

Press release

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Basic information

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Department of: Public Health

Main supervisor: Cecilia Høst Ramlau-Hansen

Title of dissertation: Celiac disease. Occurrence in Denmark and impact on reproduction

Date for defence: 08-02-2019 at (time of day): 14.00 Place: Regionshospitalet Horsens, Auditorium, Nye Nord, Sundvej 30, 8700 Horsens

Press release (Danish)

Overskrift: Cøliaki. Forekomst i Danmark og betydning for reproduktion

Nye forskningsresultater viser, at antallet af danskere med diagnosen cøliaki er fordoblet hvert tiende år siden 1986, men at sygdommen stadig er underdiagnosticeret, og netop den udiagnosticerede og derfor ubehandlede cøliaki øger risikoen for spontane aborter og dødfødsler. Resultaterne er fra et nyt ph.d.-projekt fra Aarhus Universitet, Health. Projektet er gennemført af Louise Grode, der forsvarede det d. 8/2-2019

Cøliaki er en autoimmun sygdom udløst af en intolerance overfor gluten, som findes i kornprodukterne hvede, rug og byg. Sygdommen betyder, at der dannes antistoffer mod gluten proteinerne og slimhinden i tyndtarmen nedbrydes, hvilket vanskeliggør normal optagelse af vitaminer og mineraler fra kosten. Den eneste nuværende behandling er 100% gluten-fri kost. Studier viser, at kun 10-20% med sygdommen er diagnosticeret. Formålet med ph.d.-studiet var, dels at undersøge udviklingen af forekomsten af diagnosticeret cøliaki i Danmark i perioden 1977 til 2016 og at undersøge sammenhænge mellem cøliaki og reproduktion samt at undersøge den diagnostiske pålidelighed af en hurtig patientnær test til screening for cøliaki. Forskningsresultaterne bygger på data fra de danske registre og omfatter ca 11,802 danskere med diagnosen cøliaki. Studiet finder, at flere og flere danskere lever med diagnosen cøliaki, og at et stigende antal danskere får diagnosen hvert år, men at flertallet af personer med sygdommen stadig formodes udiagnosticerede. Studiet omfatter også en undersøgelse af alle danske kvinder med diagnosen cøliaki og deres graviditetens udfald sammenlignet med kvinder uden diagnosen cøliaki. Resultaterne her peger på, at netop den udiagnosticerede cøliaki øger risikoen for spontane aborter og dødfødsler. Samtidig har forskningsgruppen screenet 900 patienter henvist til fertilitetsbehandling i Danmark for, om de havde cøliaki. Her fandt man ikke flere med cøliaki end blandt den almene befolkning. Det har tidligere været diskuteret, om man bør screene alle patienter, som kommer til fertilitetsbehandling for cøliaki, men resultaterne fra screeningsstudiet her giver ikke belæg for at anbefale dette, ligesom at en patientnær hurtig-test for cøliaki ikke viste sig nyttig at anvende i hospitals-baserede fertilitetsklinikker i Danmark.

Forsvaret af ph.d.-projektet er offentligt og finder sted den 8/2 2019 kl. 14.00 i Auditoriet, Nye Nord, Regionshospitalet Horsens, Sundvej 30, 8700 Horsens. Titlen på projektet er "Cøliaki. Forekomst i Danmark og betydning for reproduktion". Yderligere oplysninger: Ph.d.-studerende Louise Grode, e-mail: louise.grode@horsens.rm.dk, tlf. +4526138939.

Bedømmelsesudvalg: Professor Ulla Breth Knudsen, Fertilitetsklinikken, Regionshospitalet Horsens, Professor Anja Pinborg, Fertilitetsklinikken Rigshospitalet og Professor Jonas Ludvigsson, Institut for Medicinsk Epidemiologi og Biostatistik, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden

Press release (English)

Headline: Celiac disease. Occurrence in Denmark and impact on reproduction

Results from a new PhD study showed that the prevalence of celiac disease has doubled every decade since 1986 in Denmark, however, the disease is still underdiagnosed. In addition, the study finds that the undiagnosed celiac disease in women increases the risk of miscarriages and stillbirths. However, no reason for screening all infertile patients for undiagnosed celiac disease was found. The PhD study was carried out by Louise Grode, who is defending her dissertation on 8/2 - 2019.

Celiac disease is an autoimmune disease triggered by a permanent intolerance to gluten from wheat, barley and rye, resulting in an inflammatory reaction with histological changes in the mucosal lining of the small intestine. Studies show that only 10–20% of the affected patients have been diagnosed, primarily because the symptoms can be vague. The only known treatment is a 100% gluten free diet. The aims of the PhD study was to investigate the prevalence and incidence of celiac disease in Denmark in the period 1977 to 2016 and associations between celiac disease and reproduction and the test accuracy of a point-of-care test detecting celiac disease antibodies. The results show that an increasing number of people are living with a diagnosis of celiac disease and more people are getting the diagnosis every year. Women with undiagnosed celiac disease may be more likely to have miscarriages or stillbirths than women who never get this diagnosis, however, once celiac disease is identified and presumably treated with a gluten-free diet, the risk of pregnancy complications returns to normal. In addition, the research team screened 900 patients referred to fertility treatment, but the number of patients with celiac disease were not different in this group compared to numbers from screenings in the general Danish population. No reason for automatically screening among fertility patients was found and a point-of-care test for celiac disease did not show to be useful in the hospital-based fertility clinics in Denmark.

The defence is public and takes place on 8/2 - 2019 at 14.00 in Auditoriet, Nye Nord, Horsens Regional Hospital, Sundvej 30, 8700 Horsens. The title of the project is "Celiac disease. Occurrence in Denmark and impact on reproduction". For more information, please contact PhD student Louise Grode, e-mail: louise.grode@horsens.rm.dk, phone. +4526138939

Assessment committee: Professor Ulla Breth Knudsen, The Fertility Clinic, Horsens Regional Hospital, Horsens, Denmark, Professor Anja Pinborg, The Fertility Clinic, Rigshospitalet, Copenhagen, Denmark and Professor Jonas Ludvigsson, Department of Medical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden

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