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Invitation for PhD defence

by Vibe Maria Laden Nielsen



Paediatric emergencies in Denmark

Severity, prehospital monitoring and outcomes

Tuesday 6 February 2024 at 13.00
Room 12.01.004
Selma Lagerlöfs Vej 249, Aalborg University

About the PhD thesis

In international literature, injuries have been the dominant cause of death from paediatric emergencies for the past decades. Every tenth ambulance dispatch in Denmark is for a child. Life-threatening conditions may progress rapidly in children, and for various reasons, assessing the severity of illness or injuries can be more difficult than in adults.

Study I reported that one in three children had life-threatening or urgent conditions upon arrival of the ambulance, however missing data on vital signs was substantial. In The North Denmark Emergency Medical Services, several educational initiatives aimed to promote a systematic clinical approach to children were launched. In the prospective quasi-experimental **Study II**, the proportion of children with complete vital sign registration increased compared to before the launch of the initiatives and also compared to another Danish region with similar demography.

The nationwide epidemiological **Studies III-IV** outlined diagnoses after transport to a hospital and annual all-cause mortality rate following paediatric emergency calls (7 per 100,000 children aged ≤ 15 years). Although a third of the calls regarded injuries, only 13% of deaths that happened within 7 days of the call could be attributed to an injury, while 37% of calls regarded out-of-hospital cardiac arrest, and 43% regarded various medical symptoms or a problem that was unclear to the dispatcher. A quarter of the non-survivors had prior diseases, conditions, or perinatal complications with a possibly limited life expectancy. Both among the non-survivors *with* and *without* comorbidity, calls regarding medical symptoms incl. out-of-hospital cardiac arrest dominated ($>75\%$) over calls regarding injuries.

The PhD thesis emphasises that time and resources should be set aside regularly for training ambulance professionals in paediatric advanced life support and initial management of paediatric medical emergencies.

Invitation for PhD defence

The Department of Clinical Medicine, Aalborg University and Aalborg University Hospital are pleased to invite to PhD defence by *MD, Vibe Maria Laden Nielsen*, who will defend the thesis entitled:

Paediatric emergencies in Denmark Severity, prehospital monitoring and outcomes

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After the defence there will be held a reception. All are welcome.