

### **Press release**

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#### **Basic information**

Name: Anders Prior Email: anders.prior@ph.au.dk Phone: +45 8716 7948

Department of: Public Health

Main supervisor: Professor Mogens Vestergaard

Title of dissertation: Psychological stress and multimorbidity in general practice

Date for defence: 04/09/2017 at (time of day): 13.00 Place: Jeppe Vontillius Auditorium (lokale 310),

bygning 1252, Aarhus Universitet, Bartholins Allé 3, 8000 Aarhus C.

Press release (Danish)

Kombinationen af stress og multisygdom giver ringere kronikerbehandling

En ny ph.d.-afhandling ved Aarhus Universitet undersøger, hvilke helbredsmæssige konsekvenser psykisk stress kan have hos personer med flere samtidige kroniske sygdomme (mental og fysisk multisygdom). Sammenhængene mellem selvopfattet stress og dødelighed, potentielt forebyggelige hospitalsindlæggelser og brugen af serviceydelser i den primære sundhedssektor undersøges, samt hvordan tabet af en nærtstående – som er en meget stressende livshændelse – påvirker dødeligheden hos de efterladte. Resultaterne viser, at stress har en negativ indvirkning på helbredet og synes også at være forbundet med dårligere kronikeromsorg. Det fremgår af afhandlingen, at et højt niveau af selvopfattet stress er forbundet med en stigning på 30-50 % procent for overordnet dødelighed, potentielt forebyggelige hospitalsindlæggelser og antallet af kontakter til den praktiserende læge – selv efter justering for multisygdom. Kombinationen af stress og multisygdom synes at være forbundet med mindre rettidig kronikeromsorg. Tab af ægtefælle er også forbundet med en stigning i dødeligheden på 40 %. Sådan lyder konklusionen i det nye ph.d.-projekt fra Aarhus Universitet, Health. Projektet er gennemført af læge og ph.d.-studerende Anders Prior, der forsvarer det d. 04/09 2017.

Forsvaret af ph.d.-projektet er offentligt og finder sted den 04/09/2017 klokken 13.00-15.00 i Jeppe Vontillius Auditorium (lokale 310), bygning 1252, Aarhus Universitet, Bartholins Allé 3, 8000 Aarhus C. Titlen på projektet er "Psychological stress and multimorbidity in general practice". Yderligere oplysninger: Ph.d.-studerende Anders Prior, e-mail: anders.prior@ph.au.dk, tlf. 8716 7948

# Bedømmelsesudvalg:

Henrik Støvring, Associate Professor, Section for Biostatistics, Department of Public Health, Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark (Chairman).

Susan Smith, Professor, RCSI General Practice and HRB Centre for Primary Care Research, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Dublin, Ireland

Peter Bower, Professor, Centre for Primary Care, University of Manchester, Manchester, UK

### Press release (English)

The combination of stress and multimorbidity is associated with impaired quality of chronic care

A new PhD project from Aarhus University investigates the consequences of psychological stress on the health in persons with mental-physical multimorbidity. The associations between perceived stress and mortality, potentially preventable hospitalisations, and primary healthcare service use were investigated. Furthermore, the impact of bereavement, a highly stressful life event, on mortality was explored.



The results show that stress has an adverse impact on health and is associated with less timely chronic care among those with multimorbidity. Furthermore, it appears from the results that high levels of perceived stress were associated with a 30–50% increase in all-cause mortality, potentially preventable hospitalisations, and contacts to the GP after adjusting for multimorbidity. The combination of stress and multimorbidity seemed to result in less timely chronic care. Bereavement was also associated with a long-term mortality increase of 40%. This is the conclusion from the new PhD project from Aarhus University, Health. The project was carried out by MD and PhD student Anders Prior, who is defending his dissertation on 04/09 2017

The defence is public and takes place on 04/09/2017 at 13.00 in Jeppe Vontillius Auditorium (310), building 1252, Aarhus University, Bartholins Allé 3, 8000 Aarhus C. The title of the project is "Psychological stress and multimorbidity in general practice. For more information, please contact PhD student Anders Prior, email: anders.prior@ph.au.dk, Phone +45 8716 7948.

## Assessment committee:

Henrik Støvring, Associate Professor, Section for Biostatistics, Department of Public Health, Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark (Chairman).

Susan Smith, Professor, RCSI General Practice and HRB Centre for Primary Care Research, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Dublin, Ireland

Peter Bower, Professor, Centre for Primary Care, University of Manchester, Manchester, UK

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