

The defence is public and takes place on 25/11 at 14:00 in M-auditorium, Aarhus University Hospital, Nørrebrogade 44, 8000 Aarhus C. The title of the project is Oral Health in Patients with Cirrhosis. Predictors of Poor Oral Health and Associations with Disease Course. For more information, please contact PhD student Lea Ladegaard Grønkjær, email: lealad@rm.dk, Phone +45 26668184

Oral health is generally poor in patients with cirrhosis and may lead to increased prevalence of oral infections. In recent years, there has been an interest in investigating the potential associations between oral infections and various systemic diseases, and studies have suggested that oral infections may worsen the disease course of several systemic diseases. However, the effect of oral health and infections on cirrhosis is sparsely investigated and needs further clarification.

The PhD project indicated that patients with cirrhosis had poor oral health and poor oral hygiene habits. In addition, patients with cirrhosis had a high prevalence of oral infections such as periodontitis and apical lesions. Predictors of oral infections were age, lifestyle factors such as smoking and poor oral hygiene habits. The PhD project suggested that patients with severe periodontitis had a higher nutritional risk score than patients with moderate or no periodontitis. Furthermore, severe periodontitis was associated with cirrhosis-related mortality. Patients with apical lesions had higher concentrations of c-reactive protein and lower concentration of albumin. In addition, patients with apical lesions had a higher prevalence of cirrhosis-related complications than patients without apical lesions.

In conclusion, the findings of this project indicate that patients with cirrhosis have poor oral health. Oral infections such as periodontitis and periapical lesions are often present as an element of the poor oral health and likely have clinical significance which should motivate diagnostic and clinical attention to the findings.

The project was carried out by Lea Ladegaard Grønkjær, who is defending her dissertation on November 25, 2016.

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