# Pain in adults with Down syndrome.

Gepubliceerd: 20-05-2011 Laatst bijgewerkt: 13-12-2022

Necessity: A study on chronic pain in persons with Down syndrome is clinical relevant for 5 reasons: 1. The neuropathology of Down syndrome without and with dementia affects pain-related gray and white matter, which may alter pain experience; 2....

**Ethische beoordeling** Niet van toepassing

**Status** Werving nog niet gestart

Type aandoening -

**Onderzoekstype** Observationeel onderzoek, zonder invasieve metingen

## Samenvatting

#### ID

NL-OMON21264

**Bron** 

NTR

## **Aandoening**

Pain

Down syndrome

Cognition

Dementia

Pain

Down syndrome

Cognition

Dementia

## **Ondersteuning**

**Primaire sponsor:** Performer: VU university, Department of Clinical Neuropsychology, The Netherlands.

Main investigator: Nanda de Knegt (MSc.)Doctoral thesis supervisors: prof. dr. Scherder and prof. dr. Evenhuis.

METC permission: submitted in May 2011, in progress.

Overige ondersteuning: Fonds NutsOhra

Fonds Verstandelijk Gehadicapten

Possibly: Innovatiefonds Zorgverzekeraars

## Onderzoeksproduct en/of interventie

#### **Uitkomstmaten**

#### Primaire uitkomstmaten

The main study parameters are: <br>

- 1. The difference in pain experience between the control group and Down syndrome group;<br/>
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- 2. The difference in pain experience between Down syndrome adults without versus with indications for dementia: <br/>
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- 4. The difference in pain experience, cognitive functioning, and the relationship between pain experience and cognitive functioning comparing Down syndrome adults without versus with ApoE e4 allele.

# **Toelichting onderzoek**

### Achtergrond van het onderzoek

This will be the first clinical study in which the pain experience is examined in adults with Down syndrome, compared with a control group and divided into the presence and absence of indicated dementia. Also, this is the first study in which the relationship between pain experience and cognitive functioning is exmined in persons with Down syndrome.

Country: The Netherlands.

#### Doel van het onderzoek

**Necessity:** 

A study on chronic pain in persons with Down syndrome is clinical relevant for 5 reasons:

- 1. The neuropathology of Down syndrome without and with dementia affects pain-related gray and white matter, which may alter pain experience;
- 2. The prevalence of age-related painful conditions is increasing in Down syndrome due to increase in estimated life expectancy;
- 3. Persons with Down syndrome may suffer from more painful conditions than controls do;

- 4. The sensory-discriminative aspect of pain appears to be abnormal in Down syndrome;
- 5. The relationship between cognitive functioning and pain may be altered by the presence of apolipoprotein E4 (ApoE4) in Down syndrome without and with dementia.

#### Aim:

To study the relationship between pain experience and cognitive functioning in adults with Down syndrome, with and without dementia. To compare pain experience between adults with Down syndrome and subjects of a control group.

#### Hypotheses:

- 1. Adults with Down syndrome will report an increased pain experience compared to the control group;
- 2. In Down syndrome adults with dementia, pain experience will be further increased compared to Down syndrome adults without dementia;
- 3. Chronic pain experience will relate negatively to cognitive functioning in Down syndrome adults (without and with dementia);
- 4. The ApoE e4 allele is negatively associated with cognitive functioning in Down syndrome.

#### **Onderzoeksopzet**

Measurements will be performed in total during 45 minutes (one visit) with the control subjects and 180 minutes (several visits to prevent exhaustion) with the Down syndrome subjects.

#### Onderzoeksproduct en/of interventie

Control group and clinical group:

The pain perception in the subject will be studied using self-reported visual analogue scales, an observation list for pain behavior, and a test for tactile perception. The self-report scales and observation lists are administred at rest and after physical examination.

During the physical examination, the client is requested by the researcher to imitate movements with joints (neck, shoulders, elbows, wrists, fingers, back, legs and jaw). In this way, we examine whether joint pain occurs.

In the test for vital sensibility, the subject is asked to judge with eyes closed whether his/her forearms are touched with a sharp or blunt edge of a Neuropen (cautiously), a hot or cold metal roller (carefully) is placed and when (at which thickness) a nylon hair is used.

Only clinical group (Down syndrome):

The ApoE genotype will be determined by striking a cotton swab along the buccal mucosa (and subsequent analysis in the laboratory).

