

## Press release

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### Basic information

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Department of: Public Health

Main supervisor: Professor Peter Vedsted

Title of dissertation: The impact of a continuing medical education meeting in earlier cancer diagnosis on knowledge, attitude and cancer referral pattern among general practitioners

Date for defence: 29/8 2017 at (time of day): 14.00 Place: Samfundsmedicinsk Auditorium (lokale 101), bygning 1262, Bartholins Allé 4, Aarhus Universitet.

Press release (Danish)

Kan et efteruddannelsesmøde optimere udvælgelsen af patienter til kræftpakke?

Alment praktiserende lægers tolkning af symptomer og udvælgelse af patienter til kræftpakke spiller en central rolle i kræftdiagnostik. Det skyldes, at 85 % af alle kræftpatienter indleder deres udredningsforløb i almen praksis. I Danmark har kræftpatienter generelt en dårligere overlevelse end kræftpatienter fra de lande, som vi normalt sammenligner os med. En forklaring er, at danske kræftpatienters sygdomsstadie er mere fremskredent på det tidspunkt, hvor behandlingen begynder. Derfor er det vigtigt, at den alment praktiserende læge agerer optimalt, når patienten præsenterer symptomer på kræft.

Vi ved, at kræftpatienter ses hyppigere i almen praksis de sidste seks måneder før en kræftdiagnose sammenlignet med baggrundsbefolkningen. Derfor er det vigtigt at undersøge, om et efteruddannelsesmøde i tidlig diagnostik af kræft kan optimere alment praktiserende lægers henvisning af patienter til kræftpakke.

Resultaterne fra afhandlingen tyder på, at efteruddannelse med god sandsynlighed kan bidrage til at optimere lægers viden om kræftsymptomer, deres holdning til egen rolle i kræftdiagnostik og deres henvisning af patienter til kræftpakke. Sådan lyder konklusionen i et nyt ph.d.-projekt fra Aarhus Universitet, Health. Projektet er gennemført af Berit Skjødeberg Toftegaard, der forsvare det d. 29/08 2017.

Forsvaret af ph.d.-projektet er offentligt og finder sted den 29/08 kl. 14.00 i Samfundsmedicinsk auditorium, lokale (101), bygning 1262, Aarhus Universitet, Bartholins Allé 4, 8000 Aarhus C. Titlen på projektet er "The impact of a continuing medical education meeting in earlier cancer diagnosis on knowledge, attitude and cancer referral pattern among general practitioners". Yderligere oplysninger: Ph.d.-studerende Berit Skjødeberg Toftegaard, e-mail: [berit.toftegaard@feap.dk](mailto:berit.toftegaard@feap.dk), tlf. +45 8716 8376.

Bedømmelsesudvalg:

Professor Jette Kolding Kristensen, praktiserende læge (formand), Center for Forskning og Uddannelse i Almen Medicin, Klinisk Institut, Aalborg Universitet.

Professor Frans Boch Waldorff, praktiserende læge, Forskningsenheden for Almen Praksis, Syddansk Universitet.

Professor Anders Bærheim, praktiserende læge, Institutt for Global Helse og Samfunnsmedis, Universitet i Bergen.

Professor Torsten Lauritzen, praktiserende læge (formand under forsvaret), Sektion for Almen Medicin, Institut for Folkesundhed, Aarhus Universitet.

Press release (English)

## Can an educational meeting in cancer diagnostic optimize the selection of patients for cancer investigation?

The knowledge and skills of general practitioners (GPs) to interpret symptoms and select patients for further investigation play a key role in cancer diagnostics. In particular, when 85% of all cancer patients start their diagnostic process in general practice. In Denmark, cancer patients generally have a poorer survival than cancer patients in comparable countries. One of the reasons seems to be a more advanced disease stage in Danish cancer patients when treatment is initiated. Therefore it becomes important that the GPs act appropriately when the patients attend with symptoms of a possible cancer. Cancer patients are more frequently seen in general practice for up to six months before their diagnosis compared to a matched population. Therefore, it is important to investigate whether the GPs' referral strategies for early diagnosis of cancer could be optimized.

The results from this PhD dissertation indicate that an educational meeting in cancer diagnostic is likely to optimise the GPs' knowledge of cancer symptoms, their attitude towards their own role in cancer diagnosis and their selection of patients for cancer investigation. This is the main conclusion from a new PhD project from Aarhus University, Health. The project was carried out by Berit Skjødeberg Toftegaard, who will be defending her dissertation on 29/08 2017.

The defence is public and takes place on 29/08 2017 at 02.00 PM in Samfundsmedicinsk Auditorium, room, (101), building 1262, Aarhus University, Bartholins Allé 4, 8000 Aarhus C. The title of the project is "The impact of a continuing medical education meeting in earlier cancer diagnosis on knowledge, attitude and cancer referral pattern among general practitioners". For more information, please contact PhD student Berit Skjødeberg Toftegaard, email: berit.toftegaard@feap.dk, Phone +45 8716 8376.

### Assessment committee:

Professor Jette Kolding Kristensen, GP (Chairman), Centre for Research and Education in General Medicine, and Clinical Institute, Aalborg University, Denmark.

Professor Frans Boch Waldorff, GP, Research Unit of General Practice, Department of Public Health, University of Southern Denmark, Denmark.

Professor Anders Bærheim, Department of Global Public Health and Primary Care, University of Bergen, Norway.

Professor Torsten Lauritzen, GP (Chairman of the defence), Section for General Medical Practice, Department of Public Health, Aarhus University, Denmark

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