Halvtidsseminarium

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Handledare: Carl Turesson

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Lokal: Rehabrummet, Reumamottagningen, Jan Waldenströms gata 1B, plan 2

VÄLKOMNA!
Predictors and early biomarkers for Giant cell arteritis

**Background:** Giant cell arteritis (GCA) is the most common vasculitis in people >50 years of age in the western world, with a particularly high incidence in Scandinavia. The etiology and pathogenesis of the disease is still mostly unknown, and there is limited information on environmental risk factors. Temporal artery biopsy (TAB) is the gold standard for diagnosis, but TAB results may be affected by early treatment.

**Methods:** Several studies, including the first publication and planned further publications, are based on a nested case-control study using the Malmö preventive medicine program cohort (MPMP) and the Malmö diet and cancer cohort (MDC). Cases who got the GCA diagnosis after participation in the cohort were identified and compared with four matched controls from the corresponding cohort. Potential predictors for development of GCA (e.g. body mass index, BMI, and other metabolic factors) were examined. Further studies will include analyses of early biomarkers of GCA in blood samples obtained in the MPMP/MDC before GCA diagnosis

In the second publication, we investigated cases with confirmed GCA who had undergone a TAB, to see to which extent the time between glucocorticoid treatment and biopsy could affect the results of TAB.

**Main results:** We have confirmed previous reports indicating that lower BMI is an independent risk factor for GCA. Furthermore, we found negative associations for glucose and lipid levels with subsequent GCA. Our second paper implies that TABs taken 1-4 weeks after starting glucocorticoid treatment still reveal changes consistent with GCA.

**Significance:** These studies contribute to expanding knowledge about the etiology of GCA which may also lead to better understanding of the pathogenesis. The finding that a TAB after 1-4 weeks of treatment still yields clinically important information is of major importance for clinical management.

**Publications:**