

Press release

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Basic information

Name: Linda Aagaard Rasmussen

Email: linda.rasmussen@ph.au.dk Phone: 8716 7901

Department of: Public Health

Main supervisor: Peter Vedsted

Title of dissertation: Detecting recurrence of cancer and second primary cancer: Exploring the role of general practice

Date for defence: Friday 13 September 2019 at (time of day): 2 p.m. Place: Merete Barker Auditorium (room 211), building 1253, Bartholins Allé 3, Aarhus University

Press release (Danish)

Kræftopfølgning og opsporing af tilbagefald af kræft og ny kræftsygdom - den praktiserende læges rolle.

Opfølgningen efter endt kræftbehandling har blandt andet til formål at identificere tilbagefald af kræft. Sundhedsstyrelsen har lagt op til, at praktiserende læger skal have en mere aktiv rolle i kræftopfølgningen. Det har hospitalsafdelinger hidtil varetaget alene. Et nyt ph.d.-projekt fra Aarhus Universitet, Health bidrager med viden til at understøtte denne omlægning med fokus på tidlig diagnostik af tilbagefald og ny kræftsygdom. Projektet har udviklet metoder, der ved hjælp af sundhedsregistre kan identificere patienter, der er diagnosticeret med tilbagefald for 6 forskellige typer af kræft. Disse metoder muliggør registerforskning om tilbagefald af kræft. Risikoen for tilbagefald varierede fra 6 til 35% for de inkluderede kræfttyper. Den største risikofaktor for at få tilbagefald var fremskreden sygdom ved den oprindelige kræftdiagnose. Derudover synes risikoen at være højere, hvis man har kroniske sygdomme. Mere end 80 pct. af alle tilbagefald opstod inden for 3 år efter den første kræftsygdom, hvorefter risikoen faldt. Risikoen for at få en ny kræftsygdom var 3-6% i løbet af de første 3 år. Projektet har endvidere undersøgt antallet af kontakter til den praktiserende læge og til sygehuset op til en diagnose af tilbagefald eller en ny kræftsygdom. Resultaterne viser, at patienterne - flere måneder inden diagnosen stilles - begynder at kontakte sundhedsvæsenet oftere.

Projektet er gennemført af Linda Aagaard Rasmussen, der forsvarede det d. 13. september 2019.

Forsvaret af ph.d.-projektet er offentligt og finder sted d. 13/9 kl. 14 i Merete Barker Auditoriet (lokale 211, bygning 1253), Søauditorierne, Aarhus Universitet, Bartholins Allé 3, 8000 Aarhus C. Titlen på projektet er "Detecting recurrence of cancer and second primary cancer: Exploring the role of general practice". Yderligere oplysninger: Ph.d.-studerende Linda Aagaard Rasmussen, e-mail: linda.rasmussen@ph.au.dk, tlf. 8716 7901.

Bedømmelsesudvalg:

Lektor Deirdre Cronin-Fenton, BSc, PhD

Klinisk Epidemiologisk Afdeling, Aarhus Universitet (formand for bedømmelsesudvalget)

Professor Eva Morris

School of Medicine, University of Leeds

Professor og cheflæge Niels Kroman, DMSc

Kræftens Bekæmpelse, København

Press release (English)

Detecting recurrence of cancer and second primary cancer: Exploring the role of general practice

A central focus in the follow-up after cancer treatment is detection of new cancer events. The Danish health authorities has recommended that general practitioners become more involved in the cancer follow-up, which has traditionally been managed by specialised hospital-based departments. A new PhD project at Aarhus University, Health reports evidence to inform the reorganisation of cancer follow-up, with special focus on timely detection of recurrence of cancer and second primary cancer. As part of the project, algorithms have been developed to identify patients diagnosed with recurrence of six different types of cancer. These algorithms enable register-based research in cancer recurrence. The risk of recurrence varied from 6% to 35% for the included cancer types. The strongest risk factor was advanced disease at the diagnosis of the primary cancer. Moreover, patients with chronic disorders seemed to have increased risk of recurrence. More than 80% of all recurrences occurred within three years after the primary cancer diagnosis; thereafter, the risk levelled off. Within the first 3 years, 3-6% were diagnosed with a second primary cancer. The project explored healthcare utilisation in general practice and in hospitals in the year preceding a diagnosis of recurrence or a second primary cancer. The results show that the patients increasingly contacted the healthcare system already several months before the diagnosis.

The project has been carried out by Linda Aagaard Rasmussen, who will be defending her dissertation on 13 September 2019.

The public defence will take place on 13 September 2019 at 2 p.m. in the Merete Barker Auditorium (room 211, building 1253), Lakeside Lecture Theatres, Aarhus University, Bartholins Allé 3, 8000 Aarhus C. The title of the project is "Detecting recurrence of cancer and second primary cancer: Exploring the role of general practice". For more information, please contact PhD student Linda Aagaard Rasmussen, email: linda.rasmussen@ph.au.dk, Phone +45 8716 6701.

Assessment committee:

Associate Professor Deirdre Cronin-Fenton, PhD
Department of Clinical Epidemiology, Aarhus University (chairman)

Professor Eva Morris, PhD
School of Medicine, University of Leeds

Professor and Chief Medical Officer Niels Kroman, DMSc
Danish Cancer Society, Copenhagen

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