



MIRIAM PETTERSSON was born in 1977 and received her medical degree from Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm in 2005. After completing her internship at Örebro University Hospital she was employed at the Department of Pediatrics, Örebro University Hospital, and became a specialist in pediatrics in 2012 and a subspecialist in neonatology in 2019. She currently works as a neonatologist in the neonatal unit at Örebro University Hospital. Miriam began the research for her doctoral thesis on routine procedures used in the care of the full-term newborn in 2015, and in 2016 she registered as a PhD student at Örebro University, with Professor Mats Eriksson and Andreas Ohlin as supervisors.

Most children are born healthy and at term, and most undergo a range of routine procedures before discharge. This thesis presents four studies on two common routines performed on many full-term newborns: neonatal hip examination and phototherapy for neonatal hyperbilirubinemia. The first two studies focus (1) on assessing and treating pain during neonatal hip examination, using a combination of pain assessment techniques such as near-infrared spectroscopy, GSR, and pain assessment scales and (2) on pain treatment using an oral sweet solution.

The other two studies are based on a randomized controlled multicentre trial comparing phototherapy in hospital to home phototherapy, with safety, feasibility, and parental experiences as main outcomes.

The results of these studies show that neonatal hip examination is painful and should be treated, using for example oral sweet solution. Home phototherapy seems to be a safe and feasible alternative to in hospital treatment for neonatal hyperbilirubinemia, and the parental experience of home phototherapy is overall positive.

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Doctoral Dissertation

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Medical Science with a specialisation in Medicine

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