

## Press release

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### Basic information

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Department of: Clinical Medicine

Main supervisor: Peter Christensen

Title of dissertation: Obstetric Anal Sphincter Injuries -  
Morbidity and long-term functional outcomes

Date for defence: 26/11 at (time of day): 15.15 Place: Auditorium G206-142, Aarhus  
Universitetshospital, Palle Juul-Jensens Blvd. 99, 8200 Aarhus N

Press release (Danish)

Obstetrisk sphincter ruptur (OASIS) er en frygtet fødselskomplikation, associeret med betydelig morbiditet. Efter primær suturering får en betydelig andel af kvinder sårkomplikationer, såsom infektioner og ruptur af sphinctersyningen. Hvis ikke komplikationerne håndteres adækvat, er kvinden i betydelig risiko for at udvikle afføringsinkontinens (AI), urininkontinens og dysparueni på sigt.

Langtidsfølgerne efter OASIS kan medføre psykosociale belastninger og forringet livskvalitet. Det overordnede formål med denne ph.d.-afhandling var at undersøge forekomsten af sårkomplikationer, herunder risikoen for sårruptur samt sårinfektion, relateret til den primære suturering af OASIS. Endvidere ville vi undersøge langtids-forekomsten af AI hos kvinder, som har fået foretaget en sekundær rekonstruktion af den anale sphincter, enten tidligt (indenfor 21 dage efter fødslen) eller sent (>3 måneder efter fødslen). Formålet med dette var at fastlægge det optimale tidspunkt for en rekonstruktion, med færrest komplikationer og bedst mulige langtidsresultater. Samtidigt ønskede vi at undersøge, om 3D anal ultralydsscanning, udført 10 dage efter fødslen, kan anvendes til at forudse, hvilke kvinder som er i højest risiko for at udvikle AI.

Studierne bidrager med ny viden omkring både korttids følgerne samt senfølgerne efter obstetrisk sphincterruptur. Samlet set har vores studier vist, at uanset timing af sphincter rekonstruktion, så har en stor andel kvinder udtalte inkontinens gener på lang sigt efter OASIS.

Forsvar af ph.d.-projektet er offentligt og vil pga COVID-19 restriktioner, foregå delvist fysisk (max. 30 personer) og delvist virtuelt via Zoom. Forsvaret finder sted den 26/11 kl. 15.15 i auditorium G206-142, Aarhus Universitetshospital, Palle Juul-Jensens Blvd 99, Aarhus N. Titlen på projektet er "Obstetrisk sphincter ruptur - Korttids morbiditet og senfølger".

Yderligere oplysninger samt link til virtuelt forsvar fås ved at kontakte Ph.d.-studerende Malou Eva Maria Barbosa på e-mail: [malou.barbosa@clin.au.dk](mailto:malou.barbosa@clin.au.dk)

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Press release (English)

Obstetric anal sphincter injuries (OASIS) are a feared complication to vaginal delivery and are associated with significant morbidity. A substantial number of women with OASIS will experience considerable short-term complications, such as infection and breakdown of the primary repair. If not adequately managed, problems such as anal incontinence (AI), urinary incontinence and dyspareunia, can develop in the long term, causing psychosocial problems and impaired quality of life (QoL).

The aim of the dissertation was to assess short-term complications following a primary repair and the long-term functional outcomes following a secondary repair, performed early (within 21 days of delivery) and late (> 3 months after delivery), in the search for the optimal timing of a secondary repair with the fewest complications and the best long-term functional outcome. Furthermore, we investigated whether endoanal ultrasound (EAUS) 10 days after primary repair of OASIS could predict the severity of AI in the long term. We concluded that, regardless of the timing of the sphincter repair, AI is common after OASIS and associated with considerable morbidity. Furthermore, we were not able to demonstrate a correlation between sonographic sphincter defects and AI.

The defence is public and will due to COVID-19 restrictions be conducted partly physically (maximum 30 persons) and partly virtually. The physical defence will take place on November 26th 2020 at 3.15 p.m. in Auditorium G206-142, Aarhus University Hospital, Palle Juul-jensens Blvd. 99. The title of the project is "Obstetric Anal Sphincter Injuries - Morbidity and long-term functional outcomes". More information and link to the virtual defence can be assessed by contacting PhD student Malou Eva Maria Barbosa, email: [malou.barbosa@clin.au.dk](mailto:malou.barbosa@clin.au.dk)

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