



LOVISA RÖJLER was born in 1983 and received her medical degree from Linköping University in 2014. After her internship at Lindesberg Hospital, she started her residency at the Department of Pediatrics at Örebro University Hospital in 2016. Lovisa became a specialist in 2021 and shortly after she started working at the Pediatric Centre for Habilitation and Neurology in the same region. She formally started her PhD studies at Örebro University 2018, when she began her doctoral thesis on disease complications in Eosinophilic Esophagitis, with Professor Jonas Ludvigsson as her main supervisor.

Eosinophilic Esophagitis (EoE) is a chronic inflammatory disease affecting both children and adults. It often co-occurs in individuals with atopic diseases, such as asthma, rhinoconjunctivitis, and atopic dermatitis. If untreated, the chronic inflammation causes remodelling of the mucosa in the esophagus, and fibrosis occurs with subsequent narrowing of the lumen. The patients often experience dysphagia and food impaction (food gets stuck). EoE is treated either pharmacologically or with diet restrictions as food allergy often triggers inflammation. Although little research has been conducted on the risk of death in EoE, it is considered to be a relatively safe and mild disease. As with other chronic diseases, some evidence suggests that EoE comes with an elevated risk of psychiatric comorbidity. Although EoE has an incidence peak during childbearing age, surprisingly little is known about EoE and pregnancy outcome.

This thesis aims to examine the disease complications in EoE patients compared to individually matched reference individuals. We also performed sibling analyses as an attempt to separate genetic and environmental factors affecting the disease outcome. The EoE cohort is collected through a nation-based search of pathology departments and contains around 1600 patients with a biopsy-verified diagnosis. In the first Study, we found that a patient chart validation had a positive predictive value of 89%. In Study II, we found no elevated risk of mortality among EoE individuals, which is reassuring for the patients. In Study III, we found an elevated overall risk for psychiatric comorbidity, but the risk was highest in the group that had a childhood onset of EoE. In Study IV, we found no risk of preterm birth.

ISSN 1652-4063
ISBN 978-91-7529-496-4

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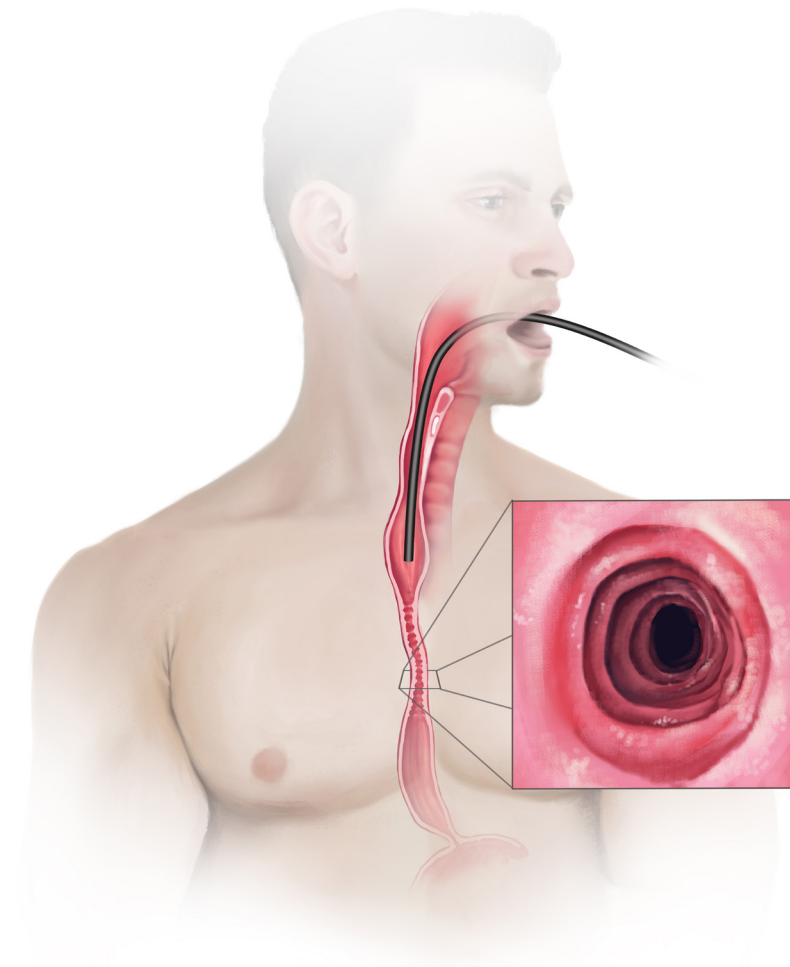
2023

Doctoral Dissertation

Eosinophilic esophagitis and disease complications – register-based studies

LOVISA RÖJLER

Medical Science with a specialisation in Medicine



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