

PRES RELEASE

The lymphedema clinic receives a million grant to help children and young people with lymphoedema

The Ellab Foundation grants 4.6 million DKK for a research project at the lymphoedema clinic at Bispebjerg Hospital. The lymphoedema clinic is a part of The Department of Dermatology and Copenhagen Wound Healing Centre. By the year 2025, researchers will investigate the prevalence of lymphedema among children and young as well as the physical, mental and social impact of the disease.

At Bispebjerg Hospital, there is the country's only lymphoedema clinic that diagnoses and treats the chronic disease called lymphedema, which occurs due to lack of drainage in the lymphatic system. Lymphoedema manifests itself in chronic swelling, discoloration of the skin and risk of wounds and infections.

Based on this mayor grant, a project group from the Lymphoedema Clinic will start a national study to research the spread of the disease as well as the impact on children and young people.

- We are grateful and very honored to receive such a generous donation from the Ellab - Foundation. Without this donation, it would not be possible to carry out this comprehensive prevalence study, says Clinical Nursing Specialist Susan Nørregaard on behalf of the project group.

Lymphedema can have physical, mental and social consequences. Especially for children and young people, the disease can be stigmatizing, as it e.g. may be difficult to engage in physical activity equal with others.

There is no international or national knowledge about the prevalence, causes, treatment and the physical, mental and social impact of lymphedema in children and adolescents. But that will the research group - with help from the Ellab-Foundation's grant - now change.

- Globally, lymphedema in children and adolescents is an underexposed area. We expect that the project will provide us with knowledge about the prevalence, treatment and the psychosocial influences the disease has on children and young people and their families, says Susan Nørregaard.

The lymphedema clinic at Bispebjerg Hospital treats approximately 150 children and young people with lymphedema, all of whom are invited to participate in the study. In addition, patients will be recruited via professional companies, patient associations, social media and registers.

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