Cognitive functioning will be investigated using a neuropsychological test battery (NETOL). A caretaker of the subject will observe pain behavior in three situations (at rest / during an active moment of care / chewing), but the client will not be instructed during these observations.

The level of intellectual disability will be assessed by using a short test for logical reasoning (performed by subjects), a questionnaire for adaptive functioning (SRZ, completed by caretakers), and results of an intelligencetest from the personal file. Indications for dementia will be assessed by asking the caregiver to complete a dementia questionnaire (DVZ or DSDS) and by a short heteroanamnesis about indications for dementia (and pain). The scores of the SRZ and the DVZ/DSDS will be compared with data from previous completements of the same questionnaire in the care center.

# Contactpersonen

### **Publiek**

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## Wetenschappelijk

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## **Deelname** eisen

# Belangrijkste voorwaarden om deel te mogen nemen (Inclusiecriteria)

Control group: N= 105

- 1. Aged 18 years or older;
- 2. One or several musculoskeletal disorders, e.g. arthrosis, hip abnormalities or degenerative cervical spine instability. Prevalence and type of musculoskeletal disorders in control group are matched with Down syndrome group, hence the musculoskeletal disorders are not always required;
- 3. Matched with Down syndrome group on age and sex.

Patient group: N= 210 (N= 105 without dementia and N= 105 with dementia)

- 1. Down syndrome;
- 2. Calendar age 18 years or older;
- 3. Screening of dementia (in half of the subjects; N= 105);
- 4. Estimated IQ 35 or higher;
- 5. Sufficient understanding of the tests for pain experience and the cognitive tests;
- 6. We are interested in musculoskeletal disorders (e.g. arthrosis, hip abnormalities or degenerative cervical spine instability), but this is not a request;
- 7. We are both interested in persons that report pain and in persons that doe not complain about pain (expecially that last group is relevant). Thus, a presumption of pain is not a request.

# Belangrijkste redenen om niet deel te kunnen nemen (Exclusiecriteria)

Control group:

- 1. Diagnosis of intellectual disability;
- 2. Age < 18 years;
- 3. Diagnosis of dementia or incapacity to understand neuropsychological and pain measures;
- 4. Use of antiepileptic or antipsychotic;
- 5. Neurological conditions, e.g. tumors, strokes, or infarctions;
- 6. Visual impairment to such a high degree that tests cannot be seen properly;
- 7. Hearing loss to such a high degree that questions cannot be heard properly and sign language is known insufficiently;
- 8. Major clinical psychopathology (e.g. major depression disorder).

#### Patient group:

- 1. Moderately severe or severe dementia;
- 2. Calendar age < 18 years;
- 3. Estimated IQ<35 and/or incapacity to perform neuropsychological and pain measures;
- 4. Use of anticonvulsants or antipsychotics;
- 5. Presence of neurological conditions (tumors, hemorrhages, infarctions);
- 6. Visual impairment to such a high degree that tests cannot be seen properly;
- 7. Hearing loss to such a high degree that questions cannot be heard properly and sign language is known insufficiently.

Preferably, we exclude subjects with hypothyroidism, epilepsy, or major clinical psychopathology (e.g. major depression disorder). Pain medication and anti-inflammatory medication are not excluded, they will be statistically corrected.

# **Onderzoeksopzet**

## **Opzet**

Type: Observationeel onderzoek, zonder invasieve metingen

Onderzoeksmodel: Parallel

Toewijzing: Niet-gerandomiseerd

Blindering: Open / niet geblindeerd

Controle: Geneesmiddel

## **Deelname**

Nederland

Status: Werving nog niet gestart

(Verwachte) startdatum: 01-01-2012

Aantal proefpersonen: 315

Type: Verwachte startdatum

# **Ethische beoordeling**

Niet van toepassing

Soort: Niet van toepassing

# **Registraties**

## Opgevolgd door onderstaande (mogelijk meer actuele) registratie

Geen registraties gevonden.

## Andere (mogelijk minder actuele) registraties in dit register

Geen registraties gevonden.

# In overige registers

Register ID

NTR-new NL2769 NTR-old NTR2909 Register ID

Ander register METC VU Medical Center : 2011/134 ISRCTN wordt niet meer aangevraagd.

# Resultaten

## Samenvatting resultaten

N/A