

Press release

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Basic information

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Department of: Public Health

Main supervisor: Henrik Støvring

Title of dissertation: Methods to evaluate modern mammography screening

Date for defence: 19 September, 2019 at (time of day): 14.00-16.00 Place: Jeppe Vontillius Auditorium, Bartholins Allé 3, 8000 Aarhus

Press release (Danish)

Effekten af screeningsprogrammer for brystkræft i en tid med forbedret behandling

Et nyt ph.d.-projekt fra Aarhus Universitet, Health, har koblet landsdækkende registerdata og anvendt nye epidemiologiske metoder til at belyse effekten af brystkræftscreening. Projektet er gennemført af Mette Lise Lousdal, der forsvarer det d. 19. september, 2019.

Hvert år inviteres omkring 300.000 kvinder i alderen 50-69 år til at deltage i screening for brystkræft i Danmark. Imidlertid er der fortsat uenighed om fordelene og ulemperne ved screening. Der er stor usikkerhed omkring, hvor mange kvinder der redder livet pga. screening og hvor mange kvinder der unødig far en diagnose, det vil sige far opdaget kræft som kvinden ellers aldrig ville have mærket til uden screening.

I dette projekt evaluerede vi de analytiske tilgange, der oftest anvendes, da det kan være en del af forklaringen på de modstridende resultater. Vi udviklede bl.a. et Excel-baseret værktøj, som gør det muligt at sammenligne konsekvenserne af forskellige analytiske tilgange. Desuden lod vi os inspirere af randomiserede kontrollerede forsøg og anvendte nye metoder, der kan sikre at de sammenlignede grupper virkelig er sammenlignelige med hensyn til brystkræftrisiko, og vi anvendte nye metoder, der kan afskille effekten af screening fra forbedret behandling.

Forsvaret af ph.d.-projektet er offentligt og finder sted den 19. september kl. 14 i Jeppe Vontillius Auditoriet, Søauditorierne, Aarhus Universitet, Bartholins Allé 3, 8000 Aarhus. Titlen på projektet er "Methods to evaluate modern mammography screening". Yderligere oplysninger: Ph.d.-studerende Mette Lise Lousdal, e-mail: lousdal@ph.au.dk, tlf. 87167997.

Bedømmelsesudvalg:

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Press release (English)**Effect of organized screening for breast cancer in the current treatment era**

A new PhD project at Aarhus University, Health, has linked nationwide registry data and applied new epidemiologic methods to evaluate the effect of breast cancer screening. The project was carried out by Mette Lise Lousdal, who is defending her dissertation on September 19, 2019.

Each year around 300,000 women aged 50-69 years receive an invitation to participate in breast cancer screening in Denmark. However, researchers still disagree on the benefits and harms of screening. It remains unclear how many women that are saved by screening and how many women that are overdiagnosed i.e. the cancer would not have been detected had the woman not been screened.

In this project, we evaluated the different methods being used, because this might explain part of the diverging estimates. We developed an Excel-based tool to compare the consequences of different analytical approaches adapted to a specific setting. Moreover, we employed new methods inspired by the design of a randomized controlled trial. We employed one method to ensure that the comparison groups indeed are comparable with regard to risk of breast cancer. Next, we employed another method to ensure that the mortality reduction is due to screening, and not improvements in therapy.

The defence is public and takes place on September 19 at 2 pm in Jeppe Vontillius Auditorium, Lakeside Auditorium, Aarhus University, Bartholins Allé 3, 8000 Aarhus. The title of the project is "Methods to evaluate modern mammography screening". For more information, please contact PhD student Mette Lise Lousdal, email: lousdal@ph.au.dk, Phone +45 8716 7997.

Assessment committee:

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