressiv medicin, synes imidlertid i at påvirke funktionsniveauet positivt. I tillæg indikerer flere studier, at dette præparat kan have en beskyttende effekt overfor nye vaskulære events, muligvis pga. en blodfortyndende effekt.

Tidlig opstart med citalopram behandling bedrede ikke signifikant genvinding af funktionsevne på en uselekteret population af ikke-deprimerede iskæmiske stroke patienter. Der var dog en trend imod dette ved en sensitivitetsanalyse samt ved analyse på patienterne, der modtog behandlingen i mindst 31 dage. Risikoen for kardiovaskulære hændelser var ens mellem de to grupper. Vi registrerede ingen skadelig effekt af behandlingen med citalopram.

Forsvaret af ph.d.-projektet er offentligt og finder sted den 11/5-2018 kl. 14 i Palle Juul Jensen Auditoriet, Bygning 10, AUH, Nørrebrogade 44, 8000 Aarhus. Titlen på projektet er "Citalopram in patients with acute ischaemic stroke (TALOS): A randomised, placebo-controlled, double-blind study.". Yderligere oplysninger: Ph.d.-studerende Kristian Lundsgaard Kraglund, e-mail: kraglund@clin.au.dk, tlf. +45 20739438.

Bedømmelsesudvalg:

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Press release (English)
Citalopram in patients with acute ischaemic stroke (TALOS): A randomised, placebo-controlled, double-blind study.

In a new PhD project from Aarhus University, Health, researchers have investigated the effects on functional recovery and vascular protection of a serotonin reuptake inhibitor - citalopram - in stroke patients. The project was carried out by Kristian Lundsgaard Kraglund, MD, who is defending her dissertation on May 11, 2018.

Stroke is a devastating disease, with a wide range of physical and mental disabilities and change in roles for the patient and families as well as one of the costliest diseases to society. Acute revascularization treatments is only eligible to a minority of ischemic stroke patients. In addition, most patients receiving treatment will still have residual symptoms.

There is therefore a need for additional treatment options - in particular, after the acute phase. Observational and clinical data suggest that improved functional outcomes and a lower long-term risk of recurrent cardiovascular events are associated with SSRI treatment. This indicates potential neuroprotective and antithrombotic effects of SSRI.

The TALOS study is a Danish multicenter, placebo-controlled, randomised double-blind study of citalopram designed to investigate improvement in functional outcomes and cardiovascular protection during 6 months of treatment and follow-up. Eligible patients were non-selected, non-depressed adults with their first-ever ischaemic stroke.

Early citalopram treatment did not statistically significantly improve functional recovery in non-selected, non-depressed ischaemic stroke patients within the first 6 months, although there was a trend confirmed by a sensitivity analysis as well as among the predefined per-protocol patients. The risk of cardiovascular events was similar between the treatment groups. We detected no harm from citalopram treatment and adverse events were similar between groups and this led us to conclude, that it is safe to use citalopram post stroke.

The defence is public and takes place on May 11, 2018 at 14:00 in Palle Juul Jensen Auditorium, Bld. 10, Aarhus University Hospital, Noerrebrogade 44, 8000 Aarhus (Denmark). The title of the project is "Citalopram in patients with acute ischaemic stroke (TALOS): A randomised, placebo-controlled, double-blind study". For more information, please contact PhD student Kristian Lundsgaard Kraglund, email: kraglund@clin.au.dk, Phone +45 20739438.

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