

Press release

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Basic information

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Department of: Clinical Medicine

Main supervisor: Johnny Keller, senior consultant, Department of Orthopedic Surgery, Aarhus University Hospital

Title of dissertation: Impact of comorbidity and socioeconomic position on prognosis, and use of healthcare services before diagnosis in Danish sarcoma patients 2000-2013

Date for defence: 23rd October 2018 at (time of day): 2 pm Place: Patologisk Auditorium, Aarhus University Hospital, Nørrebrogade 44, 8000 Aarhus C.

Press release (Danish)

Impact of comorbidity and socioeconomic position on prognosis, and use of healthcare services before diagnosis in Danish sarcoma patients 2000-2013

Sarkom (kræft i muskler, bindevæv og knogler) er en alvorlig, sjælden og forskelligartet kræftform som kan være kompliceret at diagnosticere i en tidlig fase. Formålet med denne ph.d.-afhandling var at undersøge hvorvidt patientrelaterede faktorer som komorbiditet (tilstedeværelse af flere lidelser hos samme person) og socioøkonomisk status (uddannelse, indkomst og samlivsforhold) havde indflydelse på prognose og overlevelse hos sarkompatienter, samt undersøge hvor mange og hvilke sundhedsydelse (hos egen læge og på sygehus) sarkompatienterne benyttede sig af op til diagnosetidspunktet. Langt de fleste sarkomer opstår uden kendt årsag, hvilket sammen med de mange forskellige undertyper gør det til en svær sygdom at undersøge uden store populationsbaserede studier. Studierne i denne afhandling inkluderede efter minutios dataindsamling alle patienter med sarkom i ekstremiteter og brystvæg i Danmark i perioden 2000 til 2013. Vi undersøgte betydningen af komorbiditet på prognose og dødelighed, og fandt at visse former for komorbiditet har en betydelig indvirkning på prognosen. Derudover undersøgtes socioøkonomiske faktorer og deres indflydelse på hvorvidt patienten blev diagnosticeret med et sarkom med en dårlig prognose, samt om der var forskel på overlevelsen blandt patienter med høj og lav socioøkonomisk status. Endelig undersøgte vi hvor mange og hvilke typer sundhedsydelser patienterne benyttede sig af op til diagnosetidspunktet. Dette er et nyt ph.d.-projekt fra Aarhus Universitet, Health. Projektet er gennemført af Mathias Rædkjær, der forsvare det d. 23/10 2018.

Forsvaret af ph.d.-projektet er offentligt og finder sted den 23/10 2018 kl. 14:00 i Patologisk Auditorium, Aarhus Universitetshospital, Nørrebrogade 44, 8000 Aarhus C. Titlen på projektet er "Impact of comorbidity and socioeconomic position on prognosis, and use of healthcare services before diagnosis in Danish sarcoma patients 2000-2013". Yderligere oplysninger: Ph.d.-studerende Mathias Rædkjær, raedkjaer@dadlnet.dk, tlf. 26817055.

Bedømmelsesudvalg:

- Professor Henrik Hasle, Børn og Unge Afdelingen, Aarhus Universitetshospital, Aarhus, Danmark
- Adjunct professor Minna Laitenen, Department of Orthopedics, Helsinki University Central Hospital, Finland
- Seniorforsker Susanne Oksbjerg Dalton, Kræftens Bekæmpelse, Center for Kræftforskning, København, Danmark.

Press release (English)

Impact of comorbidity and socioeconomic position on prognosis, and use of healthcare services before diagnosis in Danish sarcoma patients 2000-2013

Sarcoma (cancer in muscle, bone and connective tissue) is a severe, rare and heterogeneous type of cancer, and can be difficult to diagnose at an early stage. The purpose of this PhD thesis was to investigate whether patient-related factors such as comorbidity (presence of multiple disorders in the same person) and socioeconomic factors (education, income and cohabitation) had an impact on prognosis and survival in sarcoma patients, and to investigate the use of healthcare services (general practice and hospital) before diagnosis. The vast majority of sarcomas occur without any known aetiology, and together with the many different subtypes, it is difficult to investigate a severe disease as sarcoma without large population-based studies. The studies in this thesis are based on comprehensive collection of data, and all patients diagnosed with a sarcoma in extremities or trunk wall in Denmark between 2000 and 2013 were included. We examined the impact of comorbidity on prognosis and mortality, and found that certain types of comorbidity have a significant impact on the prognosis. In addition, we examined the socioeconomic factors and the impact on whether the patient was diagnosed with a sarcoma with a poor prognosis and whether there was a difference in survival among patients with high and low socioeconomic status. Finally, we investigated the use of healthcare services among the patients before the time of diagnosis. This is a new PhD project from Aarhus University, Health. The project was carried out by Mathias Rædkjær, who is defending his dissertation on 23rd October 2018.

The defence is public and takes place on 23rd October 2018 at Patologisk Auditorium, Aarhus University Hospital, Nørrebrogade 44, 8000 Aarhus C. The title of the project is "Impact of comorbidity and socioeconomic position on prognosis, and use of healthcare services before diagnosis in Danish sarcoma patients 2000-2013". For more information, please contact PhD student Mathias Rædkjær, email: raedkjaer@dadlnet.dk, Phone +45 26817055.

Assessment committee:

- Professor Henrik Hasle, Department of Pediatrics, Aarhus University Hospital, Aarhus, Denmark
- Adjunct professor Minna Laitinen, Department of Orthopedics, Helsinki University Central Hospital, Finland
- Senior researcher Susanne Oksbjerg Dalton, Danish Cancer Society Research Center, Copenhagen, Denmark.

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