



SARA KARLQVIST was born in 1992 in south of Sweden, county of Skåne. She obtained her Medical Degree in January 2017, after studies at Örebro University. A special interest in inflammatory bowel disease rose during her medical studies and she started her research in 2015 supervised by Professor Jonas Halfvarson. After completing her medical internship in 2019, she started her specialist training in gastroenterology and hepatology at Örebro University Hospital.

Sara's research focuses on clinical aspects of biological treatment in inflammatory bowel disease. The two main forms, Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, are both chronic, relapsing and remitting diseases. It causes inflammation in the gastrointestinal tract and give rise to symptoms such as diarrhoea, abdominal pain and fatigue, which impairs quality of life for the patient. Modern treatment cannot cure the disease, but it can reduce symptoms and prevent long-term complications. Historically, few therapeutic options have been available but the armamentarium has expanded rapidly over the past decades. The development of biological therapies, such as anti-TNF agents and anti-integrin molecules, has reduced the need of abdominal surgery. Efficacy of the drugs have been shown in clinical trials, but it is also important to evaluate the effectiveness and safety in clinical practice where the conditions are not the same as in a study context. Not all patients respond to the first biologic and which agent is most effective as a second-line drug is not fully known.

In this thesis, we have studied various aspects of biological treatment in clinical practice. The use of golimumab in Crohn's disease have been evaluated. We also assessed long-term effectiveness of vedolizumab in a real-world setting. Further, we used national registers to investigate comparative effectiveness of second-line biologics and study risk of serious infection. The result of our studies increase the knowledge about these treatments and may contribute to improved medical care of patients with inflammatory bowel disease.

ISSN 1652-4063
ISBN 978-91-7529-552-7

SARA KARLQVIST Clinical aspects of biological treatment in inflammatory bowel disease

2024



Doctoral Dissertation

Clinical aspects of biological treatment in inflammatory bowel disease

SARA KARLQVIST

Medical Science with a specialisation in Medicine

SARA KARLQVIST Clinical aspects of biological treatment in inflammatory bowel disease