

18. MacDonagh R. Quality of life and its assessment in urology. *Br J Urol* 1996; 78: 485-96.
19. Spitzer RL, Kroenke K, Linzer M, Hahn SR, Williams JBW, deGruy FVI. Health-related quality of life in primary care patients with mental disorders. Results from the PRIME-MD 1000 study. *JAMA* 1995; 274: 1511-7.
20. Xuan J, Kirchdoerfer LJ, Boyer JG, Norwood GJ. Effects of comorbidity on health-related quality-of-life scores: an analysis of clinical trial data. *Clin Ther* 1999; 21: 383-403.
21. Becker M, Diamond R. New Developments in Quality of Life Measurement in Schizophrenia. In: Katschnig H, Freeman H, Sartorius N, eds. *Katschnig, Heins Freeman, Hugh Sartorius, Norman*. Chichester, New York, Weinheim, Brisbane, Singapore, Toronto: John Wiley & Sons; 1997: 120-33.
22. Daeppen JB, Krieg MA, Burnand B, Yersin B. MOS-SF-36 in evaluating health-related quality of life in alcohol-dependent patients. *Am J Drug Alcohol Abuse* 1988; 24: 685-94.
23. Volk RJ, Cantor SB, Steinbauer JR, Cass AR. Alcohol use disorders, consumption patterns, and health-related quality of life of primary care patients. *Alcohol Clin Exp Res* 1997; 21: 899-905.

## Doktorsvörn

# Nýr doktor í húð- og kynsjúkdómálaeknisfræði



**BOLLI BJARNASON** HÚÐ- OG KYNSJÚKDÓMALÆKNIR varði þann 16. desember síðastliðinn doktorsritgerð sína við læknadeild Karolinska Institutet í Stokkhólmi. Ritgerðin ber heitið **Laser Doppler imaging of patch tests – a methodological and comparative study with visual assessments**. Ritgerðinni tengjast nú vísingadreinar. Leiðbeinandi Bolla var prófessor Torkel Fischer og andmælandi prófessor Chris Anderson frá Ástralíu.

Ritgerðin fjallar um húðofnæmi sem er erfitt heilsufarsvandamál sem getur meðal annars leitt til starfsskipta eða varanlegrar örorku, til skertra lífsgæða og til sárlænna vandamála. Oft má koma í veg fyrir afleiðingar húðofnæmis með skjótri greiningu ofnæmisvaka. Ofnæmisgreiningin er algengt og erfitt vandamál í húðlækningum, ekki síst vegna mikils fjölda þekktra ofnæmisvaka og skorts á þekkingu hvað próftækni hinna ýmsu ofnæmisvaka varðar. Hluti próftækinnar er sjónrænn aflestur prófa, en þar gætir mikils munar milli húðlækna þrátt fyrir staðlað matskerfi.

Ritgerð Bolla leggur fram heimsstaðal fyrir notkun nýrrar leysitækni til rannsókna á húðsvörnum ofnæmisframkallandi og ertandi efna. Stöðlunin byggir á yfir 100.000 tilraunamælingum utan líkama og meira en 40.000 mælingum á húðofnæmis- eða húðertissvörnum hjá sjúklingum. Í ritgerðinni eru bornar saman niðurstöður aflestra snertiþrófa (patch tests) með leysitækinni og með berum augum. Í ritgerðinni eru einnig könnuð áhrif ýmissa þáttu próftækni á niðurstöður prófa og besta aðferðafræði könnuð fyrir próf með algengum ofnæmisvökum fyrir báðar aflestraraðferðirnar.

Nýjung með leysitækinni er, að unnt er að meta

ofnæmi með mælingum á blóðflæði án snertingar við húð. Í ritgerðinni er sýnt fram á að unnt er að lækka prófskammt algengra ofnæmisvaka og stytta lengd prófunar með leysitækinni. Þetta eykur sértækni prófa og minnkar jafnframt líkur á að sjúklingar hljóti ofnæmi af prófunum sjálfum. Sérstök nýjung er mæling á ofnæmissvari í gegnum þunnar gegnsæjar plasthimnur og prófefni á húðinni meðan á ofnæmisþrófi stendur. Í ritgerðinni er lagður grunnur að þróunarverkefni Evrópusambandsins um hátækniþáð í læknisfræði þar sem hlutverk Bolla hefur verið beiting tækninnar við húðþróf.

