

Press release

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Basic information

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Department of: Clinical Medicine

Main supervisor: Peter Jepsen

Title of dissertation: "Autoimmune hepatitis in Denmark: heredity, family accumulation of autoimmune diseases, and pregnancy outcomes"

Date for defence: 3 Maj at (time of day): 15.00 Place: Universitetstorvet i Syd, auditorium C114-101, indgang C, plan 1. Aarhus Universitetshospital, Palle Juul-Jensens Boulevard 99, 8200 Aarhus N

Press release (Danish)

Beroligende ny viden angående patienter med autoimmun hepatitis og deres familiemedlemmer.

Et nyt ph.d.-projekt fra Aarhus Universitet, Health. bidrager med ny beroligende viden angående patienter med autoimmun hepatitis og deres familiemedlemmer. Projektet er gennemført af Lisbet Grønbæk, der forsvare det d. 3. Maj 2019.

Autoimmun hepatitis (AIH) er en kronisk leversygdom forårsaget af et dysreguleret immunsystem. Nydiagnosticerede patienter med AIH er ofte bekymrede over konsekvenserne af deres kroniske leversygdom ikke blot for dem selv men også for deres slægtninge og afkom. "Vores viden om familiær ophobning af AIH og andre autoimmune sygdomme og om indvirkningen af AIH på graviditetsudfald er utilstrækkelig. Således er vi begrænsede i den kliniske rådgivning af disse patienter", siger læge Lisbet Grønbæk.

De nationale sundhedsregistre i Danmark giver en unik mulighed for at undersøge disse forhold. Forskere fra Lever-, Mave- og Tarmsygdomme på Aarhus Universitetshospital fandt, at familiær ophobning af AIH forekommer meget sjældent. "We bekræftede tidligere studiers fund af, at patienter med AIH har en øget forekomst af andre autoimmune sygdomme, men vi afviste den ellers udbredte opfattelse af, at deres familiemedlemmer også har det", forklarer Lisbet Grønbæk. "Vi kan berolige kvinder med AIH med, at deres fertilitet synes at være upåvirket. Vi fandt en højere risiko for 'for tidlig fødsel' og 'lav fødselsvægt' blandt kvinderne, med komplikationer for disse børn på kort sigt var sjældne".

"Vores resultater bedrer muligheden for at give evidensbaseret klinisk rådgivning til patienter med AIH, og vores resultater er overordnet set meget beroligende", afslutter Lisbet Grønbæk.

Forsvaret af ph.d.-projektet er offentligt og finder sted den 3/5-2019 kl. 15 på Universitetstorvet i syd, auditorium C114-101, indgang C, plan 1, Aarhus Universitetshospital, Palle Juul-Jensens Boulevard 99, 8200 Aarhus N. Titlen på projektet er "Autoimmun hepatitis i Danmark: arvelighed, familie ophobning af autoimmune sygdomme og graviditetsudfald". Yderligere oplysninger: Ph.d.-studerende Lisbet Grønbæk, e-mail: Lisbet.Groenbaek@clin.au.dk, tlf. +45 22734946.

Bedømmelsesudvalg:

Bent Winding Deleuran, overlæge, Professor, Institut for Biomedicin, Faculty of Health, Aarhus Universitet, Danmark

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Press release (English)

Reassuring novel insight on patients with autoimmune hepatitis and their family members.

A new PhD project from Aarhus University, Faculty of Health, provides reassuring novel insight on patients with autoimmune hepatitis and their family members. The project was carried out by Lisbet Grønbæk, who is defending her dissertation on 3 May 2019.

Autoimmune hepatitis (AIH) is a chronic liver disease caused by a dysfunctional immune system. Many newly diagnosed patients have concerns about the consequences of their chronic liver disease for themselves as well as for their relatives and their offspring." Our knowledge on the accumulation of AIH and other autoimmune diseases in families with AIH and the possible impact of AIH on pregnancy outcomes is inadequate. Therefore, the clinical counseling of these patients remains challenging", says medical doctor Lisbet Grønbæk.

The national healthcare registries in Denmark provide a unique opportunity to evaluate these issues. Researchers from the Department of Hepatology and Gastroenterology, Aarhus University Hospital, found that family accumulation of AIH is very uncommon. "We confirmed earlier findings, that the patients with AIH have an increased prevalence of other autoimmune diseases, but we refuted the widespread belief that their relatives do too", explains Lisbet Grønbæk. "We can reassure women with AIH that their fertility seems unimpaired. We, found that the women had an increased risk of preterm birth and low birth weight, but short-term complications for these children were rare".

"Our results extend the evidence base for the clinical counseling of patients with AIH, and overall our results are reassuring in the concerns of family impact of AIH", deduces Lisbet Grønbæk.

The defence is public and takes place on 3 May 2019 at 3 pm in Auditorium C114-101, Entrance C, First floor, Aarhus University Hospital, Palle Juul-Jensens Boulevard 99, 8200 Aarhus N. The title of the project is "Autoimmune hepatitis in Denmark: heredity, family accumulation of autoimmune diseases, and pregnancy outcomes". For more information, please contact PhD student Lisbet Grønbæk, email: Lisbet.Groenbaek@clin.au.dk, Phone +45 22734946.

Assessment committee:

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