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Sundhedsminister Ellen Trane Nørby
Cc. Sundheds- og Ældreudvalget

**Vedr.: Sundhedsministerens besvarelse på spørgsmål nr. 730 angående:
"redegøre for de seneste internationale erfaringer og anbefalinger vedr.
behandling af borrelia, bl.a. fra WHO og Storbritannien"**

Dantick Gruppen har følgende spørgsmål til sundhedsministeren i forbindelse med svaret til Sundheds- og Ældreudvalgets spørgsmål rejst efter Frederik Bramms foretræde for udvalget den 20. marts 2018.

Spørgsmål 1

Når Sundhedsstyrelsen har overladt "laboratoriediagnostik og behandling for Borrelia-infektion i Danmark" til "en ekspertgruppe nedsat af Dansk Selskab for Infektionsmedicin, Dansk Selskab for Klinisk Mikrobiologi og Dansk Neurologisk Selskab", hvordan kan styrelsen så overholde:

"§ 2. Sundhedsstyrelsen skal følge sundhedsforholdene og skal holde sig orienteret om den til enhver tid værende faglige viden på sundhedsområdet."

I "Bekendtgørelse af lov om sundhedsvæsenets centralstyrelse m.v." (1) ikke mindst ud fra den betragtning at Borrelia Klaringsrapporten er over fire år gammel (udkom februar 2014).

Spørgsmål 2

Mener sundhedsministeren at det er betryggende at Sundhedsstyrelsen ikke er "bekendt med, at WHO eller andre internationale sundhedsorganisationer nyligt har udgivet anbefalinger el.lign. angående Borrelia-infektioner." Når ECDC (European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control) i 2016 udgav en omfattende litteratur gennemgang vedr. Borrelia-tests diagnostiske nøjagtighed (2), hvor man i konklusionen kunne læse følgende (oversat fra engelsk):

"Mere information er nødvendig, herunder forekomst af Lyme borreliose blandt de testede og de kliniske konsekvenser af et negativt eller positivt testresultat.

Serologiske testresultater til diagnosticering af Lyme borreliosis, skal fortolkes med forsigtighed og er kun understøttende for diagnosen i kombination med et klinisk billede, i overensstemmelse med de anerkendte kriterier.

Spørgsmål 3

Er sundhedsministeren informeret om, hvorvidt Sundhedsstyrelsen er bekendt med den meget omfattende Borreliose-rapport udarbejdet i Storbritannien – uafhængigt af NICE-litteraturgennemgangen – færdiggjort i dec. 2017 af Englands Department of Health (3), der fandt følgende (*oversat fra engelsk*):

Vedr. Tests:

"Laboratorieundersøgelser for Borreliose har betydelige begrænsninger i forbindelse med test nøjagtighed, ... og mangel på ensartethed i tolkning af testresultater"

"Der er huller i det eksisterende evidensgrundlag, herunder generel manglende solid evidens på diagnostiske tests"

Vedr. Behandling:

"Begrænset evidens for ... erfaringer med behandling ... udelukkende et fremadrettet forskningsbehov"

Vedr. Patientoplevelse:

"En vanskelig rejse til at få en diagnose og behandling. ..."

"Ambivalens eller skepsis fra læger"

"Nødvendigt selv at fremskaffe information om Borreliose ..."

"... personlig økonomisk byrde ..."

Og vil sundhedsministeren bede Sundhedsstyrelsen tage Borreliose-rapporten fra Englands Department of Health til efterretning.

Spørgsmål 4

Deler sundhedsministeren Sundhedsstyrelsens opfattelse af, at de kommende britiske NICE-retningslinjer (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence) for diagnostik og behandling af Borrelia-infektion (4), ikke lægger op til "væsentlige ændringer", når der i udkastet er følgende ændring i forhold til de nuværende retningslinjer (5) vedrørende antibiotika-behandling (*oversat fra engelsk*):

- Minimum behandlings-varighed er forlænget fra 10 til 17 dage
- Amoxicillin dosis (voksne) er fordoblet fra 500mg til 1000mg
- Ændring af den tidligere snævre tolkning af behandlings-svigt:
"Genbehandling kan anbefales i atypiske tilfælde af Neuroborreliose og arthritis."

til en udvidet tolkning af behandlings-svigt:

"Hvis symptomer, der kan være relateret til Borreliose er vedvarende, fortsat ikke forbedres eller forværres efter antibiotikabehandling, gennemgå patientens sygehistorie og symptomer, ...

...

Overvej genbehandling med antibiotika for patienter med vedvarende symptomer, hvis behandling kan være mislykket.

Spørgsmål 5

Mener sundhedsministeren, at det er troværdigt, når Sundhedsstyrelsen hævder, at det (kun) er en hypotese, at "langvarig Borrelia-infektion" kan forekomme, efter antibiotikabehandling af den "sædvanligt anbefalede varighed", set i lyset af følgende uafhængige direkte fund ved dyrkning og DNA (oversat fra engelsk):

Persisterende Borrelia-infektion hos patienter med vedvarende symptomer fra Borreliose, 2018 (6):

"Ved brug af flere samstemmende påvisningsmetoder (dyrkning, DNA) har vi påvist, at patienter med vedvarende Borreliose-symptomer kan have en vedvarende spirokæt-infektion (Borrelia-infektion) på trods af antibiotika behandling, ..."

Variable manifestationer, vekslende seroreaktivitet og post-behandling persistens i ikke-humane primater udsat for Borrelia burgdorferi ved flåtbid, 2017 (7):

"... vi observerede tegn (dyrkning, DNA) på vedvarende, intakt, metabolisk-aktiv B. burgdorferi (Borrelia) efter antibiotikabehandling af dissemineret infektion og påviste, at persistens ikke nødvendigvis afspejles ved opretholdelse af specifik antistofproduktion hos værten."

Spørgsmål 6

Mener sundhedsministeren, at det er troværdigt, når Sundhedsstyrelsen hævder, at det (kun) er en hypotese, at "langvarig Borrelia-infektion" kan "behandles med antibiotikakure langt ud over den sædvanligt anbefalede varighed", set i lyset af følgende uafhængige placebokontrollerede forsøg (oversat fra engelsk):

Et randomiseret, placebo-kontrolleret forsøg med gentagende intravenøs antibiotikabehandling for Borreliose encephalopati, 2005 (8):

"Signifikant forbedring i kognitiv og fysisk funktionsevne efter 12 uger ..."

Studie og behandling af post-Borreliose (STOP-LD): et randomiseret dobbeltblindet klinisk forsøg, 2003 (8):

"Betydelig forbedring i forhold til træthed konstateret hos 64% af behandlingsgruppen ..."

Spørgsmål 7

Er sundhedsministeren bekendt med, at der ikke foreligger, et eneste, internationalt anerkendt objektivt eller klinisk grundlag for at stille diagnosen Funktionel Lidelse:

Funktionelle lidelser hos neurologiske patienter, 2015 (9):

"Patogenesen og patofysiologien er ikke helt forstået ..."

Der findes ikke ét klinisk tegn eller én test som er patognomonisk og tilstrækkelig specifikke for at stille diagnosen ... hvorved en udelukkende anvendelse af ICD-10- og DSM-IV -diagnosekriterier (WHO's diagnosesystem) ikke er praktisabel. ...

Referencer

Ingen angivet"

Spørgsmål 8

Er sundhedsministeren opmærksom på, at det, Sundhedsstyrelsen kalder "forskellig-arterede og uspecifikke symptomer", og som styrelsen mener skyldes "funktionelle lidelser", har påfaldende lighed med symptomer ved bl.a. Kronisk Borreliose:

Symptomer ved Kronisk Borreliose v/ Sam Donta (10) % = andel af tilfælde	Symptomer ved Funktionelle Lidelser v/ Per Fink (11)
Muskuloskeletale 90% <i>dvs. forhold angående led, knogler, sener, muskler, nervesystem og bindevævsfunktioner samt disses indbyrdes påvirkninger</i>	Smerter i armene eller benene, Muskelsmerter eller ømhed, Ledsmarter, Følelse af lammelse eller lokaliseret kraftnedsættelse, Rygsmerter, Smerter som flytter sig fra sted til sted, Trykken i brystet.
Træthed 84%	Træthed
Hovedpine 78%	Hovedpine
Kognitive 74%	Koncentrationsbesvær, Hukommelsessvigt
Humørsvingninger 57%	Varm- eller koldsved, Mundtørhed (<i>indikation på nervøsitet, angst eller stress</i>)
Mavesmerter eller kvalme 48%	Hyppige løse afføringer, Mavesmerter, Oppustethed, Spændings- eller tyngde fornemmelse i maven, Diarré, Sure opstød, Kvalme, Brændende fornemmelse i brystet eller det øverste af maven
Paræstesi 46% <i>brændende, følelsesløshed, prikken, kløe eller prikkende</i>	Ubehagelig dødhedsfornemmelse eller føleforstyrrelser
Nakkesmerter 43%	Muskelsmerter eller ømhed
Øjensymptomer 40%	-
Andet 79% <i>svimmelhed, søvndysfunktion, hjertebanken, ondt i halsen, dyspnø, tremor, "anfald", kæbe eller tandpine, dysuri</i>	Svimmelhed, Hjertebanken, Forpustethed uden anstrengelse

Spørgsmål 9

Er sundhedsministeren bekendt med baggrunden for, hvordan begrebet Funktionelle Lidelser – tidligere benævnt hypokondri – har fundet indpas i Sundhedsvæsenet, og at det fra begyndelsen har været er en ren spareøvelse:

Klapjagt på 6000 hospitals-hypokondere, 1998 (12):

"Op mod 6000 patienter har i årevis unødigt belastet sygehusene i Århus Amt ... Derfor udpeger amtet et hold af århusianske forskere, der skal bremse de mange patienter ... i deres dyre og tidrøvende rundtur i det lokale sundheds-system.

...

En stor del af patienterne går under betegnelsen hypokondere, men gruppen tæller også patienter med kronisk træthedssyndrom, piskesmæld og fibromyalgi

....

»Ordet hypokonder har en nedsættende klang - det er jo en, der bare foregiver at være syg. Men det dækker over mennesker, der ikke kan leve et normalt liv, fordi de er så optagede af tegn på sygdom, De ser sygdomme alle vegne, og hele deres liv kommer til at dreje sig om at holde øje med små faresignaler fra kroppen. Dem finder de hver dag. Dermed er de lige så invaliderede, som hvis de faktisk var syge.« siger Per Fink.»

Vi ser frem til sundhedsministerens besvarelse.

Med venlig hilsen

Dantick Gruppen

Alex Holmstedt, Christel Kiil, Else Wiese, Frederik Bramm, Martin Jack, Søs Lunding

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Lyme disease: a turning point

'...the medical community should keep an open mind regarding treatment options for Lyme disease and not jump to conclusions based on a solitary study with poor generalizability.'

Expert Rev. Anti Infect. Ther. 5(5), 759–762 (2007)

Lyme disease is one of the most controversial illnesses in the history of medicine [1,2]. Over the past decade, two opposing camps have emerged in the controversy over this tick-borne illness. One camp is represented by the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), which maintains that Lyme disease is a rare illness localized to well-defined areas of the world. According to the IDSA, the disease is 'hard to catch and easy to cure' because the infection is rarely encountered, easily diagnosed in its early stage by means of accurate commercial laboratory tests and effectively treated with a short course of antibiotics over 2–4 weeks. Chronic infection with the Lyme spirochete, *Borrelia burgdorferi*, is rare or nonexistent [3].

