

## Press release

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### Basic information

Name: Anne Vestbjerg Thyø, MD

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Department of: Clinical Medicine

Main supervisor: Søren Laurberg, Professor, Dr. med.

Title of dissertation: Aspects of female sexual dysfunction in colorectal cancer patients

Date for defence: 29/1-2020 at (time of day): 15:00 Place: Aarhus Universitetshospital

Press release (Danish)

Et nyt Ph.d. projekt fra Aarhus Universitet, Health, tilfører ny viden om seksualfunktion efter behandling for tyk- og endetarmskræft. Projektet er gennemført af Læge Anne Vestbjerg Thyø, Mave- og Tarmkirurgisk Afdeling, der forsvarer det d. 29/1 2020.

Man vil forvente at behandling af tarmkræft ofte vil medføre forringet seksualliv hos kvinder, men der er meget lidt viden om emnet, formentlig fordi det har været tabu belagt.

Resultaterne i afhandlingen er baseret på en spørgeskemaundersøgelse af mere end 25000 kvinder med kolorektal cancer, diagnosticeret mellem 2001-2014. Der er udviklet et simpelt score system til at vurdere seksuel dysfunktion hos kvinder med endetarmskræft. Studierne har vist at over 50% har seksuel dysfunktion og ophører med samleje. De vigtigste risikofaktorer for påvirkning af seksuallivet er behandling med stråler og en blivende stomi. Dårlig tarm- eller stomifunktion har også en betydelig negativ indvirkning på seksuallivet.

Visionen er, at alle patienter der behandles for tarmkræft skal være bekendt med den høje risiko for at udvikle seksuelle problemer og de patienter der ønsker det, skal tilbydes professionel hjælp og behandling.

Forsvaret af Ph.d.-projektet er offentligt og finder sted den 29/1 2020 kl. 15 i auditorium C114-101, Indgang C, Aarhus Universitetshospital, Palle Juul-Jensens Blvd 99, 8200 Aarhus.

Titlen på projektet er "Aspects of female sexual dysfunction in colorectal cancer patients".

Yderligere oplysninger ved Anne Vestbjerg Thyø, e-mail: [anthyo@rm.dk](mailto:anthyo@rm.dk), tlf. 26581247.

Bedømmelses udvalg:

Cai Grau, MD, DMSc - Chairman of the committee and moderator of the defence  
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Annika Sjövall, MD, Ph.D.  
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Stephanie Breukink, MD, Ph.D.  
Maastricht University Medical Centre  
Maastricht, The Netherlands

Press release (English)

A new ph.d.-project from Aarhus Universitet, Health, provides new knowledge on female sexual dysfunction after treatment for colorectal cancer.

The project was carried out by Anne Vestbjerg Thyø, MD, Department of Surgery, Aarhus University Hospital, who is defending her dissertation on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Sexual dysfunction in females is an expected adverse side-effect to treatment of colorectal cancer.

However, there is limited knowledge on the subject, probably because it is considered taboo.

The results in the dissertation are based on a questionnaire survey including more than 25000 female patients with colorectal cancer diagnosed between 2001-2014. A simple scoring tool for evaluation of sexual dysfunction in female rectal cancer patients was developed. The studies found, that more than 50% have sexual dysfunction and resign from sexual life. The most important factors for negative impact on sexual life are radiotherapy and a permanent stoma. Poor bowel- and stoma function also have substantial negative impact on sexual function.

The vision is that all patients treated for colorectal cancer, must be informed about the high risk of developing sexual dysfunction. And those patients who desire it should get offered professional help and counselling.

The defence is public and takes place on January the 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 15 pm in auditorium C114-101, entrance C, Aarhus University Hospital, Palle Juul-Jensens Blvd 99, 8200 Aarhus, Denmark.

The title of the project is "Aspects of female sexual dysfunction in colorectal cancer patients".

For more information, please contact PhD student Anne Vestbjerg Thyø, e-mail: [annethyo@clin.au.dk](mailto:annethyo@clin.au.dk), tlf. 26581247.

Assessment committee:

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