

Press release

Please fill in this form and return it to graduateschoolhealth@au.dk in Word format along with a portrait photo in JPEG format, if you would like it to accompany your press release, no later than three weeks prior to your defence.

Basic information

Name: Marianne Hjorth Skorstengaard Email: mhsk@oncology.au.dk Phone: 28456763

Department of: Clinical Medicine

Main supervisor: Professor Anders Bonde Jensen

Title of dissertation: Advance care planning - A way to improve end-of-life care?

Date for defence: 13/10-2017 at (time of day): 14.00 Place: K-Auditorium, bygning 7 kælderen, nørrebrogade 44, 8000 Aarhus C

Press release (Danish)

Planlægning af fremtidig pleje

En ny ph.d.-afhandling ved Aarhus Universitet, Health, undersøger om en systematisk samtale (advance care planning) med svært syge patienter, om deres ønsker og forventninger til pleje og behandling i den sidste tid er mulig. Samtidig undersøges, om der er forskel blandt patienter med forskellige sygdomme mht. graden af angst, og patienternes ønsker for, hvor den sidste tid skal tilbringes. Projektet er gennemført af læge Marianne Hjorth Skorstengaard, der forsvare sin ph.d. afhandling d. 13. oktober 2017.

Den systematiske samtale forbedrede ikke patienternes mulighed for at dø det ønskede sted, men den gruppe patienter, som deltog i en sådan samtale, havde en signifikant forbedret etårs overlevelse, det gjaldt især blandt patienter med andre alvorlige sygdomme end kræft. Undersøgelsen demonstrerede, at tidlig opmærksomhed fra sundhedspersonalet på patientens ønsker for den sidste tid er mulig for patienterne. Resultaterne viser desuden, at patienter med andre alvorlige sygdomme end kræft hyppigere pegede på plejehjem som det sted, de ønskede at være i den sidste tid sammenlignet med patienter med kræft. Patienter med kræft pegede derimod hyppigere på hospice end patienter, som ikke havde en kræftsygdom. Endvidere viser afhandlingen, at patienter med andre alvorlige sygdomme end kræft oplevede mere angst i relation til deres situation end patienter med kræft.

Forsvaret af ph.d.-afhandlingen er offentligt og finder sted den 13. oktober 2017 kl. 14 i på Aarhus Universitetshospital, K-Auditorium, bygning 7, kælderen, Nørrebrogade 44, 8000 Aarhus C. Projektets titel er: "Advance care planning - A way to improve end-of-life care?" Yderligere oplysninger kan fås ved henvendelse til ph.d.-studerende Marianne Hjorth Skorstengaard, e-mail: mhsk@oncology.au.dk, tlf. +45 28 45 67 63.

Press release (English)

Advance care planning - A way to improve end-of-life care?

A new PhD project from Aarhus University, faculty of Health, investigates whether a systematic discussion about preferences for end-of-life care with terminally ill patients in consultation with a doctor and relatives is feasible in a Danish context. Furthermore, potential differences in level of anxiety and preferences for place of death are investigated among various diagnoses.

The project was carried out by MD and PhD student Marianne Hjorth Skorstengaard, who is defending her dissertation on October 13th 2017.

The systematic discussion did not improve fulfilment of patients' preferred place of death, but significantly improved the 1-year survival, especially among patients with non-malignant diseases and demonstrates that early attention to preferences for end-of-life care is feasible. Furthermore, the project reveals that cancer patients chose hospice as their preferred place of death more frequently than patients with non-malignant disease, whereas patients with non-malignant disease chose nursing home more frequently than cancer patients. Patients with non-malignant diseases had a higher level of anxiety than patients with cancer.

The defence is public and takes place on October 13th 2017 at 14.00 in the University of Aarhus Hospital, K-Auditorium, building 7, the basement, Nørrebrogade 44, 8000 Aarhus C. The title of the project is: "Advance care planning - A way to improve end-of-life care?" For more information, please contact PhD student Marianne Hjorth Skorstengaard, email: mhs@oncology.au.dk, Phone +45 28 45 67 63.

Assessment committee:

Morten Høyer, Professor, PhD, Medical director
Danish Centre for Particle Therapy
Aarhus University Hospital, Denmark

Yvonne Engels, Associate Professor, PhD
Department of Anaesthesiology, Pain and Palliative Medicine
Radboud University Medical Centre, Netherlands

Carl-Johan Fürst, Professor, PhD
Department of Oncology and Pathology
Lund University, Sweden

Permission

By sending in this form:

- I hereby grant permission to publish the above Danish and English press releases as well as any submitted photo.
- I confirm that I have been informed that any applicable inventions shall be treated confidentially and shall under no circumstances whatsoever be published, presented or mentioned prior to submission of a patent application, and that I have an obligation to inform my head of department and the university's Patents Committee if I believe I have made an invention in connection with my work. I also confirm that I am not aware that publication violates any other possible holders of a copyright.