The opposing camp is represented by the International Lyme and Associated Diseases Society (ILADS), which argues that Lyme disease is not rare and, because its spread is facilitated by rodents, deer and birds, it can

be found in an unpredictable distribution around the world accompanied by other tick-borne coinfections that may complicate the clinical picture. According to the ILADS, tick bites often go unnoticed and commercial laboratory testing for Lyme disease is inaccurate [1,4]. Consequently, the disease is often not recognized and may persist in a large number of patients, requiring prolonged antibiotic therapy to eradicate persistent infection with the evasive Lyme spirochete [1,4].

The battle over chronic Lyme disease has taken some unprecedented turns. As of 2007, more than 19,000 scientific articles about tick-borne diseases have been published, and the dichotomy

between basic science studies and clinical research articles is striking: while basic science studies continue to highlight the invasiveness and elusiveness of *B. burgdorferi* in culture systems and animal models, clinical research articles adhere to the dogma that *B. burgdorferi* produces a limited infection that is eradicated easily [5,6]. Patients with persistent symptoms are labeled as having 'post-Lyme syndrome', hypothesized to be an autoimmune response to the previously eradicated infection. To date, attempts to elucidate the autoimmune mechanism of post-Lyme syndrome have been unsuccessful [7,8].

While IDSA followers have embraced the post-Lyme syndrome concept and foresworn long-term antibiotic treatment, followers of

the ILADS have continued to use antibiotics to treat persistently symptomatic Lyme patients for chronic infection with *B. burgdorferi* and coinfecting tick-borne agents. They cite animal studies that demonstrate

'Over the past decade, two opposing camps have emerged in the controversy over this tick-borne illness.'

persistent infection by a complex organism, as well as numerous clinical reports that document failure of the standard 2–4 weeks of antibiotic therapy recommended by the IDSA [1,9–12]. The controversy came to a head in November 2006 when the IDSA released new guidelines severely limiting treatment options for patients with persistent Lyme symptoms [3]. The guidelines were so restrictive that the Attorney General of Connecticut (USA) initiated an unprecedented investigation into possible antitrust violations by the IDSA, the dominant infectious disease society in the USA, in its formulation of the guidelines [13,101].

To support its restrictive stance on Lyme disease, the IDSA cites a study by Klempner and colleagues published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in 2001 [14]. Sponsored by the US NIH, the trial examined a well-defined cohort of patients with persistent symptoms of Lyme disease despite treatment with standard antibiotic therapy. The patients were randomized to receive either placebo or 1 month of intravenous ceftriaxone followed by 2 months of oral doxycycline. Treatment was administered in a blinded fashion and response to treatment was evaluated with a validated quality-of-life outcome tool in an intent-to-treat analysis. The conclusion of this randomized, controlled trial was that patients who received 90 days of antibiotic therapy were no more likely to improve than patients who received placebo. In fact, 60% of patients in the study either stayed the same or became worse, regardless of treatment.

The results of this investigation were interpreted as showing that long-term antibiotic therapy is ineffective for patients with persistent symptoms of Lyme disease [15,16]. Owing to the prestigious nature of the study sponsor and publisher, this interpretation was circulated widely in the medical literature and the lay press, and was immediately adopted by insurance companies, who used the study results to deny antibiotic therapy beyond the 2–4-week IDSA limit to patients with chronic Lyme disease. As a result of the IDSA's promotion of the study conclusions, chronic Lyme disease ceased to be a treatable infection in the eyes of the medical community. Physicians who continued to treat beyond the IDSA limit risked medical board sanctions or medical license revocation based on this solitary study [11].

More than 5 years after publication of the Klempner article, the 'over-reaching impact' of the study has finally been challenged. Cameron examined the generalizability of the Klempner study findings in terms of the patient cohort, the treatment regimen

and subsequent studies of prolonged antibiotic therapy in chronic Lyme disease [17]. Patients in the study cohort had been sick for an average of 4.7 years and had been treated with an average of three courses of antibiotics, making this a 'retreatment' study of patients who had already failed similar therapy. Furthermore, based on the health-related quality-of-life scale that was used, the treatment regimen was inadequate for the degree of functional compromise in these patients in terms of intravenous antibiotic duration and oral antibiotic dose. Cameron concluded that the study represents a 'too-little too-late' approach to a highly selected, extensively treated patient group that differs significantly from more typical chronic Lyme patients who are either untreated or undertreated. Based on the lack of generalizability of the study results, the blanket interpretation that long-term antibiotics are ineffective for chronic Lyme disease is invalid [17].

Subsequent randomized, placebo-controlled trials of antibiotic treatment in chronic Lyme disease have failed to support the conclusions of the Klempner trial (TABLE 1). Krupp *et al.* showed that 1 month of intravenous ceftriaxone improved the primary outcome measure of fatigue in a cohort of chronic Lyme patients [18]. For the other two primary outcome measures, cognitive function remained unchanged and borrelial antigen persisted in cerebrospinal fluid in a subset of patients after this relatively short treatment course (1 vs 3 months in the other placebo-controlled trials described here). Of interest, patients who had not received previous intravenous antibiotic therapy did significantly better than controls in terms of improvement in fatigue (69 vs 0% improvement; $p < 0.01$). This observation underscores the significance of prior treatment failure and the poor generalizability of the Klempner trial. Three cases of life-threatening sepsis occurred in the placebo group (11%) versus none in the ceftriaxone group (0%). This finding demonstrates the relative safety of indwelling

Table 1. Placebo-controlled trials of antibiotic treatment in chronic Lyme disease.

Study	Treatment	Results	Comment	Ref.
Klempner <i>et al.</i> (2001)	Ceftriaxone iv. for 4 weeks, then oral doxycycline for 2 months vs placebo	No improvement in fatigue or quality of life	Study criticized because subjects had been sick for an average of 4.7 years and had already failed similar treatment. Treatment regimen inadequate for degree of functional impairment	[14]
Krupp <i>et al.</i> (2003)	Ceftriaxone iv. for 4 weeks vs placebo	Significant improvement in fatigue noted in 64% of treatment group vs 19% of controls. No improvement in cognition	Exact duration of illness not stated (≤ 6 months). Relatively short treatment. Previously untreated patients did significantly better than controls in terms of fatigue improvement (69 vs 0%; $p < 0.01$)	[18]
Fallon <i>et al.</i> (2005)	Ceftriaxone iv. for 10 weeks vs placebo	Significant improvement in cognitive and physical functioning at 12 weeks in treatment group vs controls	Improvement in physical functioning but not cognitive functioning sustained in treatment group at 24 weeks	[20]
Cameron (2005)	Oral amoxicillin for 3 months vs placebo	Significant improvement in cognitive and physical functioning in treatment group vs controls	Treatment successful in two-thirds of patients with best initial quality of life but failed in a third of patients with worst initial quality of life	[22]

iv.: Intravenous.

catheters when antibiotic therapy is administered through these catheters [19] [STRICKER RB, UNPUBLISHED DATA]. Conversely, the risks of placebo treatment with these catheters may limit future controlled trials of long-term therapy in chronic Lyme disease.

In two additional studies, Fallon *et al.* showed that retreatment with 10 weeks of intravenous ceftriaxone improved cognitive and physical function in chronic Lyme patients [20]. Although improvement in physical functioning was sustained for 14 weeks after treatment cessation, cognitive improvement was not. The investigators employed a highly sensitive testing system to define the cognitive deficits in their patients [21]. Cameron showed that 90 days of oral amoxicillin improved quality of life in a similar group of patients [22]. In this study, patients with the best initial quality of life did significantly better with retreatment than patients with the worst initial quality of life. Cameron noted that patients with the best quality of life were significantly different from patients in the Klempner trial in terms of baseline level of dysfunction and treatment failure rate [22]. In a subsequent analysis, Cameron found that poor quality of life was associated with delay of initial antibiotic treatment, a variable that was not examined in the Klempner trial [23]. Taken as a whole, these studies support the conclusion that longer antibiotic therapy is effective in subsets of patients with chronic Lyme disease, and that adoption of the opposite interpretation based on the Klempner study is premature.

In the absence of consensus regarding the diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease, the battle will continue over appropriate treatment of patients with persistent symptoms of this tick-borne illness [24]. It is helpful to recall that *B. burgdorferi* shares certain pathophysiological features with mycobacterial and other chronic infections, including secretion of autoinducer enzymes designed to resuscitate dormant organisms [25], signaling via the same cell receptors [26] and induction of immunosuppressive factors [10,27–29]. Furthermore, chronic infection with these organisms may require prolonged antibiotic therapy (6–36 months), and the risks of long-term treatment are considered justifiable in those situations [24]. The lesson here is that the medical community should keep an open mind regarding treatment options for Lyme disease and not jump to conclusions based on a solitary study with poor generalizability.

Financial & competing interests disclosure

RB Stricker serves on the advisory panel for QMedRx Inc.. The authors have no other relevant affiliations or financial involvement with any organization or entity with a financial interest in or financial conflict with the subject matter or materials discussed in the manuscript apart from those disclosed.

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Funktionelle lidelser hos neurologiske patienter

Beskrivelse

Funktionelle neurologiske symptomer og tilstande er hyppige og kan medføre et lige så stort handicap og belastning som organiske sygdomme. Patogenesen og patofysiologien er ikke helt forstået endnu, men den mest kendte teori er, at psykisk intolerabel stress (ønsker, forestillinger, fantasier) transformeres ubevist til somatiske symptomer (konversionsreaktion).

Klinisk billede og klinisk undersøgelse

De fleste neurologiske symptomer kan have en funktionel baggrund. Eksempler er: føleforstyrrelser, paresteser, gang- og andre bevægeforstyrrelser, kranienerveudfald, sprog eller stemmeforandring, kognitive udfald og funktionelle epileptiske anfald (PNES).

Karakteristisk for funktionelle symptomer er deres inkonsistens i den kliniske præsentation og deres inkongruens i forhold til kendte neurologiske sygdomsmønstre. Fokus i den kliniske undersøgelse skal ligge på disse to kernelementer (se bilag A).

Diagnose og fejl diagnose

Der findes ikke ét klinisk tegn eller én test som er patognomonisk og tilstrækkelig specifikke for at stille diagnosen alene.

Parakliniske undersøgelser (billedediagnostik, neurofysiologi etc.) bruges på nuværende tidspunkt kun for at udelukke organiske læsioner / funktionsforstyrrelser i nervesystemet. Diagnosen må således stilles efter en samlet vurdering af de kliniske og parakliniske fund af en neurologisk erfaren læge, hvorved en udelukkende anvendelse af ICD-10- og DSM-IV -diagnosekriterier ikke er praktiserbar.

Efter i årevis at have betragtet diagnosen "funktionel" overvejende som udelukkelses-diagnose, observeres i de seneste år et paradigmeskift hvorefter diagnosen skal stilles mere "aktivt", dvs. på positive kriterier. Dette betyder stadigvæk, at alle relevante differentialdiagnoser skal undersøges med stor omhu og efter god klinisk praksis; ikke mindst fordi en samtidig forekomst af organisk sygdom og funktionel overbygning er hyppig.

Manipulation af pa

I selve processen af diagnoseformidling skal der derimod fremhæves, at "man ikke bare ikke har fundet tegn til sygdom (og derfor må det være funktionel)" - men forklare, at lignende tilstande er velkendt og, at den måde patienter har symptomer på, er typisk for funktionelle lidelser og, at diagnosen derfor kan stilles, frem for at efterlade patienter med "uforklaret eller uklassificeret symptom-diagnoser". Brug evt.

hjemmesiden: "neurosymptoms.org" eller den nationale behandlingsvejledning som redskab til kommunikation. Denne "aktive-måde" skal accelerere patienternes adgang til terapi, forbedre prognosen og ikke efterlade patienten med frygt for en ukendt sygdom.

