

## Press release

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### Basic information

Name: Karen Schow Jensen Email: [karenschowjensen@clin.au.dk](mailto:karenschowjensen@clin.au.dk) Phone: +45 6171 8432

Department of: Clinical Medicine

Main supervisor: Associate Professor Birgitte Klug Albertsen

Title of dissertation: Childhood acute lymphoblastic leukaemia and surveillance regimes

Date for defence: 05/11 at (time of day): 14 Place: Auditorium C114-101, Indg. C, C110, Aarhus University Hospital, Palle Juul-Jensens Boulevard 99, 8200 Aarhus N

Press release (Danish)

Diagnostik af tilbagefald efter akut lymfatisk leukæmi i barndommen.

Akut lymfatisk leukæmi (ALL) er den hyppigste form for kræft hos børn.

Med forbedret behandling er overlevelsen af ALL i barndommen steget, og risikoen for tilbagefald af sygdommen er reduceret. Risikoen for tilbagefald efter behandling for ALL er størst de første år efter endt behandling. På denne baggrund har det været rutine i mange lande at følge børnene ambulant hver til hver anden måned de første år efter endt behandling for ALL i håbet om at diagnosticere tilbagefald og senfølger på et tidligt tidspunkt. Men der er kun en meget begrænset viden om evidensen for disse opfølgingsprogrammer i forhold til at diagnosticere tilbagefald og forbedre overlevelsen. I dette ph.d. projekt præsenteres ændringer i hyppigheden af tilbagefald og overlevelsen efter tilbagefald over tre årtier, en undersøgelse af hvordan tilbagefald diagnosticeres, en undersøgelse af brugen af sundhedsvæsenet hos ALL overlevende og ændringer i brugen af sundhedsvæsenet op til, at et tilbagefald diagnosticeres. Resultaterne er sammenfattet i et nyt ph.d.-projekt fra Aarhus Universitet, Health. Projektet er gennemført af Karen Schow Jensen.

Forsvaret af ph.d.-projektet er offentligt og finder sted den 5. november 2021 kl. 14:00 i Auditorium C114-101, Indg. C, C110, Aarhus Universitetshospital, Palle Juul-Jensens Boulevard 99, 8200 Aarhus N.

Titlen på projektet er "Childhood acute lymphoblastic leukaemia and surveillance regimes".

Yderligere oplysninger: Ph.d.-studerende Karen Schow Jensen, e-mail: [karenschowjensen@clin.au.dk](mailto:karenschowjensen@clin.au.dk), tlf. +45 6171 8432.

Bedømmelsesudvalg:

Jesper Stentoft, Professor (Formand for bedømmelsesudvalget)  
Department of Haematology, Aarhus University Hospital, Denmark

Sujith Samarasinghe, Associate Professor and Consultant  
Department of Haematology, P2.009 Camelia Botnar Laboratories  
Great Ormond Street Hospital, London, United Kingdom

Rob Pieters, Professor and Senior Consultant  
Princess Máxima Center for Pediatric Oncology  
Children's Hospital in Utrecht, Netherlands

Press release (English)

Childhood acute lymphoblastic leukaemia and surveillance regimes.

Acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL) is the most common childhood cancer and a disease for which most children are cured. For decades, the survival rate has followed a positive trend, and now more than 90% of children are alive five years after their diagnosis. The primary obstacle to event-free survival being a relapse. The risk of relapse is highest within the first years after diagnosis. Therefore, it has been routine in most countries to follow-up patients in the outpatient clinic every one or two months during the first years after end of therapy for ALL in order to detect relapse and possible late effects at an early stage. However, little evidence is available on the value of these follow-up programmes concerning detection of relapse and survival.

With the overall purpose of evidence-based short-term surveillance programs for childhood ALL survivors, this PhD project explored the relapse burden, relapse detection mode, the longitudinal excess health care utilisation and the changes in health care utilisation before the diagnosis of a relapse. The project was carried out by Karen Schow Jensen.

The defence is public and takes place on November 05th, 2021 at 14:00 in Auditorium C114-101, Indg. C, C110, Aarhus University Hospital, Palle Juul-Jensens Boulevard 99, 8200 Aarhus N.

The title of the project is "Childhood acute lymphoblastic leukaemia and surveillance regimes". For more information, please contact PhD student Karen Schow Jensen, email: [karenschowjensen@clin.au.dk](mailto:karenschowjensen@clin.au.dk), Phone +45 6171 8432.

Assessment committee:

Jesper Stentoft, Professor (Chairman and moderator of the defence)  
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Great Ormond Street Hospital, London, United Kingdom

Rob Pieters, Professor and Senior Consultant  
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