

STSM report

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Hosts: Prof. Dr. med. Jeanne Duus Johansen, Dr. Jacob P. Thyssen, Dept. of Dermato-allergology and National Allergy Research Centre- Gentofte Hospital, Denmark

Period: 31 March – 4 April 2014

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1) Purpose of STSM

Work-related skin diseases remain a relatively unexplored area in epidemiological research and surveillance in Norway.

There are few epidemiological studies in Norway, that describe the relationship between work exposure and risk to develop OSD.

The National Allergy Research Centre has a preeminent position when it comes to research of mechanisms that may determine the susceptibility to acquire OSD.

Oslo University Hospital uses guidelines and recommendations developed by this institution.

The National Allergy Research Centre has achieved a leading position in the development and evaluation of prevention programs against OSD. Association for hairdressers in Norway use educational material developed by this centre.

Aims:

1) To create basis for transnational research cooperation between Norway (National Institute of Occupational Health and Oslo University Hospital) and National Allergy Research Centre (Videncenter for Allergi) -University Hospital Gentofte.

2) To get insight into current research about skin barrier and immunological mechanisms that may determine that some individuals are more prone to acquire OSD.

This would provide a better basis to decide which susceptibility mechanism we may focus for future studies.



2) Description of the work carried out

Date	Time and activity
Monday 31th March	<p>8.00-8.30 morning conference</p> <p>8.30- 13.00 Out-patient clinic: contact dermatitis With Jacob Thyssen</p> <p>13.00 Lunch with Jacob Thyssen</p> <p>13.30-17.00 Occupational dermatitis Specialist statements. Prof. Torkil Menné</p>
Tuesday 1. April	<p>8.00 Moring conference Contact dermatitis cases</p> <p>8.30-13.00 Out-patient Clinic Contact Dermatitis with Dr. Marianne Hald.</p> <p>13.00: Lunch with Jacob Thyssen</p> <p>14.00-16.00: The filaggrin lab and analysis. Dr. Katrine Ross-Hansen</p>
Wednesday	<p>8.00-12.00 Allergy unit Airborne provocations- hairdressers. Dr. Majken Hougaard.</p> <p>12.00 Lunch with researcher in National Allergy Research centre</p> <p>13.00-14.00 Introduction to the National Allergy Research Centre and discussions Jeanne Duus Johansen.</p> <p>14.00-15.00 Clinic (own choice) 15.30 Occupational dermatitis Specialist statements. Prof. Torkil Menné</p>
Thursday	<p>8.00 – 12.00 Glove extrations Information concerning -the Research Centre for Hairdressers -exposure analysis in eczema patients Dr. Ulrik Fischer Friis</p> <p>13.00-16.00 Rounds to the researchers in The national allergy research centre.</p>
Friday	<p>Open programme Clinic and discussions with Jacob Thyssen</p>



3) Description of the main results obtained

Experiences gained during this STSM has been very motivating for writing a PhD project proposal on OSD to be carried out in Norway.

In Norway, epidemiological studies on work- related skin diseases have been uncommon compared with studies on occupational lung diseases

The project aims to characterize the epidemiological profile of work- related skin diseases in Norway in order to estimate the potential for the prevention in the work place. This suggestion will be sent to the leader group of the National Institute of Occupational Health for further evaluation and approval.

Through this STSM I have learned about:

1) Management of occupational skin diseases in Denmark

Through observation in the out-patients clinic of contact dermatitis I got insight not only about clinical features of OSD but also into how patients with dermatoses gets managed in Gentofte Hospital. All adults patients with skin symptoms were routinely asked about work- relatedness of symptoms as well as use of gloves, wet work, risk professions, activities during leisure time and more . Waiting list for prick – and patch testing are also shorter than at Oslo University Hospital. I got the impression that at least the three dermatologists I was with, were very “aware” about OSD and included questions to assess this.

All patients with recently diagnosed occupational dermatoses also got health advice and information by well trained nurses.

The management of patients with occupational dermatoses at Gentofte Hospital will also be useful for discussions in work group two of this COST action: "Development of common European standards".

I have also spent some hours in patch and prick test laboratory.

2) Occupational statements for work- related dermatoses

I took part as an observer in two consultations for occupational statements led by Prof. dr. Torkil Menné.