Raten for fejl diagnostisering ligger formentlig ikke meget højere end for de fleste andre neurologiske sygdomme. Et større studie angiver 5 %, men flere studier er tiltrængt. Der er mange situationer, som kan føre til under- eller overdiagnosticering af funktionelle symptomer. Vær specielt opmærksom på følgende:

1. diagnosen er stillet af en læge som ikke er bekendt med variationsbredden af neurologiske sygdomspræsentationer
2. der bliver lagt for meget vægt på patienternes psykiatriske komorbiditet
3. tilstedeværelse af både funktionelle og organiske symptomer
4. symptomet er "gangforstyrrelser"
5. diagnosen er i virkeligheden "frontallapseeptosepsi".



Terapi

Patienter med funktionelle symptomer som tilbydes en form af behandling og opfølgning er mere tilfredse og har formentlig en bedre prognose. Som udgangspunkt skal patienter med subjektiv betydende symptomer eller handicap derfor behandles. Det er uvist, om patienter med meget milde symptomer (diskrete føleforstyrrelser som tilfældigt fund) ligeledes profiterer af terapi.

Der findes ikke større eller randomiseret - kontrollerede studier i forhold til behandlingsmåden (undtagelse PNES). Det aktuelle behandlingskoncept er således et pragmatisk forslag, opbygget på det nuværende studiegrundlag.

Som udgangspunkt foregår udredning og diagnosesamtalen i neurologisk regi og betragtes som basis for et tillidsfuldt patientforløb. Den videre opfølgning sker enten i neurologisk eller psykiatrisk regi, hvorved sund fornuft, mere end et videnskabeligt grundlag, er bestemmende for intensiteten. Henvielse til fysioterapi anbefales, uden at en bestemt form foretrækkes. Screening og behandling af psykiatrisk komorbiditet (depression, angst, panik etc.) af en fagkyndig person er fornuftig.

Psykoterapi, kognitiv adfærdsterapi, hypnose, sedation, TMS (Transkranielle magnetstimulation), TENS (Transkutan elektrisk nervestimulation), medicinsk behandling eller akupunktur kan på nuværende tidspunkt ikke generelt anbefales, men er en mulighed for den udvidede individuelle behandling. Placebobehandling har muligvis en god effekt, men modsiger vores generelle forestilling om en transparent og informeret læge-patient-relation og anbefales derfor ikke.

På Neurologisk Afdeling henvises efter diagnosestilling, både til fysioterapi og Liaisonklinikken til videre opfølgning. Samtidig opfølgning i neurologisk regi er ikke reglen, men kan ske efter individuel vurdering (for eksempel ved både organiske og funktionelle symptomer).

KLINISK BILLEDE

De fleste neurologiske symptomer kan have en funktionel baggrund. Karakteristisk er deres inkonsistens i den kliniske præsentation og deres inkongruens i forhold til kendte neurologiske sygdomsmønstre. Fokus i den kliniske undersøgelse skal ligge på disse to kernelementer.

DIAGNOSE

Der findes ikke ét klinisk tegn eller én test som er patognomonisk og tilstrækkelig specifikke for at stille diagnosen alene. Parakliniske undersøgelser kan bruges til at udelukke organiske læsioner. Diagnosen stilles efter en samlet vurdering af de kliniske og parakliniske fund af en neurologisk erfaren læge.

BEHANDLING

Efter diagnosticering henvises både til fysioterapi og Liaisonklinikken til videre opfølgning. Samtidig opfølgning i neurologisk regi er ikke reglen.

Referencer

Ingen angivet



BILAG A: SYMPTOMPRAESENTATION OG NEUROLOGISK UNDERSØGELSE

Fokus i den kliniske undersøgelse skal ligge på inkonsistens og inkongruens af symptomerne, både i gennem observation og evt specielle kliniske tegn og tests. **Nedenunder beskrevne tegn og tests er ikke tilstrækkeligt valideret og har indskrænkninger, som den undersøgende læge skulle være bevist om.** For eksempel kan smerter og neglect give atypiske symptom-præsentationer.

ANAMNESE

- Ofte angst, depression eller andre psykiatriske lidelser i anamnesen
- Ved symptomdebut ofte angst- eller dissociationssymptomer
- Mange/ andre uspecifikke klager

HUKOMMELSE OG KOGNITIVE FORSTYRRELSER

- hyppigt ledsagende symptom ved funktionelle patienter
- ofte svingende problemer med at huske data til egen person (adresse, livshistorie) og samtidig velbevaret hukommelse for andre ting (aktuelle politik)
- **mønt i hånd test, som er så simpel at selv svær hjerneskadede mennesker ville svare rigtig, mens funktionelle patienter forventes at svare under den statistiske sansynlighed (Cave: nemt til at gennemskue)**

SYNSFORSTYRRELSER:

- sløret syn
 - på sammen side som sensorimotoriske udfald, intermitterende
- diplopi
 - monokulær diplopi (kan ses ved organisk sygdom)
 - binokulær diplopi, udløst af konvergensspasmus
 - OBS triplopi og polyopi ses ved organiske læsioner
- total blindhed
 - **når man sætter en spejl foran patienten kan man evt se konvergensreaktionen (ikke hvis patienten er virkelig blind)**
 - **ræk spontan hånden og se om patienten reflektorisk tager den**
 - observer hvordan patienten bevæger sig i rummet
 - **bed patienten spontant om, at sætte fingerspidserne sammen (det kan en blind person selvfølgelig, da det ikke kræver synet, men det ved en funktionel patient måske ikke)**
 - lad patienten se på en roterende tromme, hvilket hos en ikke blind person udløser optokinetisk nystagmus
- partiel blindhed
 - funktionelle monokulære synssymptomer er ofte en tubulær synsdefekt med den sammen visuelle feltet-brede ved 1m og 2m afstand. Normalt er synsfeltet konisk, således at feltet på 2m er dobbelt så stort som ved 1m afstand

ANDRE KRANIENERVERUDFALD

- **pseudoptose, udløst af et aktivt nedpresset øjenbryn kontralateral**
- **nystagmus, udløst af konvergensspasmus**
 - **anstrengende, derfor kun intermitterende**
 - ofte ledsaget af øjenblinken
 - ændring af pupilstørrelse (grundet konvergensreaktion)
- **pseudoabducensparese, udløst af konvergensspasmus**

- **pseudofacialispares**, udløst af overkontraktion af den ipsilaterale platysma eller kontralaterale mundvig

SPROGFORSTYRELSER

- ofte varierende, stammende, tøvende, mumlende
- især problemer med at indlede sætninger
- ofte værst, når direkte testet, evt forbedring ved at synge eller når patient taler emotionelt (bliver sur, glad etc)
- mutisme forekommer

SENSORISKE SYMPTOMER

- bliver ofte først bemærket i undersøgelsessituationen
- involverer ofte alle sansmodaliteter
- har oftest et ufysiologisk fordelingsmønster, som ikke svarer til et perifert- eller centralt mønster (for eksempel skarpt afgrænset ved leddet Cave: normvarianter og anastomoser)
- "midlinesplitting", ikke specifik
- "splitting af vibrationssansen", ikke specifik
- **"Ja-nej-testen /touch-no-touch-test": relativ nemt at gennemskue**
- *Forced-choice-test*: upraktisk, da meget tidkrævende
- *Bedside-forced-choice test*: kortere og mere praktisable end den lange version
- *Bowlus-Currier-test*: ikke sikker brugbart

PARESER

Anamnese

- debut: akut/subakut/kronisk, evt. ud af søvn, narkose eller efter fysisk traume
- ofte: brachial diplegi, mono-, hemi-, para- eller tetraparese, andre mønstre er sjældnere
- **ofte mange andre klager /symptomer og en psykiatrisk komorbiditet**
- lateralisering (høje vs venstre): kan ikke bruges som funktionel-tegn

Observation

- **observation af patienten under på- og afklædning, i venteværelse og under søvn**
- **dramatiserende anstrengelse ved forsøg at bevæge det paretiske kropsdel**
- **extra langsomme bevægelser (som koster extra meget kraft)**
- **uvilkårlige medbevægelser af den paretiske kropsdel**

Undersøgelse

- "la belle indifference" ikke specifik
- "collapsing weakness" ikke specifik
- "Arm-drop"
- **Hoovers test: indtil videre den bedst undersøgte test, formentlig relativ sensitiv og specifik, hvis der tages hensyn til testens indskrænkninger og fejlkilder**
- *Sonoo-abduktor tegn/ andre abduktionstests*: formentlig ikke bedre end Hoover
- *Babinski's tåfenomen*
- *Flex-ex-tegnet*: Hoover's lignende tegn for de øvre extremiteter
- *Reverse Hoovers-test*
- *Babinski-Tigh-Trunktest*

- *Monrad-Krohnstest*

GANGFORSTYRRELSER

- "going on ice"-mønstre
- "dragning gait" (benet bliver ind- eller udadroteret efterslæbt)
- "liniedanser-gang" med til side udstrakte arm og tendens til krænger til siden men med så udmerket balance, at pt kan fange sig i det aller sidste øjeblik
- at knække ind i knæerne ved hvert skridt
- at gå næsten i hug (med bøjet knæ), hvilket normaleris kræver mere kræfter og balance end normal gang
- normal bevæglighed og styrke i liggende position, mens gang og stand er umuligt (Cave: ataksi-abasi ses også ved NPH, trunkal ataksi og sensorisk ataksi)
- distraktions-responsive gangforstyrrelser (samtale, smartphone etc.)
- distraktions-responsive standfunktion (skriv tal på panden, som skal genkendes)
- "chair-test"
- Cave:
 - mærkeligt udseende gangmønstre kan være organisk! For eksempel kan nogen dystonipatienter løbe bedre end gå, eller bedre gå baglæns end frem
 - Symptomet "gangforstyrrelser" bliver formentlig hyppigere end andre funktionelle symptomer fejlagtig diagnosticeret som funktionelt.

DYSTONI

- fikseret dystoni uden stillingsfluktuationer (hyppigt en knyttet hånd eller indadroteret/plantarflekeret fod)

TREMOR OG ANDRE HYPERKINETISKE BEVÆGEFORSTYRRELSER

- variation i frekvens og amplitude (kan ses også ved organisk tremor)
- funktionel tremor har (hvis til stede i flere kropsdele) ofte den samme frekvens, mens organisk tremor har lidt forskellige frekvenser (ses evt kun i N-fys)
- samtidig anspændning af a- og antagonist (som ved voluntær tremor)
- distraktion ved mental opgave (regne etc.) fører til ændring/ophør af frekvens/amplitude
- påtvungen immobilisering eller belastning med en vægt gør ofte funktionel tremor værre, mens den forbedres ved organisk genese
- *Entrainmenttest*
- *Ballistisk bevægelse*

ANDRE

- synkegener/globusfornemmelse
- dysfoni
- PNES

HUSK

Hvis du er i tvivl: spørg en kollega! Tag evt en video med patientens samtykke

Issues in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Lyme Disease

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Abstract: Since the identification of the causative organism more than 30 years ago, there remain questions about the diagnosis and treatment of Lyme Disease. In this article, what is known about the disease will be reviewed, and approaches to the successful diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease described.

In considering the diagnosis of Lyme disease, a major problem is the inability of documenting the existence and location of the bacteria. After the initial transfer of the bacteria from the Ixodes tick into the person, the spirochetes spread locally, but after an initial bacteremic phase, the organisms can no longer be reliably found in body fluids. The bacteria are probably present in subcutaneous sites and intracellular loci. Currently, the use of circulating antibodies directed against specific antigens of the Lyme borrelia are the standard means to diagnose the disease, but specific antibodies are not an adequate means to assess the presence or absence of the organism. What is needed is a more Lyme-specific antigen as a more definitive adjunct to the clinical diagnosis.

