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Project title: Predicting the natural course of paediatric asthma – a longitudinal study investigating the significance of novel prognostic markers.

Abstract:

Though childhood asthma is a very common disease there is a need for better diagnostic and prognostic markers. We lack valid markers for predicting persistency and severity in order to optimize the treatment. The main objective of the PhD study is to investigate whether elevated serum levels of Surfactant Protein D (SP-D), Microfibrillar-Associated Protein 4 (MFAP4) are associated with pediatric asthma and chronicity and severity of asthma symptoms in a cohort of 1014 children thoroughly investigated and diagnosed with asthma in 2003-2005. We hypothesise that SP-D and MFAP4 are increased in children with severe persistent asthma. The subjects are invited to participate in a follow-up including an extensive questionnaire-based interview, clinical examination, blood- and urine sampling and lung function measurements including provocation testing to determine whether they still have asthma. This allows us to describe the development and change in symptoms and sensitization and to investigate our main objective. Furthermore, a bio bank will be established to provide the opportunity to validate future prognostic asthma markers in a paediatric population. The vision of this study is to provide the clinician with easily accessible and validated tools in order to ensure correct diagnostic and prognostic classification in children with non-specific airway symptoms.

Vejledere

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