

Elective Studies

2005/2006

Abstracts  
from  
Scientific Projects  
by  
10<sup>th</sup> Semester Medical Students

Faculty of Medicine  
Lund University



## Preface

Students at the Faculty of Medicine, Lund University, are required to write a scientific paper during their fifth year of medical studies. This elective period comprises ten weeks and during that time the student should perform the study, whether it is experimental, clinical or a literature review, and write it up in the format of a medical scientific paper. This is subsequently defended in public by the student during a seminar. The papers can be written in Swedish or English, but an abstract in English is always required.

The students are free to choose their own projects, within the limits set by research ethics considerations and the time available to perform them. They are guided by a graduate supervisor of their own choice and by the Director of Elective Studies who has to endorse every project prior to commencement.

The overall objective of these projects is not to achieve results that can be published in international medical journals, but rather to familiarize the students with scientific theory, methodology and writing, as well as giving them the opportunity to study a subject in depth.

Our students put a considerable amount of time and hard work into these projects, which cover a wide variety of subjects. We feel that these efforts deserve to be appreciated by a larger audience. This booklet is a compilation of the abstracts from the scientific papers presented by Lund University medical students during their 10th semester elective studies, 2004-2005. We hope that you will find this interesting and worthwhile reading.

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# Is there a psysical explanation to religious stigmata?

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*Background:* Religious stigmatization is a sudden appearance of lesions on a persons body similar to those Jesus Christ experienced during the Crucifixion. The wounds are represented on the forehead, palms and feet as well as the loin. Diseases involving maldistribution of microcirculation, i.e. erythromelalgia, could represent the cause of this phenomena.

*Aim:* To investigate whether or not erythromelalgia is the cause of religious stigmatization in Myrna Nazzor.

*Materials and methods:* Myrna Nazzor (MN) is a Syrian stigmatist that was examined before, during and after religious stigmatization (Easter 2004) using: (1) Clinical observation and history, (2) Genotyping and comparing blood from the wounds and venous blood, (3) Photo-documentation (microscopic and digital photos), (3) Circulatory measures: Laser Doppler perfusion scanner, spectroscopy, impedance. Data was compared to a control.

*Results:* MN represented with a 34 mm lesion in the left loin on Holy Thursday 2004. The wound followed a clinically normal recovery trial. Measurements of blood-flow did lack the characteristics of an erythromelalgian reaction, and were similar to findings in the control. Neither was the cause of the wound local hypoxia, as saturation measures were normal. There was a significant rise in impedance 9/4 2004.

*Conclusion:* MN did not experience this lesion due to erythromelalgia.