As for the treatment of Lyme disease, the earliest phase is generally easily treated. But it is the more chronic form of the disease that is plagued with lack of information, frequently leading to erroneous recommendations about the type and duration of treatments. Hence, often cited recommendations about the duration of treatment, eg four weeks is adequate treatment, have no factual basis to support that recommendation, often leading to the conclusion that there is another, perhaps psychosomatic reason, for the continuing symptoms. *B. burgdorferi* is sensitive to various antibiotics, including penicillins, tetracyclines, and macrolides, but there are a number of mitigating factors that affect the clinical efficacy of these antibiotics, and these factors are addressed. The successful treatment of Lyme disease appears to be dependent on the use of specific antibiotics over a sufficient period of time. Further treatment trials would be helpful in finding the best regimens and duration periods.

At present, the diagnosis of Lyme disease is based primarily on the clinical picture. The pathophysiology of the disease remains to be determined, and the basis for the chronic illness in need of additional research. Whether there is continuing infection, auto-immunity to residual or persisting antigens, and whether a toxin or other bacterial-associated product(s) are responsible for the symptoms and signs remains to be delineated.

Keywords: Lyme disease, chronic, brain SPECT.

INTRODUCTION

The causative agent of Lyme disease is the spirochete, *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the species named after the discoverer of the organism, Willy Burgdorfer [1]. After the initial transfer of the bacteria from the Ixodes tick to the affected individual, the spirochetes spread locally at the site of the bite, but after an initial bacteremic phase that may last for up to 90 days, but usually for a few weeks [2], the organisms can no longer be reliably cultured or otherwise detected in blood, urine, spinal fluid or other body fluids.

The course of Lyme disease was initially described as being in stages, ie I, II, III, but this was later revised as occurring in three phases, ie Early Lyme disease, Early Disseminated Lyme disease, and Late Lyme disease [3]. This latter description is somewhat more accurate, but there is

often no separation between early and late or persistent/chronic Lyme disease, ie patients may progress from early to persisting symptoms without having obvious disseminated erythema migrans lesions that are characteristic of Early Disseminated Lyme disease. There are many patients as well who have early disease, but then no further symptoms for a number of weeks or months.

WHAT TO DO ABOUT TICK BITES

One of the issues is what to do if a patient has only a tick bite without a rash or other symptoms. In this case, presuming the tick is imbedded, some advice has been that nothing need be done unless the tick has been imbedded for more than 48 hours [4]. This recommendation relies on the results of animal experiments, but it remains uncertain whether this applies to the natural setting in humans. In the absence of a more definitive way to determine whether the individual has been infected, a practical approach would be to have the tick analyzed to be sure it is an Ixodes tick and it is positive by

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PCR-DNA or IFA for the borrelial spirochete. These tests are available, and results obtained in a few days. If the test is negative, there is no need for any treatment; if positive, the recommendation would be to treat with amoxicillin, cefuroxime, or doxycycline, the duration of treatment unknown, but 1-2 weeks a reasonable period of time in the absence of any symptoms.

In the absence of testing the tick, the choice is either to wait until any rash or other symptoms appear, or empirically treat with a “double-dose” of doxycycline, ie 200mg [5]. Although this treatment might prevent the establishment of infection in most people who have been bit, there are failures to this approach, and patients who are given this treatment should be cautioned to observe for any symptoms over the subsequent few months.

MANAGING THE PATIENT WITH ERYTHEMA MIGRANS RASH

If a typical erythema migrans rash appears, the diagnosis is confirmed, and a course of treatment with doxycycline, amoxicillin, or cefuroxime has been shown to be efficacious [6]. The duration of treatment is usually 2-4 weeks, but it would seem logical and prudent to continue treatment if there are associated symptoms, albeit non-specific in nature, until those symptoms resolve, usually another few weeks, especially as there is no diagnostic tool to determine whether the infection is still present or has been eradicated. If there are subsequent or relapsing symptoms, treatment should be promptly reinstated, usually with doxycycline, but may require other treatments to resolve the symptoms.

MANAGING PATIENTS WITHOUT TYPICAL ERYTHEMA MIGRANS RASH

Patients with early Lyme disease may not have a typical erythema migrans rash, making the diagnosis more difficult. Indeed, half or more patients who have a rash do not have a typical “bull’s-eye” rash [7]. In this case, the clinician needs to include the diagnosis of Lyme disease if there are other symptoms, albeit non-specific, if the patient has an otherwise unexplained persisting illness. Serologic testing for Lyme disease is often helpful, but if the screening ELISA type tests are negative, a Western Blot should be performed, looking especially for IgM reactivity [8]. Treatment of such patients would be empirical, consisting of similar regimens as with patients with typical early Lyme disease.

MANAGING PATIENTS WITH NO TICK BITE OR RASH WHO PRESENT WITH LATE LYME DISEASE

Patients with early Lyme disease, and some who were not aware of any tick bite or rash, may present several weeks or even a few months later with one of several clinical pictures that can be classified as late Lyme disease. These include aseptic meningitis, Bell’s palsy, heart block, and arthritis. In this case, ELISA tests are usually positive, but if negative, a Western Blot should be performed [8]. Treatment of such patients may require more prolonged treatment, or antimicrobial agents other than doxycycline, amoxicillin, cefuroxime, or intravenous ceftriaxone.

DIAGNOSIS OF LYME DISEASE IN PATIENTS WITH PERSISTING OR RELAPSING SYMPTOMS

There are patients who are not aware of any tick bite or any rash, who present with an illness consisting of a combination of symptoms, but without objective signs, that include persisting fatigue, arthralgias or myalgias, paresthesias, and neurocognitive dysfunction that could be due to Lyme disease (Table 1). Such patients frequently undergo various numerous evaluations, including rheumatology, neurology, and infectious disease consultations, without any definitive diagnosis, and are often classified as having chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, or depression. They are also often told they do not have Lyme disease. The facts, however, are that there are no currently available tests to determine whether the spirochetes are actually present or not present in an individual, and whether the bacteria are active or inactive. Hence, often cited recommendations about the duration of treatment, eg four weeks is curative or adequate treatment, have no factual basis to support that recommendation, disregarding the clinical picture, and leading to the conclusion that there is another, perhaps psychosomatic reason, for the continuing symptoms. As there is overlap in symptomatology between patients who are diagnosed as having chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, and those who have persisting symptoms with Lyme disease [8, 9], there is great difficulty clinically in knowing who amongst those with chronic fatigue and fibromyalgia might have persisting Lyme disease.

In patients with relapsing or persisting symptoms, screening tests such as ELISA are usually negative, but Western Blots often show antibody reactions to highly specific proteins, eg 23kd, 31kd, 34kd, 39kd, 93k, especially by IgM, that support the clinical diagnosis [8,10,11] (Table 2). The Western Blot criteria that were initially adopted for sur-

Table 1. Symptoms of Chronic Lyme Disease

MUSCULOSKELETAL	90%*
FATIGUE	84%
HEADACHE	78%
COGNITIVE	74%
MOOD CHANGES	57%
STOMACH PAIN or NAUSEA	48%
PARESTHESIAS	46%
NECK PAIN	43%
EYE SYMPTOMS	40%
FEVERS OR SWEATS	39%
OTHER	79%#

*Percentage of symptoms in 101 pediatric patients with chronic Lyme disease

#Other symptoms include dizziness (51%), sleep dysfunction (25%), palpitations or tachycardia (19%), sore throats (19%), dyspnea (18%), tremors, “seizures” (18%), jaw or tooth pain (13%), rashes or bruises (13%), dysuria (11%)

Table 2. Western Blot vs ELISA in Chronic Lyme Disease

ELISA	Western Blot	
	Positive	Negative
Positive	72 (29%)*	2 (1%)
Negative	133 (52%)	47(18.5%)

*Numbers of patients (%) with chronic Lyme disease with positive or negative ELISA and Western Blot reactions.

veillance purposes, then subsequently used clinically, were based on patients with Late Lyme Disease, who have objective signs, such as swelling in usually a single joint such as the knee, that appeared subsequent to a documented tick bite and/or typical erythema migrans rash and whose screening ELISA test is strongly positive [12,13]; however, these criteria did not include patients with chronic persisting symptoms, and subsequent studies have demonstrated that two-thirds or more of these patients have negative screening tests, but positive Western Blot reactions, especially by IgM. Even in those patients with more obvious late Lyme disease, the criteria of needing 5 of ten reactions on IgG Western Blot to make a diagnosis is not supported by the published data, wherein a reaction to even one specific protein of *B. burgdorferi* has a 90% positive correlation with the clinical diagnosis.

There are additional issues relating to the criteria for a positive IgM test on Lyme Western blot. The recommended criteria for diagnosis of early Lyme disease are that there be 2 of 3 positive reactions to one of three borrelial proteins, ie 23kd, 39kd, or 41kd proteins. But if there are similar reactions in patients with later manifestations or persisting symptoms, the recommended interpretation is that these are false positive results. This interpretation lacks any logical or scientific foundation, and has added to confusion about the value of serologic data. Observations in numerous patients over the past 25 years suggest that these positive IgM reactions in patients with chronic symptoms are meaningful as a surrogate for disease activity [8,10,11].

Brain SPECT scans can often be helpful in supporting the clinical diagnosis of chronic active Lyme disease. Perfusion deficits occur in 75% of patients with neurocognitive dysfunction [14]. The deficits occur primarily in the temporal, parietal, and frontal lobes (Table 3), and these deficits resolve with successful treatment. In contrast, MRI of the brain may in 15% of patients show T2 signal hyperintense lesions indistinguishable from those seen with multiple sclerosis. Hence, SPECT scans and MRI studies of the brain in patients with relapsing, persisting symptoms can be useful adjuncts to the clinical diagnosis.

What has not been particularly helpful is analysis of CSF fluid in patients with persisting symptoms. There is a continuing recommendation that patients who have neurologic symptoms such as short-term memory loss or mood changes will have positive antibody or PCR-DNA results in spinal fluid, but only rarely have spinal fluid examinations yielded positive results.

There are other adjunctive tests that may be helpful in the diagnosis and management of patients with persisting symp-

oms. CD57 levels have been proposed as a means of monitoring the severity of the illness, but its specificity for Lyme disease has not been demonstrated [15], and there are patients who are symptomatic with normal CD57 levels and those who are not with subnormal CD57 levels. Similarly, the role of other immunologic responses, specifically cell-mediated associated responses, in the diagnosis and management of patients with Lyme disease remains to be proven. It seems reasonable to assume that the cell-mediated arm of the immune system is involved in chronic and intracellular based infections, and there are some observations that cell-mediated responses to specific Lyme antigens are increased in patients with Lyme disease, but more studies are needed, especially longitudinal studies, to evaluate the utility of these tests in such patients.

PATHOGENESIS AND PATHOPHYSIOLOGY OF LYME DISEASE

Once the spirochetes enter the subcutaneous tissue, they likely localize in neuronal tissues [16,17], probably sensory ganglia, commensurate with the various clinical manifestations, but perhaps as well in other sites and cells such as endothelial or glial cells [8]. They may persist in subcutaneous sites, but their long-term survival is likely in intracellular loci. The location in subcutaneous tissues, especially near the surface, is consistent with the ability of larvae of the *Ixodes* ticks to become infected when they take a blood meal from a deer or white-footed mouse, as well as in experiments of xenodiagnosis [18]. Whether the spirochetes are randomly located in subcutaneous space or whether they are present in endothelial cells of capillaries or in the ends of dendritic cell processes has yet to be determined. As for an intracellular locus, an acidic endosome such as the lysosome or a late

Table 3. Localization of Brain SPECT Scan Perfusion Deficits in Patients with Chronic Lyme Disease*

1.	Temporal lobe (46%)
2.	Frontal lobe (40%)
3.	Parietal lobe (33%)
4.	Temporal + Frontal lobes (27%)
5.	Temporal + Frontal + Parietal lobes (15%)
6.	Temporal + Parietal lobes (7%)
7.	Frontal + Parietal lobes (6%)
8.	No deficits (25%)

*Results of studies of 183 patients with chronic Lyme disease

endosome is the likely location, support for which hypothesis are the observations that macrolide antibiotics, which are highly effective *in vitro* and which can be transported to all endosomes, are ineffective clinically, but are effective if the acidic endosome can be alkalinized, as with agents such as hydroxychloroquine and amantadine [11,19]. Further supporting this hypothesis is that acidifying agents such as ascorbic acid (vitamin C), appear to counteract the effect of the lysosomotropic agents.

