

## Press release

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### Basic information

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Department of: Clinical Medicine

Main supervisor: Per Hove Thomsen

Title of dissertation: Executive Function in Childhood Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder

Date for defence: Thursday 1 June 2017 at (time of day): 14:00 Place: The Auditorium, Aarhus University Hospital Risskov, Skovagervej 2, entrance 30, DK-8240 Risskov

Press release (Danish)

### Ny viden om neuropsykologisk funktion hos børn og unge med OCD

Ny forskning viser at børn og unge med OCD klarer sig lige så godt som andre børn når det gælder den grundlæggende evne til at regulere egen adfærd.

Et nyt dansk studie har undersøgt, om der er forskel på børn og unge med OCD og andre børn når det gælder såkaldte eksekutive funktioner, dvs. evnen til at regulere egen adfærd. Studiet er en del af et stort fællesnordisk behandlingsstudie vedrørende OCD hos børn og unge. 138 børn og unge med OCD, angst eller uden psykiatriske lidelser blev undersøgt med neuropsykologiske tests af arbejdshukommelse, responshæmning og fleksibilitet. I modsætning til, hvad man hidtil har troet, viste studiet at børnene med OCD klarede sig lige så godt som de andre børn og unge. Resultatet tyder på at børns grundlæggende evne til kognitiv selvregulering ikke er en af hovedkomponenterne i udviklingen af OCD. Der imod er det muligt at denne evne har betydning for effekten af behandlingen. Studiet indgår i et PhD-projekt, hvor dette også er blevet undersøgt. På længere sigt kan de neuropsykologiske tests måske være med til at afgøre, hvilken behandling det enkelte barn har brug for. Studiet er en del af et nyt ph.d.-projekt fra Børne- og ungdomspsykiatrisk center og Klinisk institut, Aarhus Universitet, Health. Projektet er gennemført af psykolog Katja Anna Hybel, der forsvarede det d. 1. juni 2017..

Forsvaret af ph.d.-projektet er offentligt og finder sted den 1. juni 2017 kl. 14.00 i auditoriet, Aarhus Universitetshospital Risskov, Skovagervej 2, 8240 Risskov. Titlen på projektet er "Executive Function in Childhood Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder". Yderligere oplysninger: psykolog, ph.d.-studerende Katja Anna Hybel, e-mail: [katja.hybel@ps.rm.dk](mailto:katja.hybel@ps.rm.dk), tlf. 78473352.

Press release (English)

### New knowledge about neuropsychological function in children and adolescents with OCD

New research suggests that children and adolescents with OCD perform just as well as other children in terms of basic self-regulation ability.

A new Danish study has investigated whether there is a difference between children and adolescents with OCD and other children when it comes to the so-called executive functions, that is, the ability to regulate own behavior. The study is part of a Nordic long-term treatment study of OCD in children and adolescents. 138 children and adolescents with OCD, anxiety or with no psychiatric disorders were investigated using neuropsychological tests of working memory, response inhibition and set shifting. Contrary to previous beliefs, the study demonstrated that children with OCD performed just as well as the other children and adolescents. The result indicates that children's basic ability of cognitive self-regulation does not constitute a principal factor in the development of OCD. However, it

is possible that this ability may impact the effect of treatment. The study is part of a PhD project which also investigates this aspect. In the long term, the neuropsychological tests may contribute towards deciding the treatment needs of the individual child. The study forms part of a new PhD project from the Centre for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and the Department of Clinical Medicine at the Faculty of Health, Aarhus University. The project was carried out by psychologist Katja Anna Hybel who is defending her dissertation on 1 June 2017.

The defence is public and takes place on 1 Jun 2017 at 14:00 in the Auditorium at Aarhus University Hospital Risskov, Skovagervej 2, 8240 Risskov. The title of the project is "Executive Function in Childhood Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder". For further information, please contact Psychologist, PhD-student Katja Anna Hybel, e-mail: [katja.hybel@ps.rm.dk](mailto:katja.hybel@ps.rm.dk), tel. +45 78473352

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