

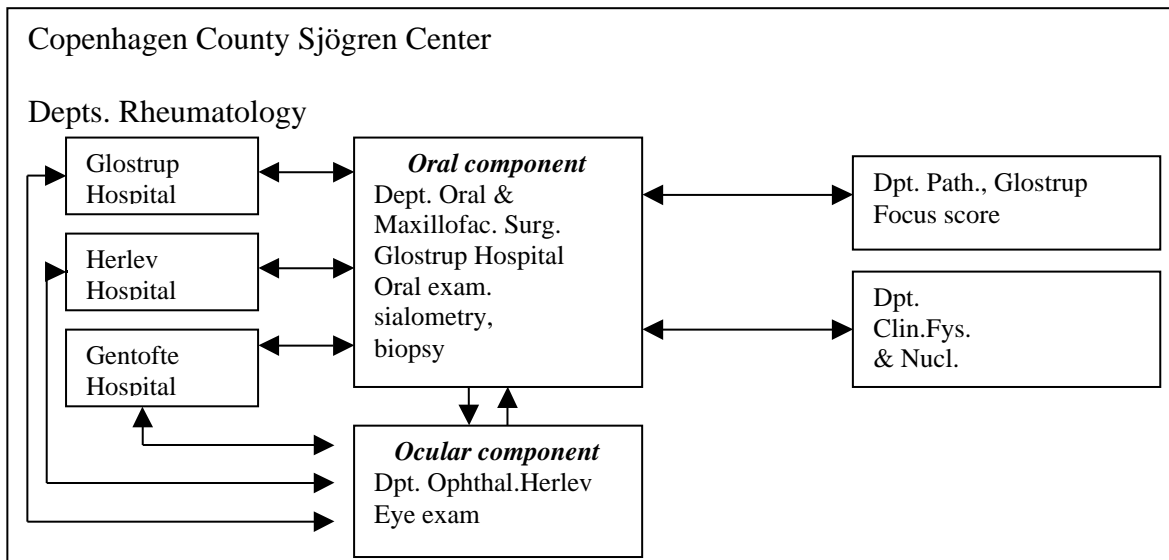
Organization of a Sjögren center in Copenhagen county, Denmark

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Criteria for establishing the diagnosis of Sjögren's syndrome (SS) vary worldwide. Although accepted sets of diagnostic criteria exist, the diagnostic workup vary considerably, mainly due to the lack of an established infrastructure in the health care system. At the Department of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, Copenhagen County University Hospital in Glostrup we have in 1997 organized a multidisciplinary Sjögren-center, in collaboration with other departments. The purpose of this study is to report the organization and infrastructure of the center and the first 100 patients.

Material and methods. The Sjögren-center is organized as shown in the figure.



The Copenhagen County University Hospitals comprise 4 hospitals (3 with Rheumatology departments) serving a population of 614.000 people. Patients can be referred to the center to any of the 3 rheumatologic departments, or the dpt. of ophthalmology or the dpt. of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. Once inside the center the patients are referred for oral and eye examination as shown. Referrals are received from other hospitals, private physicians, dentists and private specialists. The patients are classified acc. to the Copenhagen criteria and the EU criteria, and offered available treatments.

Results. The first 100 patients included 90 women and 10 men, aged 19-85 with a mean age of 56 years. Primary SS was diagnosed in 21%, sec. SS in 9%, Xerostomia/hyposalivation alone in 7%, keratoconjunctivitis sicca alone in 17%, medication-induced xerostomia in 2% and no sign of disease in 44%. Symptoms and signs are included in a database forming the basis for future research projects. Further findings will be presented.

Conclusion. The present organization of the center is well functioning and able to establish a uniform diagnostic work-up according to accepted criteria on a routine basis thus serving the primary health care sector and the citizens of Copenhagen. The structure of the center may serve as a model which can be adapted to health care systems in other counties in Denmark and elsewhere.