How the spirochetes cause symptoms remains to be determined. It would seem unlikely that their physical presence alone would cause any symptoms. It's more likely that they either produce a noxious substance or substances, ie toxin, that perturbs the nerve cell or other cells that may be involved, causing symptoms such as pain, paresthesias, cognitive impairment, or that there is some host response to the spirochete or a product thereof. The possibility that there may auto-immune reactions has been raised, but there is not compelling evidence that this is the major pathophysiologic mechanism involved in the disease. Nor is there any evidence that persisting symptoms might be due to post-infectious sequelae such as damage to certain cells. That has been discovered a toxin that affects neuronal and other neural-related cells in tissue culture, and it remains to be determined whether this is a responsible mechanism for the symptomatology [20].

ANTIBIOTIC TREATMENT OF PATIENTS WITH LATE OR CHRONIC LYME DISEASE

Patients who have previously been diagnosed as having Lyme disease who have relapsing symptoms are often given the diagnosis of post-treatment Lyme disease, the implication being that they no longer have the infection, but this assumption is not based on any specific diagnostic criteria. The assumption is primarily based on the lack of improvement in a treatment trial that used a regimen consisting of one month of intravenous ceftriaxone followed by two months of oral doxycycline [21]. That regimen did indeed seem to be ineffective, but the reasons for the lack of efficacy were not adequately addressed, especially the lack of consideration that there may be other regimens that might be effective. *B. burgdorferi* is sensitive *in vitro* to various antibiotics, including the penicillins, tetracyclines, and macrolides, but there are a number of mitigating factors that affect the clinical efficacy of these antibiotics. Not all antibiotics are equally effective in treating various infections, so it should not be surprising that there might be other successful regimens. Indeed, based on pharmacologic considerations, there appear to be highly effective regimens consisting of either tetracycline itself, or the combination of a macrolide antibiotic (eg erythromycin, clarithromycin, azithromycin) with a lysosomotropic agent such as hydroxychloroquine [10,11].

There continue to be various recommendations regarding antibiotic treatment of patients with relapsing or persisting symptoms. While there have not been agreed upon uniform regimens, there has been agreement amongst practitioners involved in treating such patients that more prolonged treatment is needed for more successful outcomes. With the exception of the study that involved a month of intravenous

ceftriaxone followed by two months of oral doxycycline, and subsequent studies of either one month or ten weeks of intravenous ceftriaxone [22], there have been no randomized, placebo-controlled trials of longer duration, using other antibiotic regimens. It should not be surprising that longer regimens would be required to treat a chronic infection, especially if the causative organism is not rapidly replicating and is in a protective niche such as an intracellular locus. Such is the case with a number of other infections, including tuberculosis, Q fever, various parasitic and fungal infections, and viral infections such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C, and HIV. In the case of hepatitis B and C, initial recommendations were for 6 weeks of treatment, but with further studies, the recommendation for the duration of treatment was then extended to 12 weeks, then to 24 weeks, and perhaps longer to resolve the infection.

In assessing whether treatment of patients with Lyme disease who have chronic symptoms are responding to the treatment, the lack of objective manifestations and more definitive means to determine whether the infection is being resolved, makes it more difficult to prove that the infection is being successfully treated. Nonetheless, it is the patient's assessment of whether there is any improvement, just as in treatment of any other medical condition, that is the determinant of progress and success. There are also potential confounding factors, such as whether a given antibiotic is exerting a specific or non-specific effect. In the case of beta-lactam antibiotics such as penicillin and cephalosporins, especially ceftriaxone, recent evidence shows that these antibiotics can affect glutamate transport in the nervous system [23], and that their clinical effects on patients' symptoms might not be anti-bacterial in nature, but symptomatic. Patients and physicians have often concluded, perhaps erroneously, that additional treatments with these antibiotics are needed, and in our experience, treatment with this class of antibiotics, including several months of intravenous ceftriaxone, is not curative in patients with chronic symptoms.

Doxycycline is effective treatment for early Lyme disease, but does not appear to be curative in relapsing, persisting Lyme disease. This likely is because of two factors, ie dose, and protein-binding. Most of absorbed doxycycline remains highly protein-bound in the circulation, meaning that the amount of free drug to diffuse into cells is limited. This may be the explanation as to why the original parent compound tetracycline appears to be more effective [10]. The dose of tetracycline used in our published observations that was found to be effective was 1500mg/day; in contrast, doxycycline dosage is 200mg/day, and tetracycline is not highly protein-bound, allowing more free tetracycline to diffuse into cells. In treating patients with tetracycline, a minimum of three months is needed to demonstrate progress, and in patients who have been ill for more than one or two years, 18 months of treatment may be needed to resolve the illness. Whether increasing the dose of doxycycline to 300-400mg/day would be more effective remains uncertain.

The use of a macrolide antibiotic such as clarithromycin or erythromycin, when combined with a lysosomotropic agent such as hydroxychloroquine, has been a very tolerable and successful regimen in treating patients with chronic, persisting symptoms [11]. The use of either antibiotic or

hydroxychloroquine alone does not result in any obvious improvement, supporting the hypothesis that the Lyme spirochetes reside in an intracellular acidic endosome. A controlled clinical trial would however be needed to prove this hypothesis. Further to that point, tetracycline, which is active in an acid milieu, is not benefited by the addition of hydroxychloroquine to the regimen. As with tetracycline, treatment with this regimen may also require a number of months to resolve most, if not all symptoms. As a practical approach, courses of treatment are alternated between tetracycline and the macrolide/hydroxychloroquine regimen, consisting of 6 months for each course, until symptoms are resolved (Table 4). Patients who have been ill for shorter periods of time can resolve their symptoms in shorter periods of time than those who have had illness for a few years or more. In patients with longer standing illness, it also takes longer to begin to see any progress, often needing 4-6 months; nonetheless, sustained improvement can be seen in most of these patients over a prolonged period of time.

NON-ANTIBIOTIC TREATMENTS

Symptom-based medications can be helpful in providing some relief of the various symptoms. These include gabapentin to help with pain and neuropathy, anti-depressants, and agents such as trazodone to help with sleep issues. Narcotic medications should be avoided, as patients can easily become addicted, and treatment of the underlying illness becomes more difficult to treat.

The use of various supplements has been advocated by some, but evidence of their efficacy not established, and it would seem prudent to minimize the numbers of medications and supplements taken that might not only add difficulty to interpretation of any progress during the treatment period, but perhaps aid the survival of the spirochetes and retard resolution of the illness. In particular, the use of multivitamins and anti-oxidants is to be avoided, as supplemental vitamin C, as previously noted, would counteract the effects of hydroxychloroquine. As for B vitamins, these might theoretically be aiding the spirochete's survival, as they are unable to synthesize their own B vitamins; and our observations are that patients on supplemental B vitamins do not respond as favorably to antibiotic treatment as do those not taking these supplements. Patients not taking supplemental B vitamins do not appear to have any deficiencies in these vitamins, so they are not being put at risk by the lack of supplementation. Vitamin D, however, is to be encouraged as it is frequently low in patients with persistent Lyme disease, and may be helpful in providing anti-inflammatory benefit. The use of anti-oxidants such as coenzyme Q10 and vitamin E

Table 4. Recommended Reatment Regimens for Chronic Lyme Disease

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1. | Tetracycline: 1500mg/day, divided as either 500mg three times per day 20 minutes before or two hours after meals, or 750mg twice daily 20 minutes before or two hours after meals. |
| 2. | Clarithromycin (or Erythromycin) 500mg twice daily, in combination with hydroxychloroquine 200mg twice daily with, or shortly after, meals. Azithromycin may be substituted for clarithromycin, but the dose of azithromycin of 500mg daily may not be as efficacious. |

should also be avoided, as these agents may retard the host's ability to damage the spirochetes. Recent evidence also suggests that anti-oxidants promote antibiotic tolerance and bio-film formation [24, 25].

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Currently, the use of circulating antibodies directed against specific antigens of the Lyme borrelia are the standard means to diagnose the disease, but specific antibodies do not provide an adequate means of assessing the presence or absence of the organism. What is needed, in the absence of being able to directly culture the organism, is the development of a more direct detection test against Lyme-specific antigens to provide a more definitive diagnosis.

Also needed are more controlled clinical trials to document and establish better treatment regimens. There is sufficient preliminary evidence to suggest that there are effective regimens, and support for clinical trials using these regimens is needed to make additional progress for this disease. And the development of specific vaccines is needed to ultimately prevent the infection.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors confirm that this article content has no conflicts of interest.

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None declared.

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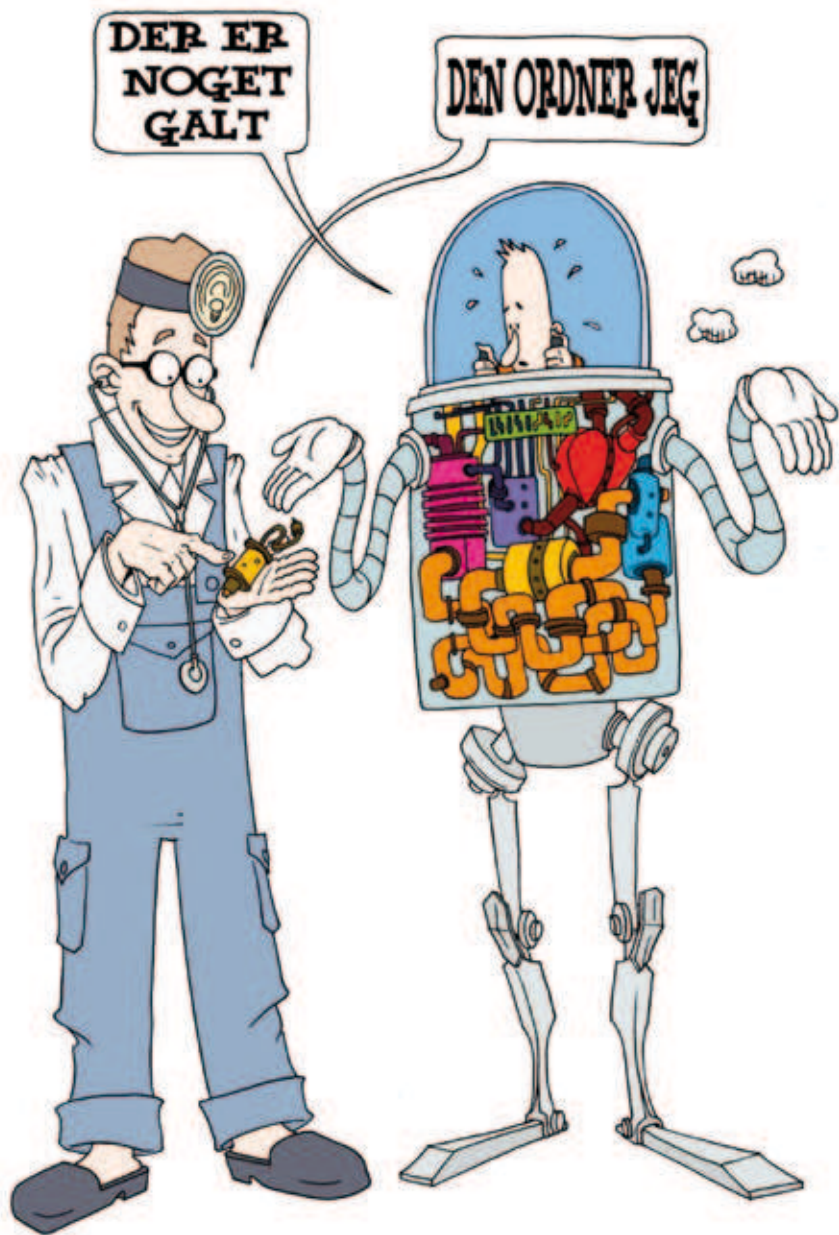
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Når kroppen siger fra





Det ville være nemt, hvis kroppen bare var en maskine ...

