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Vrije Universiteit Brussel

PhD in Medical Sciences
2014-2015

INVITATION to the Public defence of

Ina FOULON

To obtain the academic degree of '**DOCTOR IN MEDICAL SCIENCES**'

Congenital Cytomegalovirus Infection: a Study on the Incidence and Characteristics of Hearing Loss

Thursday 11 June 2015

Auditorium **Vanden Driessche**, 17:00
Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy, Laarbeeklaan 103, 1090 Brussel

How to reach the campus Jette:

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Summary of the dissertation

Congenital CMV (cCMV) infection is the most common foetal viral infection. In our population 0.53% of live born children are born with a congenital CMV infection and approximately 20% of them will develop hearing loss. In 90% of the cases, congenital infection is asymptomatic. These children will have less chance of developing severe sequelae but hearing problems and mild neurological problems are often diagnosed. The risk of developing hearing problems is highest in children with a symptomatic infection and in those children who develop a congenital CMV infection after a primary infection in the first trimester of pregnancy (respectively 33% and 80% chance of hearing loss). A typical characteristic in children with cCMV is that hearing loss does not remain stable over time. Children with normal hearing at birth have a 4 to 5 % chance of developing "late onset" hearing loss. Progression or worsening of hearing thresholds is seen in 27% of children who present with a hearing problem at birth. Improvement of hearing is common and fluctuations are detected in 16% of the cases. Given the fact that hearing thresholds are not stable, we advocate a long term follow-up. Based on our results, a flow chart has been developed.

Curriculum Vitae

Ina Foulon was born on the 25th of September 1978 in Brussels. After graduating from highschool in June 1996 at the Koninklijk Atheneum Koekelberg (Mathematics and Science) she studied at the medical school of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and obtained her medical degree with great distinction in June 2003. From September 2003, she specialized in the department of Otorhinolaryngology at the Universitair Ziekenhuis Brussel and obtained her degree in Otorhinolaryngology in July 2008. Since that time, she worked in the department of Otorhinolaryngology at the Universitair Ziekenhuis Brussel, first as a junior staff member and since 2013 as a senior staff member. Her main fields of interest are otology and pediatric otorhinolaryngology.