

Press release

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Basic information

Name: Eva Rydahl Email: evry@kp.dk Phone: 31661068

Department of: Clinical Medicine

Main supervisor: Rikke Damkjær Maimburg

Title of dissertation: Medicalisation in Pregnancy and Childbirth- unintended consequences of interventions

Date for defence: 7/5 2020 at (time of day): 12.30 Place:

Press release (Danish)

Medikalisering af graviditet og fødsel- utilsigtede konsekvenser af interventioner

Dette ph.d. projekt undersøger medikalisering i dansk fødselspraksis, og om medikalisering kan medføre utilsigtede konsekvenser for den fødende kvinde og hendes barn. Resultaterne tyder på, at der finder en medikalisering sted og at den i nogen grad ser ud til at være uden den tilsigtede sundhedseffekt. I nogle tilfælde udsættes mor og barn for utilsigtede risici og bivirkninger.

Anvendelse af nye teknologier og nye medicinske behandlinger i graviditet og fødsel har til formål at forbedre sundhedstilstanden for såvel mor som barn. De fleste behandlinger og indgreb kan ud over de tilsigtede effekter, også medføre utilsigtede bivirkninger. På globalt niveau er der rejst bekymring over, at specielt middel- og højindkomstlande har opnået et relativt høj niveau af graviditets- og fødselsindgreb. En overbehandling der kan medføre utilsigtede bivirkninger.

Medikalisering forstås her som processer hvor fysiologiske tilstande bliver redefineret som værende medicinske udfordringer der kræver behandling. Projektet undersøger tre forskellige normale tilstande: at være førstegangsfødende, at være over 35 år og at være gravid efter terminsdatoen. Projektet finder, at kvinder i deres første graviditet oplever en stigende grad af indgreb, at den gravide kvindes alder mere end graviditetens komplikationsgrad synes at afgøre om hun føder ved kejsersnit og at rutinemæssig igangsættelse af fødslen på grund af graviditetens længde ikke synes at forbedre barnets overlevelse men øger antallet af bivirkninger hos den fødende kvinde.

Resultaterne præsenteres i et nyt ph.d.-projekt fra Aarhus Universitet, Health. Projektet er gennemført af Eva Rydahl, der forsvare det d. 7/5 2020. Forsvaret af ph.d.-projektet er offentligt og grundet COVID-19 vil forsvaret blive gennemført som et web forsvar. Du kan få digital adgang til forsvaret ved at kontakte Eva Rydahl, evry@kp.dk.

Titlen på projektet er ”Medikalisering af graviditet og fødsel- utilsigtede konsekvenser af interventioner”. Yderligere oplysninger: Ph.d.-studerende Eva Rydahl, e-mail: evry@kp.dk, tlf. 31661068.

Bedømmelsesudvalg:

Cecilia Ramlau-Hansen, MHS, PhD, Professor (chairman and moderator of the defence),
Section of Public Health, Aarhus University, Denmark

Ellen Blix, Midwife, MPH, DrPH, Professor
Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Nursing and Health Promotion,
Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway

Cecily Begley, MSc, MA, PhD, FTCD, Professor, Chair of Nursing & Midwifery,
School of Nursing & Midwifery, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland

Press release (English)

Medicalisation in Pregnancy and Childbirth

The present Ph.D. thesis examines medicalisation in Danish birth practice, and how medicalisation may have unintended consequences for the pregnant and labouring woman and her child. This thesis indicates that medicalisation is at stake and to some extent without the intended health effects. In some cases, mother and child, on the contrary, are exposed to unnecessary risks and side effects.

The use of new technologies and new medical treatments in pregnancy and childbirth aims to improve the health of both mother and child. The increased use of treatments and interventions may besides cause unintended side effects. Globally, concerns have been raised to the relatively high level of pregnancy and birth interventions, especially in middle and high-income countries. An over-treatment that can cause unintended side effects.

The process of medicalisation is defined as physiological conditions redefined as being medical challenges requiring treatment. The thesis examines three different physiological conditions: being a nulliparous woman, being over 35 years old, and being pregnant after the due date. This thesis found women in their first pregnancy to experience an increasing number of interventions in general. Furthermore advanced maternal age seemed to determine if the woman gave birth by cesarean section rather than the rate of complication in pregnancy. Finally routine induction of labour due to pregnancy length fails to demonstrate improved survival of the offspring but increases the maternal side effects.

The project was carried out by Eva Rydahl, who is defending her dissertation on 7 th May 2020. The defence is public. Due to COVID-19, the defence will be held as a web defence. To get an invite for the live web presentation, contact Eva Rydahl, evry@kp.dk

The title of the project is Medicalisation in Pregnancy and Childbirth- unintended consequences of interventions. For more information, please contact PhD student Eva Rydahl, email: evry@kp.dk, Phone +45 31661068.

Assessment committee:

Cecilia Ramlau-Hansen, MHS, PhD, Professor (chairman and moderator of the defence),
Section of Public Health, Aarhus University, Denmark

Ellen Blix, Midwife, MPH, DrPH, Professor
Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Nursing and Health Promotion,
Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway

Cecily Begley, MSc, MA, PhD, FTCD, Professor, Chair of Nursing & Midwifery,
School of Nursing & Midwifery, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland

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