Når kroppen siger fra

Maven gør ondt. Hovedet er ved at eksplodere. Svimmelheden er næsten ikke til at holde ud. Hjertet slår for hurtigt. Musklerne er ømme. Og trætheden er som en tung dyne, der har lagt sig ud over hele tilværelsen.

Det var sådan, Peter* havde det. Han var 42 år og plejede aldrig at være syg.

Man mener, at omkring 300.000 danskere har en funktionel lidelse. Det betyder, at funktionelle lidelser er lige så almindelige som fx depression. Alligevel er der mange, der ikke ved, hvad funktionelle lidelser er – det gælder både patienter, pårørende og læger.

Mange mennesker opfatter kroppen, psyken og de sociale omgivelser som tre adskilte dele, der ikke har ret meget med hinanden at gøre. Men forskningen viser i dag, at det ikke giver nogen mening at dele et menneske op på den måde.

Mange sygdomme foregår i *hele* mennesket og inddrager både det fysiske og det psykiske. Samtidig bliver alle mennesker påvirket af de ting, der i øvrigt sker i deres omgivelser. Nogle sygdomme forstås derfor bedst, hvis man betragter dem fra en såkaldt bio-psyko-social synsvinkel, hvor man ser på både det fysiske, det psykiske og det sociale.

** Peter er et opdigtet navn baseret på erfaringen med mange forskellige patienter, som har givet deres samtykke til, at deres sygehistorier gerne må gengives. Fortællingen om Peter er repræsentativ for mennesker med en funktionel lidelse, men er omskrevet og anonymiseret i en grad, så ingen kan genkendes.*

Troede at kroppen let kunne 'repareres'

"Jeg har altid tænkt, at når der er noget, der ikke fungerer, så skal man finde ud af, hvor fejlen sidder, og så skal man skynde sig at få det repareret, så man kan komme videre," fortæller Peter. "Jeg fik for eksempel engang en knæskade, fordi jeg spillede meget fodbold. Og det var da enormt smart, at lægen lige kunne gå ind med en kikkert og se på mit knæ og få det ordnet. Lidt ligesom en mekaniker. Så for mig var det logisk, at da min mave begyndte at gøre ondt, så måtte der da være noget i den mave, som skulle ordnes."

Peter gik op til sin læge, som tog nogle blodprøver og undersøgte maven. Men alle undersøgelser var normale.

"Jeg sagde, at så måtte han jo lave nogle flere undersøgelser. For jeg kunne mærke, at der var et eller andet helt galt i den mave."

Der blev lavet en kikkertundersøgelse af mavesækken, som også viste sig at være normal. Men symptomerne forsvandt ikke. Faktisk blev de værre.

"Jeg følte, at jeg var spærret inde i en krop, som ikke fungerede. Og ingen kunne finde ud af at reparere den," siger Peter.

Symptomer

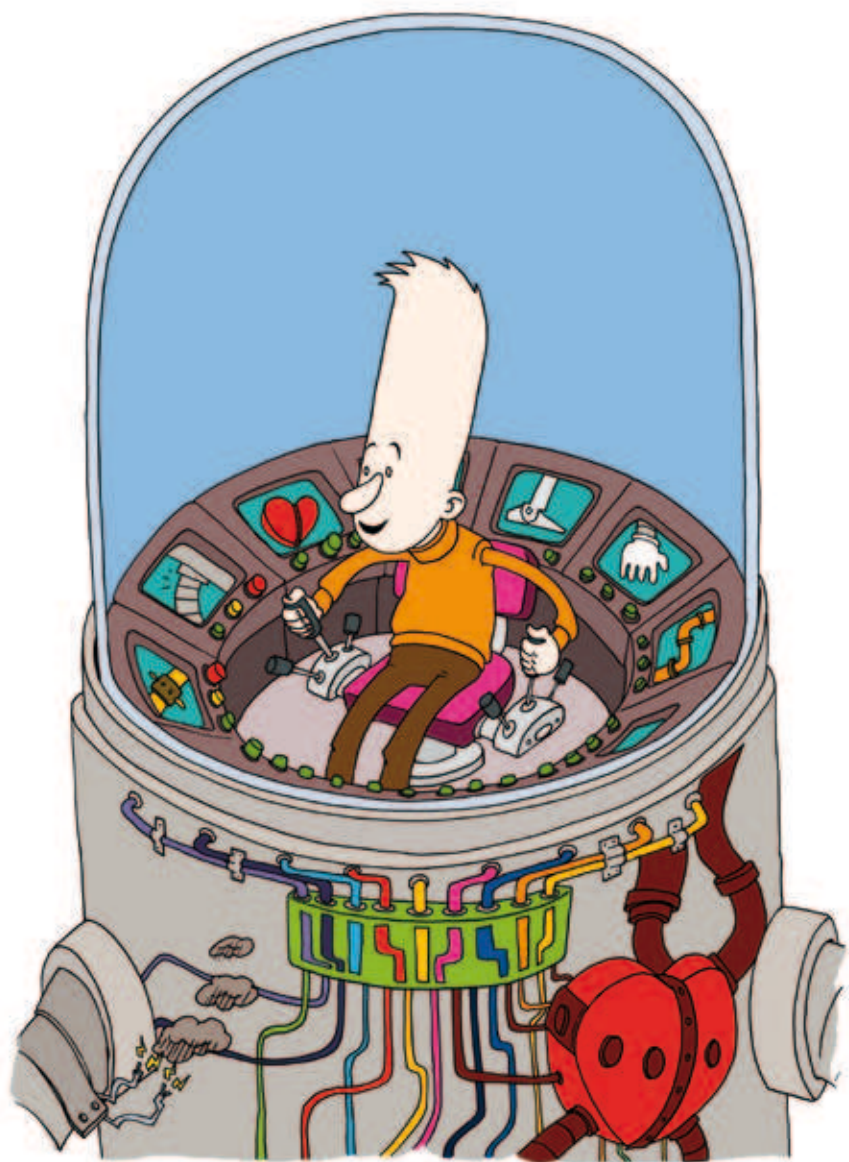
Alle mennesker oplever jævnligt symptomer, som ikke er udtryk for sygelige tilstande i kroppen. Ved funktionelle lidelser opstår der symptomer med en sværhedsgrad, som gør, at de medfører bekymring eller påvirker personen i det daglige. Symptomerne er blevet en sygdom.

I nogle tilfælde er der tale om mange symptomer, og man kan dele dem op som vist i skemaet. Nogle mennesker med en funktionel lidelse oplever, at symptomerne ændrer sig eller flytter rundt i kroppen.

Typiske symptomer ved funktionelle lidelser

Almene symptomer	Træthed. Koncentrationsbesvær. Hovedpine. Hukommelsessvigt. Svimmelhed.
Symptomer fra mave og tarm	Hyppige løse afføringer. Mavesmerter. Oppustethed. Spændings- eller tyngdefornemmelse i maven. Diarré. Sure opstød. Kvalme. Brændende fornemmelse i brystet eller det øverste af maven.
Symptomer fra hjerte og lunger	Hjertebanken. Trykken i brystet. Forpustethed uden anstrengelse. Varm- eller koldsved. Mundtørhed.
Symptomer fra nerver og muskler	Smerter i armene eller benene. Muskelsmerter eller ømhed. Ledsmerter. Følelse af lammelse eller lokaliseret kraftnedsættelse. Rygsmerter. Smerter som flytter sig fra sted til sted. Ubehagelig dødhedsfornemmelse eller føleforstyrrelser.

Vi ved endnu ikke præcis, hvorfor nogle mennesker får en funktionel lidelse. Men gennem de seneste år er der blevet forsket så meget i tilstanden, at man kan begynde at forstå nogle af de mekanismer, der er involveret.



Hjernen er vores kontrolltårn, som styrer og overvåger hele kroppen. Hjernen er beskyttet af et "filter", som sorterer uvæsentlige signaler fra de væsentlige.

Hjernen og kroppen

Hjernen er som et kontroltårn, der styrer alle organer og funktioner, og som samtidig modtager en stor mængde signaler og beskeder fra hele kroppen. Kun de færreste af disse signaler er vi bevidste om.

Man kan forklare det på den måde, at hjernen er beskyttet af en form for 'filter', som filtrerer ubetydelige signaler fra, men som lader vigtige signaler gå igennem til vores bevidsthed. Under normale omstændigheder fungerer 'filteret', uden at vi tænker nærmere over det.

Når forskere laver skanninger af hjernens aktivitet, kan man bl.a. se, at der hos mennesker med en funktionel lidelse er en ændret oplevelse af smerte.



Ved funktionelle lidelser mener man, at der bl.a. er opstået en defekt i hjernens "filter" og at hele kroppen er i en vedvarende alarmtilstand.

Mange nye signaler

Meget tyder på, at hjernen hos mennesker med en funktionel lidelse er begyndt at opfatte mange af de signaler, som normalt bliver filtreret fra. Det betyder, at hjernen kan opfatte nye signaler fra fx maven, uden at det er udtryk for sygdom i maven. Samtidig sender kroppen formodentlig flere signaler end normalt.

Ved en funktionel lidelse befinder kroppen sig i en form for alarmtilstand. Ved en alarmtilstand produceres der en stor mængde stresshormoner. Mange af de symptomer, som er til stede ved en funktionel lidelse, er de samme, som man kan opleve ved stress.

Peter får flere symptomer

“Jeg begyndte at vågne om natten ved, at mit hjerte slog helt vildt,” fortæller Peter “Og når jeg var ude at løbe, kunne jeg ikke få vejret. Jeg har jo altid dyrket meget motion, så det var slet ikke mig det der. Og da jeg så også begyndte at blive svimmel, så blev jeg altså rigtig bange. Det tror jeg også min læge blev. For han sendte mig videre til en hjertespecialist.”

Hjertet fejlede ikke noget. Men symptomerne fortsatte. Der begyndte at komme smerter i musklerne i det meste af kroppen, og Peter blev overmandet af en træthed, som gjorde, at han næsten ikke kunne hænge sammen.



Der er mange årsager til at en funktionel lidelse opstår.

Årsager

Man kan sjældent finde en enkelt årsag til, at en person får en funktionel lidelse. Der er stort set altid tale om flere forskellige faktorer, som tilsammen fører til sygdom.

Nogle mennesker har en medfødt sårbarhed. Det ligger altså i deres gener, at de nemmere vil kunne få en funktionel lidelse end andre. Nogle får en funktionel lidelse som reaktion på et stort eller længerevarende pres, fx skilsmisse, sygdom i den nærmeste familie eller sociale problemer. Undertiden kan en infektion eller en fysisk belastning være det, der skubber til en proces, som fører til udviklingen af en funktionel lidelse. Men som regel er der tale om flere forskellige faktorer på én gang.

Før sygdommen var Peter presset fra alle sider

”Til sidst sagde min læge, at jeg blev nødt til at tro på, at der ikke var noget, de havde overset i alle deres undersøgelser. Han forklarede, at det, jeg fejlede, var en funktionel lidelse. Jeg var på det tidspunkt blevet sygemeldt fra mit arbejde, og jeg kunne kun gå korte ture, uden at alle mine symptomer blev værre.”

