Peripheral facial palsy is one of the most common mononeuropathies. The majority of the peripheral facial palsy in the adult population is of unknown origin and is called Bell’s palsy. This doctoral project focuses on Bell’s palsy but also neuroborreliosis which is a major cause of peripheral facial palsy in the pediatric population. Bell’s palsy can cause severe sequelae in both adults and children but in the pediatric and pregnant population it is poorly investigated in literature. There is also a lack of studies concerning the subjective suffering (QOL- quality-of-life) when affected by Bell’s palsy.

This study about incidence, outcome and QOL, investigated both retrospectively and prospectively, in an adult and pediatric population will therefore be of great importance for increasing the knowledge of this disease. It will also add value for new guide lines.

Individual projects:
Project 1: Bell’s palsy and Quality of Life over time
A prospective study to measure the subjective suffering when having Bell’s palsy compared to objective measurement scales and follow the change over 1 year. It will also give answers to if QOL is affected by gender, age or additive diseases.

Project 2: Outcome of Bell’s palsy in pregnant women and puerperium
A retrospective follow-up study of women suffering from Bell’s palsy during pregnancy and puerperium between 2005 and 2015. This group and a control group will be called for re-examination. The primary aim is to get incidence and outcome after facial palsy during pregnancy and puerperium, also to see if QOL effect is more substantial than the objective sequelae and if there are any differences in outcome if treated with cortisone or not.

Project 3: Acute peripheral facial palsy in children – etiology and incidence.
Retrospective descriptive study of all children with peripheral facial palsy within years 2005 and 2015 in Stockholm county. Primary outcome is incidence of peripheral facial palsy and etiology among children in Stockholm county.

Project 4: Long-term outcome sequelae in children with Bell’s palsy
Based on project 3, children with Bell’s palsy aged 0-15 with traces of palsy will be compared to a control group. Both groups will be neurologically and otologically re-examined and if possible electrophysiological examination will be done. The study’s aim is to see if there are more objective and subjective sequelae in children after Bell’s palsy than earlier expected.