HALVTIDSKONTROLL

Torsdagen den 12 april, klockan 14.00

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Avdelningen för njurmedicin

Aspects of nephrotic syndrome with special references to treatment with ACTH

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Lokal: Konferensrummet, arbetsavdelningen för njurmedicin Barngatan 2, Lund

VÄLKOMNA!
**Half-time seminar - abstract**

Aspects of nephrotic syndrome with special reference to treatment with ACTH

PhD student: Anneli Jönsson  
Main supervisor: Anna-Lena Berg Co-supervisor: Anna Forsberg

**Background.** The intention is to continue to create understanding for proteinuria, renal function and wellbeing that develop in patients with nephrotic syndrome, during and after adrenocorticotropic hormone (ACTH) medication. Most patients with kidney disease have different proteinuria levels. Nephrotic syndrome is a serious condition with severe proteinuria, hypoalbuminaemia, edema and hyperlipidemia. Idiopathic membranous nephropathy (IMN) is a common cause of nephrosis in adults. A frequent therapy is cytotoxic drugs with/without steroids. There is growing evidence that ACTH therapy is effective in nephrotic patients with IMN, reduces proteinuria and subsequently reduce renal failure development. In this mixed methods thesis, the aim is to evaluate changes in proteinuria, renal function and well-being among ACTH treated nephrotic patients.

**Methods.** Study I: A retrospective 5 year follow-up study. The aim is to evaluate changes in proteinuria and renal function in 37 ACTH treated patients with IMN.  
Study II: A retrospective observational study. The aim is to evaluate the efficacy of ACTH-treatment in combination with other immunosuppressant agent in 10 patients with IMN and in 10 patients with focal segmental glomerulosclerosis (FSGS).  
Study III: Using a grounded theory study, the aim is to explore the main concerns among patients suffering from nephrotic syndrome and how they deal with these concerns. Data is collected by open ended interviews.  
Study IV: Using in depth interviews, the aim is to study the meaning of being treated with ACTH for nephrotic syndrome. The patients’ experiences will be analysed by a phenomenological hermeneutic method.

**Preliminary results.** Study I (manuscript drafted). Observations suggest that ACTH may be useful to durably reduce proteinuria and preserve kidney function in 37 patients with IMN.

Study II (manuscript drafted). ACTH in combination with other immunosuppressive agents may be more effective for reducing proteinuria in 10 patients with IMN who are partially responsive to ACTH alone, as well as in 10 patients with severe FSGS.

Study III: data collection is on-going and five interviews are analyzed.

**Importance.** The thesis will provide in-depth understanding of signs and symptoms among ACTH treated patients with nephrosis and constitute a foundation for clinical guidelines regarding treatment, follow-up and health promotion.