Det viste sig, at Peter havde været meget presset på sit arbejde gennem længere tid. Der var fyringsrunder, og han følte, at han hver dag skulle bevise, at han var god nok. Desuden havde hans datter indlæringsproblemer i skolen, og det medførte møder med lærerne og behov for at sætte ekstra tid af til hjælp med lektierne.

Det udløste konflikter mellem Peter og hans kone. Hun syntes ikke, han tog problemerne med datteren alvorligt nok, og hun valgte at gå ned i arbejdstid. Det betød, at de blev endnu mere afhængige af, at Peter kunne beholde sit arbejde, da de ellers ikke ville have råd til at blive boende i deres hus. Kort før mavesmerterne begyndte, blev det konstateret, at datteren var ordblind, hun fik bevilget ekstra hjælp, og både Peter og hans kone følte, at de nu kunne lægge en stor del af bekymringerne fra sig.

”Jeg synes, det er mærkeligt, at jeg blev syg, netop som jeg troede, at jeg skulle til at tænke lidt mere på mig selv.”

Behandling

Den behandling, som har vist sig mest effektiv, er en kombination af:

→ **Gradueret genoptræning**

→ **Kognitiv terapi**

Hos nogle kan medicin desuden nedsætte smerter og fysisk ubehag.

De fleste kan blive hjulpet af behandlingen. Undersøgelser viser, at nogle bliver raske, og at en stor del får det væsentligt bedre. Kun få har ingen gavn af behandlingen.

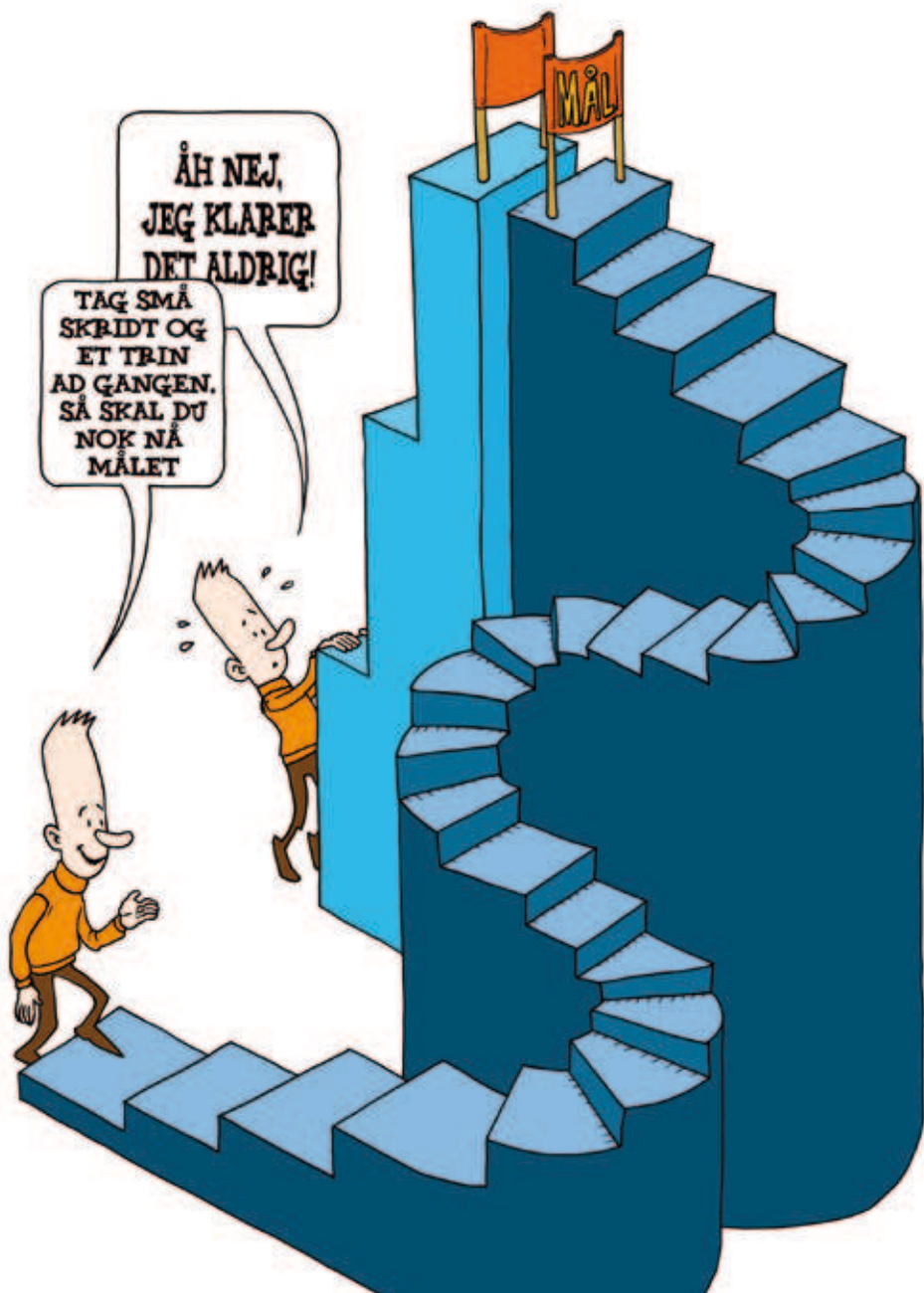
Behandling med gradueret genoptræning og kognitiv terapi er hårdt arbejde. Jo mere motiveret man er, des mere vil man også opleve, at behandlingen hjælper.

Gradueret genoptræning

Gradueret genoptræning går ud på, at man gradvist træner sig op til et realistisk niveau.

De fleste mennesker med en funktionel lidelse har oplevet stor svækkelse af deres fysiske udholdenhed, og mange har en tendens til at stille alt for store krav til sig selv. En del har tidligere været meget aktive, og det kan være svært at acceptere, at man ikke længere kan det, som man kunne engang.

Ved den graduerede genoptræning øver man sig i at nærme sig sit mål – et trin ad gangen. Det er vigtigt hverken at lægge for hårdt ud eller gå for hurtigt frem. Efterhånden vil man opleve, at man kan mere, og at den graduerede genoptræning øger energien og udholdenheden.



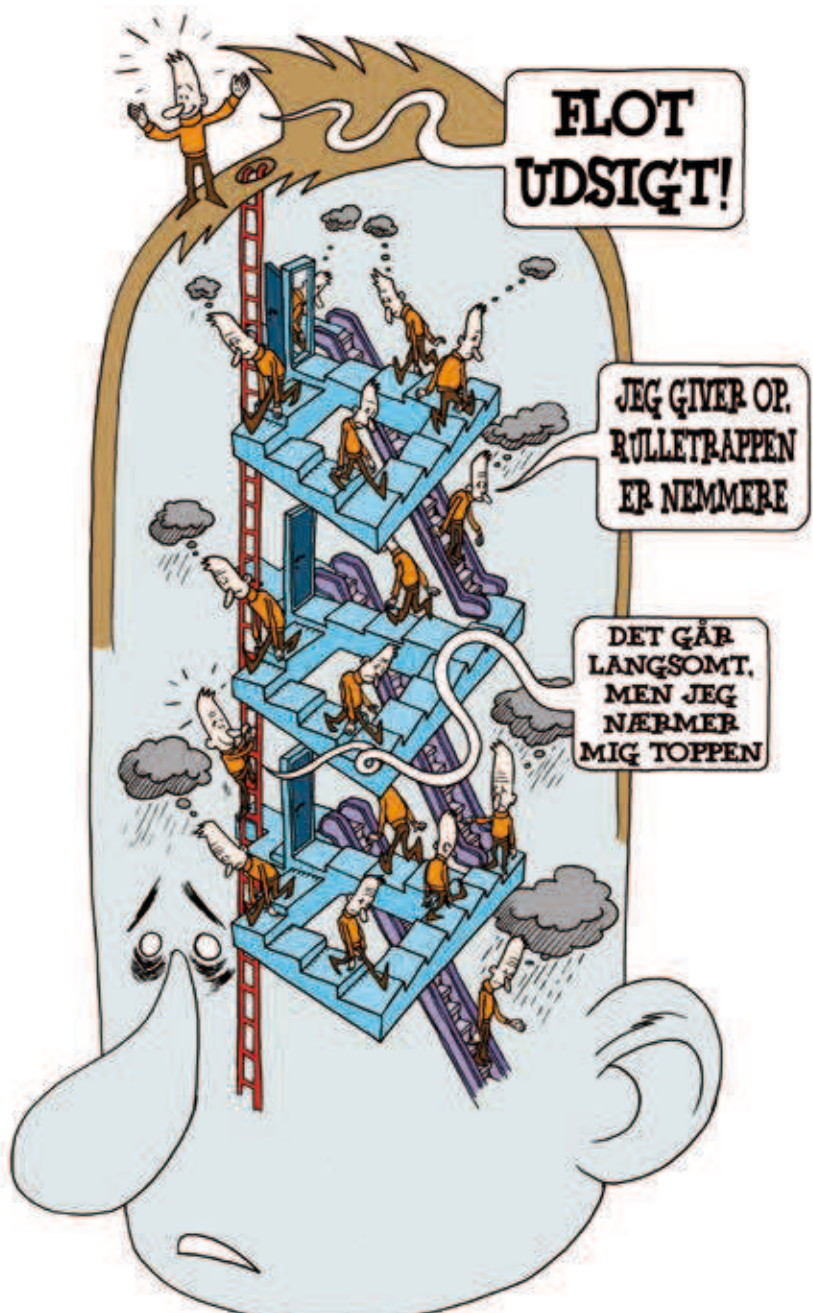
Ved gradueret genoptræning er det vigtigt at gå gradvist frem, så man udfordres uden at blive overbelastet.

Peter blev henvist til gruppebehandling

”Det var faktisk lidt chokerende at møde andre, som havde det på samme måde som jeg selv. Jeg havde jo gået og troet, at jeg var den eneste i verden, som havde det så dårligt.”

Peter fandt ud af, at hans symptomer blev værre, når han blev presset eller overbelastet. Han begyndte at forstå symptomerne som kroppens måde at forsøge at 'sige fra' på – i stedet for at se dem som tegn på sygdom i hjertet eller i maven. Han lærte at sætte grænser for sig selv, sætte realistiske mål og ændre de tanker, han sad fast i.

”Jeg havde selvfølgelig håbet, at behandlingen ville være et mirakelmiddel. Men jeg fandt ud af, at det var hårdt arbejde. Lægen var sådan set bare en hjælper. Det var mig selv, der skulle gøre arbejdet. Men jeg kunne mærke, at det hjalp. Langsomt fik jeg det bedre.”



Kognitiv terapi er hårdt arbejde.