Um 20 kynningar hafa farið fram á rannsóknum Bolla á fjölda ráðstefna víðsvegar um heim. Hann hefur notið styrkja frá fjölmögum aðilum, þar á meðal Karolinska Institutet, sánska læknafélaginu, sánsku astma- og ofnæmissamtökunum og Evrópusambandinu. Hann hefur haft leyfi frá störfum á Karolinska sjúkrahúsini til að gegna kennslu og grunnrannsóknum í húðofnæmi og krabbameini við húðdeild Háskólans í Birmingham í Alabama í Bandaríkjum. Hann stefnir til Íslands á næsta ári.

### Dissertation abstract

Optimal test technique for most allergens is lacking. Despite technological progress in the 20th century, patch tests are habitually still assessed visually. Morphology of definite positive patch tests is unknown, reflected by various reading scales available and false-positive tests. Visual assessments are subjective rendering questionable the reliability of test readings. Objective non-invasive assessments may be an alternative to such assessments or support them.

The unique properties of laser light to detect

**Key words:** skin perfusion, laser Doppler perfusion imaging, laser Doppler perfusion scanning, contact dermatitis, patch test technique, test procedure, test method, test system, patch test optimization, serial dilution, dose, exposure time, application time, reading time, immunosuppression, pigmented patch test materials, edge effect, nickel, isothiazolinones, corticosteroids, budesonide, neomycin, balsam of Peru.

motion of macromolecules and progress in biomedical engineering make possible imaging and assessment of superficial perfusion in arbitrary units with an instrument used in current study, the laser Doppler perfusion imager PIM 1.0 (LDPI). This study uses *in vitro* experiments with simulated patch tests to investigate various factors that may affect LDPI readings of patch tests with the goal of providing LDPI set-up models for readings of patch tests on humans. Based on LDPI and visual readings of normal skin, irritant and allergic patch tests, an instrument set-up is suggested for reading patch tests when non-pigmented test substances are tested on white skin. Other aims are to study if there may be inter-individual differences in perfusion of identical patch tests and some factors that may affect superficial perfusion or its assessment, to compare assessments of reactions made with the LDPI and visually, and to study the effect of various patch-test techniques on test results of five allergens.

Apart from readings of simulated tests, more than 40,000 readings were performed on 71 subjects. Transparent patches and application devices made possible assessment of patches during their application. Measurements of perfusion over time made possible charting and comparison of variable perfusion profiles among subjects tested with identical tests.

The application device and vehicles may affect perfusion of patch tests while perfusion assessment may be affected by skin pigmentation and movements during readings.

There was generally good agreement between LDPI and visual assessments of highest reactivity of reactions except for two of the allergens, one of which was neomycin sulfate where reactions developed that were not morphologically classifiable as allergic reactions with the assessment scale used. There were indications that some of those reactions may be positive. Early phase of reactions was in some cases detected earlier with the LDPI than visually, and the LDPI tended to detect the highest reactivity of reactions earlier with two allergens.

While a positive dose-response relationship was generally found for most allergens, the relationship between application times and response varied considerably by allergens. Time of highest reactivity of reactions was generally unaffected by dose or appli-

cation time except for a single allergen, regardless of reading methods.

The LDPI allowed decreased dose of two allergens without affecting sensitivity. Transparent foils allowed reduced allergen dose for perfusion readings without affecting test sensitivity of the test populations.

Reactivity at edges of negative corticosteroid patch tests may indicate later elicitation of a positive test.

There is evidence that a suggested set-up of the LDPI for reading of tests when non-pigmented test substances are used on white skin may be inappropriate with pigmented substances.

## Fræðigreinar íslenskra lækna í erlendum tímaritum

**Getið er fræðigreina. Sendið heiti greinar, nöfn höfunda og birtningarstað til Læknablaðsins. Miðað er við greinar sem birst hafa á yfirstandandi og síðasta ári. Til glöggvunar verður íslenskra höfunda getið með fornafni þótt þess sé ekki getið við birtingu.**

- **Trausti Valdimarsson, Toss G, Löfman O, Ström M.** *Three years' follow-up of bone density in adult coeliac disease: significance of secondary hyperparathyroidism.* Scand J Gastroenterol 2000; 35: 3274-80.