

Press release

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Basic information

Name: Sigrún Alba Jóhannesdóttir Schmidt Email: saj@clin.au.dk Phone: +45 23695947

Department of: Clinical Medicine

Main supervisor: Professor Henrik Toft Sørensen

Title of dissertation: Herpes zoster: Occurrence and risk factors

Date for defence: Thursday 28 September 2017 at (time of day): 13:00-15:00 Place: The auditorium at Department of Clinical Epidemiology

Press release (Danish)

Helvedesild: forekomst og risikofaktorer

Helvedesild er en smertefuld sygdom, som skyldes infektion med skoldkoppevirus, som har ligget latent i nervebanerne og bryder ud når det cellulære immunforsvar svækkes af den ene eller anden grund. Siden 2014 har det være muligt at blive vaccineret mod helvedesild i Danmark, men vaccinen er dyr og tilbydes ikke gratis. Selv om det er blevet anslået, at op til 50% af personer, som opnår en alder på 85 år, vil udvikle helvedesild, er vores viden om den samlede byrde af helvedesild i befolkningen og hvilke faktorer som øger risikoen for sygdommen begrænset.

Verdenssundhedsorganisationen og Det Europæiske Center for Sygdomsforebyggelse og -kontrol har således understreget behovet for en bedre forståelse af forekomsten og fordelingen (=epidemiologien) af helvedesild i den almene befolkning. Desværre er sådanne data ikke tilgængelige i de fleste lande, herunder Danmark, fordi diagnoser af helvedesild ikke bliver registreret i almen praksis. Denne afhandling havde derfor til formål at (i) udvikle en metode til at identificere helvedesild baseret på data fra apoteker og hospitaler som indsamles rutinemæssigt og (ii) udføre en række epidemiologiske undersøgelser om forekomsten af helvedesild og mulige risikofaktorer, inklusiv diverse kroniske sygdomme, psykisk stressfulde begivenheder, og underliggende cancer.

Resultaterne er sammenfattet i et nyt ph.d.-projekt fra Aarhus Universitet, Health. Projektet er gennemført af Sigrún Alba Jóhannesdóttir Schmidt, der forsvare det d. 28/9.

Forsvaret af ph.d.-projektet er offentligt og finder sted den 28/9 kl. 13 i Klinisk Epidemiologisk Afdelings auditorium, Aarhus Universitetshospital, Olof Palmes Allé 43-45, 8200 Aarhus N. Titlen på projektet er "Herpes zoster: Occurrence and risk factors". Yderligere oplysninger: Ph.d.-studerende Sigrún Schmidt, e-mail: saj@clin.au.dk, tlf. 23695947.

Bedømmelsesudvalg:

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Kristian Kofoed, MD, PhD, clinical associate professor, Department of Dermato-Allergology, Herlev and Gentofte Hospital, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark

Press release (English)

Herpes zoster: Occurrence and risk factors

Herpes zoster is a vaccine-preventable disease caused by reactivation of the varicella zoster virus from sensory ganglia. Although it has been estimated that up to 50% of persons who survive until age 85 years will develop zoster, little is known about the burden of zoster and its risk factors. The World Health Organization and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control have thus stressed a need for better understanding of the epidemiology of zoster. Unfortunately, data on zoster in the general population are not available in most countries, including Denmark. In this thesis, we aimed to develop an algorithm for identifying zoster based on routinely collected prescription and hospital data and to perform epidemiological studies on the occurrence of zoster and its risk factors, including various chronic diseases, psychologically stressful events, and underlying cancer.

The results are summarized in a PhD dissertation from Aarhus University. The project was carried out by Sigrún Alba Jóhannesdóttir Schmidt, who is defending her dissertation on 28/9.

The defence is public and takes place on 28/9 at 1:00 PM in the auditorium at the Department of Clinical Epidemiology, Aarhus University Hospital, Olof Palmes Allé 43-45, 8200 Aarhus N. The title of the project is Herpes zoster: Occurrence and risk factors. For more information, please contact PhD student Sigrún Schmidt, email: saj@clin.au.dk, Phone +45 23695947.

Assessment committee:

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