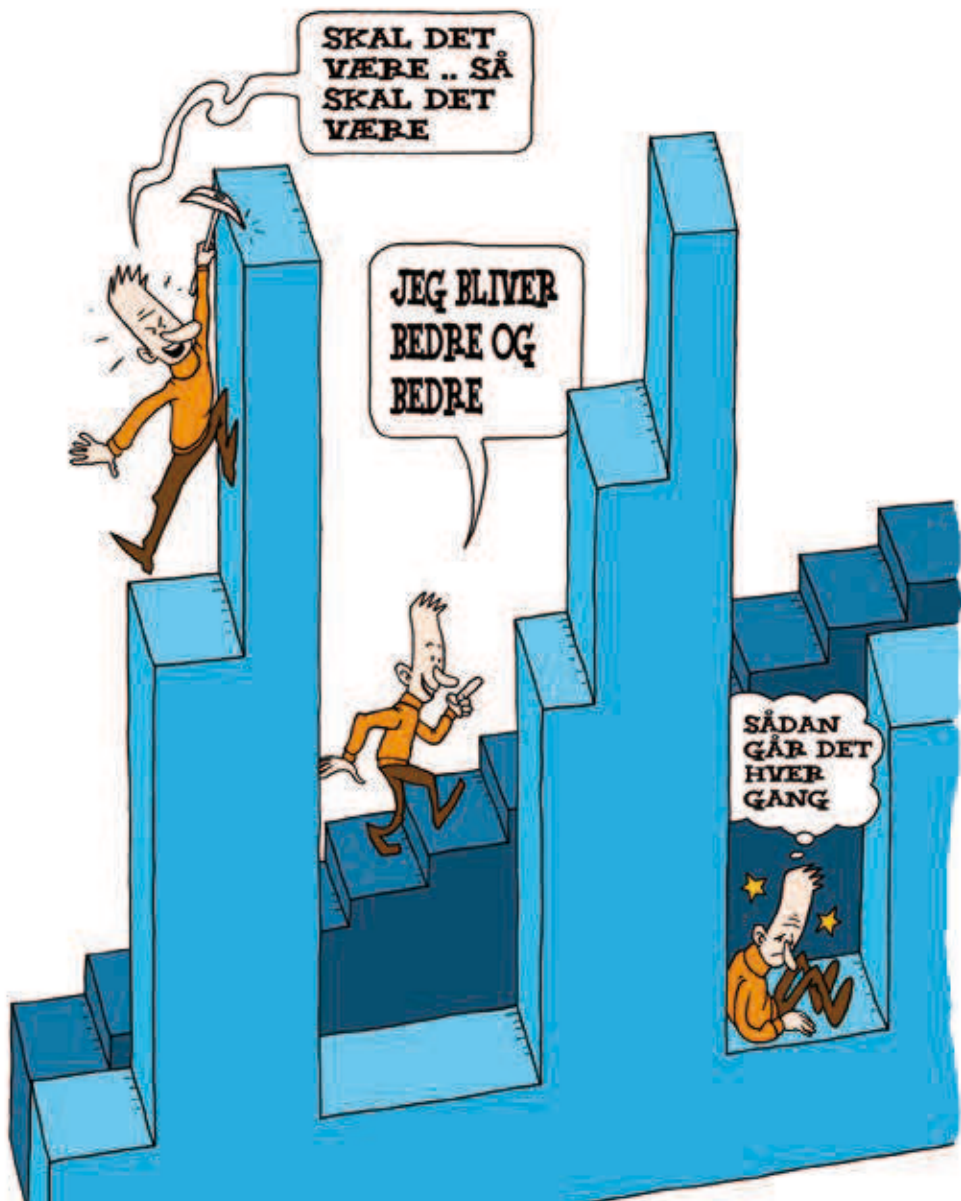
Kognitiv terapi

Kognitiv terapi fokuserer på de tanker, som personen har om sig selv og sin situation.

Mange mennesker med en funktionel lidelse har udviklet uhensigtsmæssige tanker om sig selv og deres sygdom. Nogle tænker fx, at kroppen er skrøbelig og ikke kan klare almindelige belastninger. Andre tænker, at de mange fysiske symptomer er helt uforudsigelige og ikke kan kontrolleres.

Den slags tanker kan begynde at gå i ring, og personen kan føle, at hovedet er fyldt op med nedbrydende og negative tanker. Disse tanker kan forværre den funktionelle lidelse, og de påvirker evnen til at håndtere de fysiske symptomer.

Gennem kognitiv terapi får man blandt andet metoder til at bryde disse tankerækker, og man lærer gradvist at tænke på en anden og mere hensigtsmæssig måde.



Mange personer med funktionelle lidelser er ambitiøse og vil gerne kunne klare det hele. Det kan medføre tilbagefald og forværring. Kunsten er at undgå overbelastning og at sætte realistiske mål.

At leve med en funktionel lidelse

Ikke alle med en funktionel lidelse kan blive raske, men stort set alle kan få det bedre. De mennesker, som ikke kan blive raske, kan lære at leve med den funktionelle lidelse, på samme måde som man kan lære at leve med fx astma.

Det er vigtigt for mennesker med en funktionel lidelse at undgå overbelastning og store mængder stress. Det er samtidig vigtigt, at man lader sig udfordre og ikke bliver bange for at nærme sig sine egne grænser. En del mennesker med en funktionel lidelse kan have en tendens til at svinge meget i deres aktivitetsniveau, hvilket ofte medfører forværring af symptomerne.

Peters udfordring: at finde balancen mellem aktivitet og hvile

”Jeg har altid været typen, der aldrig gør noget halvt. Da jeg begyndte at løbe, trænede jeg mig hurtigt op til at løbe maraton. På mit arbejde efterlod jeg aldrig noget ufærdigt. Og når jeg skulle ordne noget i mit hus, så stoppede jeg først, når det var perfekt.”

Peter fik det langsomt bedre, mens han fik behandling. Men han oplevede også tilbagefald.

”Det sværeste var nok min egen utålmodighed. Jeg kunne simpelthen ikke acceptere, at det skulle gå så langsomt. Da jeg første gang mærkede, at jeg fik det bedre, blev jeg så glad, at jeg tog løbeskoene på og løb 5 km. Det betød, at jeg lå i sengen hele næste dag.”



KOMFORT – UDVIKLING – OVERBELASTNING

Kunsten er at søge udfordring uden at blive overbelastet.
Og uden at gå i stå.

At finde den rette belastning

Hvis man skal lære at leve med en funktionel lidelse, er det vigtigt at undgå både for meget og for lidt belastning.

Man kan beskrive det ved at inddele tilværelsen i 3 zoner:

- 1** I den inderste zone oplever vi *komfort*. Det er her, vi slapper af og kommer til kræfter. Men vi udvikler os ikke. Hvis man udelukkende befinder sig her, vil man efterhånden gå i stå, og kroppen vil forfalde.
- 2** I den næste zone er der *udvikling*. Her bliver vi udfordret i en grad, så vi bevæger os hen imod de mål, vi har sat, og vi vil opleve bedring og fremgang.
- 3** I den yderste zone udsættes vi for *overbelastning*. Her udfordres vi i en grad, så vi overskrider grænserne for det, vi kan. Hvis man opholder sig for længe her, kan man efterhånden få vedvarende gener.

En del mennesker med en funktionel lidelse har en tendens til at svinge imellem enten at under- eller overbelaste sig selv. Dette medfører ofte en forværring af symptomerne. En passende udfordring er nødvendig for at have det godt både fysisk, psykisk og socialt.

En person med en funktionel lidelse skal derfor forsøge at opholde sig så meget som muligt i udviklingszonen.

Symptomer er Peters 'stop-signaler'

"Jeg har fået det rigtig godt nu" fortæller Peter.

"Jeg er tilbage på arbejdet, og jeg kan få min tilværelse til at hænge sammen. Men jeg kan mærke, at jeg stadig har de der symptomer lige nede under overfladen. Hvis der er for travlt på arbejdet, hvis der er kommet til at stå for meget i min kalender, eller hvis min datter har det svært, ja, så vender de tilbage. Så får jeg ondt i maven som det første, og hvis jeg ikke reagerer på det, så bliver jeg svimmel. Jeg kender min krop så godt nu, at jeg nærmest opfatter symptomerne som en slags rød advarselstrekant. 'STOP' siger symptomerne, og hvis jeg ikke stopper og hører efter, så ved jeg, at det kun bliver værre.

Jeg vil ikke sige, at jeg kender min sygdom 100 %, og det er heller ikke sådan, at jeg aldrig gør noget, som jeg ikke skulle have gjort. Men jeg arbejder på det. Og jeg bliver en lille bitte smule bedre til det hver eneste dag."

Hvis du vil vide mere:
www.funktionellelidelser.dk

Når kroppen siger fra

Information om funktionelle lidelser

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NÅR KROPPEN SIGER FRA

Funktionelle lidelser er en gruppe af sygdomme, hvor man har fysiske symptomer, som gør det svært at fungere i dagligdagen. Den præcise årsag kendes ikke, men man kan forstå det som en sygdom, hvor hjernen og kroppen af forskellige årsager er overbelastet og ikke fungerer normalt. Det vurderes, at ca. 6 % af befolkningen eller omkring 300.000 danskere har en funktionel lidelse.

Denne pjece henvender sig til mennesker, som gerne vil vide noget om funktionelle lidelser. Du kan finde mere information på: www.funktionellelidelser.dk

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Bølger i havnebassinet

Opfyldningen af havnebassin 1 er en lille sag i forhold til udvidelsen af hele Århus Havn.

Alligevel er det den lille havnesag, som har fået de politiske bølger til at gå højest

Baggrund

Side 3



Minder i maj

Selvom det er 53 år siden, at 70-årige Mogens Skjøth sidst har været en tur i kælderens under Århus Rådhus, så husker han dem, som var det i går. Begivenhederne i Århus omkring 4.-5. maj

Interview

Side 8



Navne og service

JP Århus bringer hver dag nyt om fødselsdage, jubilæer, udnævnelser, bryllupper og dødsfald og vigtige og relevante oplysninger om trafikforhold i Århus samt andre væsentlige serviceoplysninger

Information

Side 2 og 8

Klapjagt på 6000 hospitals-hypokondere

AV MORTEN FRICH

Op mod 6000 patienter har i årevis unødigt belastet sygehusene i Århus Amt med stræbevis af undersøgelser og langvarige indlæggelser. Derfor udpeger amtet et hold af århusianske forskere, der skal bremse de mange patienter - populært kaldet hypokondere - i deres dyre og tidrovende rundtur i det lokale sundhedssystem.

Fra efteråret undersøges et udsnit af patienterne med uforklarlige, psykisk betingede symptomer systematisk af fem specialister. Det koster amtet en bevilling på 3,5 millioner kroner årligt. Til gengæld forventer amtspolitikkerne at få en langt bedre behandling for patienterne og samtidig at heste store besparelser i løbet af få år.

»Vi må have svar på, hvorfor nogle patienter tror sig syge,

selv om de ikke er det. En stor gruppe mennesker tegner sig for påfaldende mange indlæggelser. Det er dyrt for sygehusene og synd for patienterne,« lyder det fra formanden for sundhedsudvalget, Knud Erik Særkjær (V).

Fælles træk for patienterne

Fælles for patienterne er smerter, som lægerne ikke kan give nogen medicinsk forklaring på. En stor del af patienterne går

under betegnelsen hypokondere, men gruppen tæller også patienter med kronisk træthedssyndrom, piskesmæld og fybromyalgi - spredte, men meget smertefulde ledsmerter.

Afdelingslæge på Psykiatrisk Hospital i Risskov, Per Fink, der er en af idémændene bag det nye forskerhold, håber på en mere en effektiv behandling.

»Ordet hypokonder har en nedsættende klang - det er jo

en, der bare foregiver at være syg. Men det dækker over mennesker, der ikke kan leve et normalt liv, fordi de er så optagede af tegn på sygdom.

De ser sygdomme allevegne, og hele deres liv kommer til at dreje sig om at holde øje med små faresignaler fra kroppen. Dem finder de hver dag. Dermed er de lige så invaliderede, som hvis de faktisk var syge,« siger Per Fink, der har skrevet

doktordisputats om netop hypokondere.

Indsamler viden

Forskerholdet, der får støtte fra psykologer, socialrådgivere, antropologer og sygeplejersker, flytter formentlig i de tomme lokaler efter Fødselsstiftelsen nær Århus Kommunehospital. Det er planen, at forskerne i første omgang indsamler viden om patienterne og underviser

både hospitalslæger og praktiserende læger i behandlingen af dem. Men der bliver også et mindre ambulatorium, hvor forskerne kan tage imod patienter og tilbyde samtalerterapi, dog kun i det omfang forskningen tillader.

Det århusianske forskerhold bliver det første af sin slags i Danmark og blandt de første i verden. Der er endnu ikke udpeget en leder.