The process for assessment and cause-relationship “judgement” in the diagnosis of OSD is quite similar to how we operate in the departments of Occupational Medicine in Norway. The main difference was that occupational physicians were not involved in the work exposure assessment and in taking occupational history. Consultations were time- demanding as confirming diagnoses of OSD requires skill in taking a medical and occupational history.

3) Work exposure assessment and glove extractions:

Dr. Ulrik Fischer Friis demonstrated the hole process for glove extractions. This process is based on procedures from Malmö, Sweden.

We have also discussed challenges and experiences regarding how to tackle lack of information in Safety Data Material Sheet.

Stepwise work exposure assessment was also explained and discussed.

4) Fillagrin testing:

Dr. Katrine Ross-Hansen showed and explained me how this PCR test get performed. I have learned that fillagrin mutations are also associated to higher risk for getting asthma. In Norway much of research into occupational diseases focuses on lung diseases. A project with focus on cleaning workers is being discussed at time being and eventual fillagrin testing will be suggested as a part of this.

5) Airborne provocations - hairdressers:

During this morning I spent half of the day together with Dr. Majken Hougaard. Full protocol for airborne provocation testing with peroxide sulfate was demonstrated with a control patient. I was also taught about how to evaluate nasal obstruction by analyzing reflections of sound pulse with acoustic rhinometry. We have also discussed our experiences with hairdressers.

In Norway it is mandatory for all hairdressers to make use of Occupational Health Services while in Denmark Occupational Health Services are not longer obligatory.

As a result of this STSM Dr. Majken Hougaard has been introduced to a PhD student working with a project with hairdressers in Norway. Both students have shown interest to exchange experiences.

6) Different PhD projects being carried out in National Allergy Research Centre:

In a chatting-round with researchers working at the National Allergy Research Centre I got introduced to different research projects. I also got copies of previous PhD dissertations that have been donated to the Library belonging to the National Institute of Occupational Health.



At the fillagrin laboratory with Dr. Katrine Ross-Hansen



At the glove extractions laboratory



Airborne provocations - hairdressers

4) Planned activities after STSM:

- 1) As a result of this STSM I have been invited to hold lectures about OSD for the following groups:
 - a) Department of occupational medicine and epidemiology. National Institute of Occupational Health. April 2014.
 - b) Department of dermatology. Oslo University Hospital. Autumn 2014.
 - c) Department of occupational and environmental medicine. Oslo University Hospital. Autumn 2014.

The three departments mentioned above are interested in updating and improving their internal procedures regarding management of occupational dermatoses.

 - d) Training course for occupational nurses. Oslo. Sept 2014.
 - e) Update seminar for residents into Occupational Medicine in Norway. Tromsø. Sept. 2014.
 - f) Annual Congress of the Argentinean Society of Dermatology. August 2014. As I am unable to participate, a poster will be presented by the leader of the Contact Dermatitis Group, Dr. Marta Patricia De la Forgia.
- 2) Send an article about the Management of Occupational Dermatoses in Denmark to the Norwegian Journal for Occupational and Environmental Medicine.
- 3) Send a suggestion to update the chapter of occupational contact dermatitis in the Norwegian Guidelines for Occupational Medicine.
- 4) Researchers from National Allergy Research Center - Gentofte University Hospital are welcome to have STSM at both Oslo University Hospital and the National Institute of Occupational Health, Norway.



5) Confirmation by the host institution (National Allergy Research Centre) of the successful execution of the STSM":

'Dr. Jose Hernán Alfonso visited The National Allergy Research Centre and The Department of Dermato-Allergology, Gentofte Hospital from 31. th March to 4th April 2014. The execution of the visit was very successful, dr. Jose Hernán Alfonso demonstrated great knowledge in the area of OSD, was very openminded and intersted in seeing and learing the methods we use in our institution. His visit was highly appreciated and he got on well with the starff and researchers. He fullfilled all the purposes of his visit and also gave us a vauable insight into the strategies used in Norway concerning occupational disease. Plans are made for future scientific collaborations between the two institutions.'

*Prof. dr. med. Jeanne Duus Johansen
Dr. Jacob P. Thyssen
15/04/2014*