

Press release

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Basic information

Name: Asta Linauskas Email: astalinauskas@clin.au.dk Phone: 40815017

Department of: Clinical Medicine

Main supervisor: Professor emeritus Kristian Stengaard-Pedersen

Title of dissertation: Adiposity and cardiovascular disease as risk factors for the development of rheumatoid arthritis - Cohort studies based on the Danish Diet, Cancer and Health cohort

Date for defence: 10th of March 2020 at (time of day): 2pm Place: Auditorium G206-142, Indgang G, Aarhus Universitetshospital, Palle Juul-Jensens Boulevard 99, 8200 Aarhus N

Press release (Danish)

Overvægt, hjertekarsygdomme og risiko for kronisk leddegigt

Overvægt og hjertekarsygdomme øger muligvis risiko for udvikling af leddegigt, et nyt ph.d.-projekt fra Aarhus Universitet, Health. Projektet er gennemført af Asta Linauskas, der forsvare det d. 10/03/2020.

Kronisk leddegigt er den hyppigste autoimmune artrit, som rammer cirka 1% af befolkningen. Præcise årsager til sygdommen er desværre fortsat ukendte. I ph.d. studierne har vi undersøgt for sammenhænge mellem flere antropometriske mål, hjertekarsygdomme og risiko for at udvikle leddegigt hos 56.000 deltagere i den danske Kost, Kræft og Helbred kohorte. Vi fandt, at højere fedtprocent, livvide og BMI hos kvinder var forbundet med højere risiko for at udvikle leddegigt, især serologisk subtype 'andet' leddegigt. Derudover påviste vi, at der var tendens til højere risiko for at udvikle leddegigt hos kvinder, som har haft en blodprop i hjertet eller slagtilfælde. Endvidere, har vi undersøgt validiteten af leddegigt diagnoser i Landspatient Registeret (LPR). Vores undersøgelse har vist, at kun 62% af patienter, som er registrerede med en leddegigt diagnose i LPR har leddegigt, og at kobling af diagnosekoderne med behandlingskoder øger sandsynlighed for at identificere patienter med sikker leddegigt.

Studierne har frembragt ny viden vedrørende risikofaktorer for at udvikle leddegigt og en metode til at forbedre validiteten af leddegigt diagnoser i LPR.

Forsvaret af ph.d.-projektet er offentligt og finder sted den 10/03-2020 kl. 14.00 i auditorium G206-142, indgang G, Aarhus Universitetshospital, Palle Juul-Jensens Boulevard 99, 8200 Aarhus N.

Titlen på projektet er "Sammenhænge mellem overvægt, hjertekarsygdomme og udvikling af kronisk leddegigt - studier baseret på den danske Kost, Kræft og Helbred kohorte".

Yderligere oplysninger: Ph.d.-studerende Asta Linauskas, e-mail: astalinauskas@clin.au.dk, tlf. 40815017.

Bedømmelsesudvalg:

Formand:

Professor Mette Nørgaard, MD, PhD (Chairman), Department of Clinical Epidemiology, Aarhus University, Denmark.

Professor Johan Askling, MD, PhD, Clinical Epidemiology Division, Department of Medicine Solna, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden.

Professor Søren Jacobsen, MD, DMSci, Department of Clinical Medicine, University of Copenhagen; Copenhagen Lupus and Vasculitis Clinic, Center for Rheumatology and Spine Diseases, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Press release (English)

Adiposity, Cardiovascular disease and risk for rheumatoid arthritis

Adiposity and cardiovascular disease might be associated with a higher risk for rheumatoid arthritis. The project was carried out by Asta Linauskas, who is defending her dissertation on 10th of March 2020.

Rheumatoid arthritis is a long-term autoimmune disease affecting about 1% of Western population. Despite a vast amount of studies investigating potential risk factors, the development of rheumatoid arthritis is still poorly understood. Throughout the Ph.d. studies we have analyzed associations between several anthropometric measurements, cardiovascular disease and risk for development of rheumatoid arthritis among 56,000 participants of the Danish Diet, Cancer and Health cohort. We found that higher body fat percentage, higher waist circumference and obesity were associated with higher risk of rheumatoid arthritis in women, especially serological subtype `other` rheumatoid arthritis. Further, our study indicated that women with previous acute myocardial infarction or stroke might be at a higher risk of developing rheumatoid arthritis. We have also validated rheumatoid arthritis diagnoses, including their serological subsets, registered in the Danish National Patient Register. We found that only 62% of patients, registered as having rheumatoid arthritis, had the disease. Our study showed that linking rheumatoid arthritis diagnostic codes with treatment codes increased probability to identify patients with rheumatoid arthritis through the Danish National Patient Register. The defence is public and takes place on 10/03-2020 in auditorium G206-142, indgang G, Aarhus University Hospital, Palle Juul-Jensens Boulevard 99, 8200 Aarhus N. The title of the project is "Adiposity and cardiovascular disease as risk factors for the development of rheumatoid arthritis - cohort studies based on the Danish Diet, Cancer and Health cohort". For more information, please contact PhD student Asta Linauskas, email:astalinauskas@clin.au.dk , Phone +45 40815017.

Assessment committee:

Chairman:

Professor Mette Nørgaard, MD, PhD, Department of Clinical Epidemiology, Aarhus University, Denmark.

Professor Johan Askling, MD, PhD, Clinical Epidemiology Division, Department of Medicine Solna, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden.

Professor Søren Jacobsen, MD, DMSci, Department of Clinical Medicine, University of Copenhagen; Copenhagen Lupus and Vasculitis Clinic, Center for Rheumatology and Spine Diseases, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark.

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