# (Cost)-effectiveness of lower extremity nerve decompression surgery in diabetic subjects: the DeCompression (DECO) trial

Published: 19-09-2019 Last updated: 09-04-2024

Evaluation of the (cost-)effectiveness of surgical decompression of compressed lower extremity nerves (LEND surgery) compared to patients 'treated' with conventional best care.

**Ethical review** Approved WMO **Status** Recruiting

**Health condition type** Peripheral neuropathies

Study type Interventional

# **Summary**

#### ID

NL-OMON54529

Source

ToetsingOnline

**Brief title** 

**DECO** trial

#### **Condition**

- Peripheral neuropathies
- Nervous system, skull and spine therapeutic procedures

## **Synonym**

diabetic foot, Neuropathy, polyneuropathy

#### Research involving

Human

## **Sponsors and support**

**Primary sponsor:** Universitair Medisch Centrum Utrecht

Source(s) of monetary or material Support: ZonMW, Stichting Coolsingel

#### Intervention

**Keyword:** Amputation, Lower Extremity Nerve Decompression Surgery, Neuropathy, Ulceration

## **Outcome measures**

#### **Primary outcome**

Complaints (Norfolk QoL-DN).

## **Secondary outcome**

Quality of life (EQ-5D5L, SF-36), plantar sensation, incidence of ulcerations/amputations and resource use during follow-up. The incremental cost-utility ratio will be estimated on the basis of the collected empirical data.

# **Study description**

#### **Background summary**

RESEARCH QUESTION: Evaluation of the (cost-)effectiveness of surgical decompression of compressed lower extremity nerves (LEND surgery) compared to non-surgical, conventional care.

HYPOTHESIS: Our hypothesis is that the surgical treatment of compression neuropathies in the lower extremity results in relief of complaints and gain in peripheral nerve function, which may result in less sensory loss and the detrimental effects associated with this, such as diabetic foot ulceration and amputations and the associated costs. LEND surgery is expected to be incrementally cost-effective compared to current best care. STUDY DESIGN: Multicenter randomized controlled trial. Comparison of the (cost-)effectiveness of LEND surgery compared to current non-surgical care. STUDY

POPULATION / DATA RESOURCES: Adult patients with diabetes with neuropathy complaints and compression neuropathies in the lower extremity.

INTERVENTION: decompression of compressed lower extremity nerves. USUAL CARE/COMPARISON: Conventional non-surgical care.

OUTCOME MEASURES Complaints (Norfolk QoL-DN), quality of life (EQ-5D5L, SF-36), plantar sensation, incidence of ulcerations/amputations, balance and gait and electrodiagnostic parameters, resource use during follow-up. The incremental cost-utility ratio will be estimated on the basis of the collected empirical data.

SAMPLE SIZE / DATA ANALYSIS 258 patients are needed to show a difference of 15% in quality of life (total Norfolk-Qol-DN score between baseline and follow-up)(1; 2). Adjusting for an anticipated 25% lost to follow-up renders our total study size to be 344 patients (129\*100/75 = 172 patients per group). Between 28 and 40 patients will be included per center (11 participating centers in total). The primary analysis will be performed by using repeated measurements ANOVA (change in Norfolk-QoL-DN between baseline and follow-up). Patients will be analysed according to the intention-to-treat principle.

COST-EFFECTIVENESS ANALYSIS / BUDGET IMPACT ANALYSIS Medical and societal costs will be evaluated, so potential restoration of function and gain in quality of life can be weighed against the incremental costs of surgery.

BURDEN / RISK: Time investment per patient is on average 10 hours for the total study period. The risks are related to the surgery itself (wound healing problems and hemorrhage) and are accepted as generally being a low.

TIME SCHEDULE Start: Start inclusion of patients: September 2019. Last follow-up: September 2024

## **Study objective**

Evaluation of the (cost-)effectiveness of surgical decompression of compressed lower extremity nerves (LEND surgery) compared to patients 'treated' with conventional best care.

#### Study design

A stratified randomized (1 to 1) controlled trial comparing LEND surgery (intervention) with current best care (control strategy). Patients and controls have the same follow-up at 1.5, 3, 6, 9, 12, 18, 24 and 48 months. Participants will be recruited in 12 months and enrolled in the eight affiliated hospitals, in which they receive both intervention and current best care and follow-up. Randomization is stratified for participating hospital. Outcome assessors are blinded to group assignment.

#### Intervention

In the intervention group, a surgical release of at least the tibial and common peroneal nerves, additional decompressions of the superficial and deep peroneal

nerves can be carried out when compressed. The contralateral leg will be operated three months later.

## Study burden and risks

Negligible risk. Low impact on patients participating', only have to full in some questionnaires ( $\pm$  10h for total study duration per patient).

## **Contacts**

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# **Trial sites**

## **Listed location countries**

**Netherlands** 

# **Eligibility criteria**

#### Age

Adults (18-64 years) Elderly (65 years and older)

## Inclusion criteria

Having diabetes mellitus (type 1 or 2) Patients (> 17 and < 76 years old) Symptoms of neuropathy (assessed with the MNSI, scoring > 3) A bilateral Tinel sign at the tarsal tunnel (n. tibialis posterior) Sufficient circulation to heal lower-extremity incision (by palpating the peripheral arteries of the foot: a palpable dorsal pedis artery or posterior tibial artery is needed). In case of non-palpable arteries a pedal Doppler arterial waveform is evaluated. A toe brachial index is performed when the Doppler signal is not triphasic. Minimal or controlled pedal oedema (assessed with inspection and physical examination) Being fit for surgery Compliant with instructions for their own care\* Intact protective sensation (cutaneous threshold <10 g monofilament) at the plantar side of the foot (plantar hallux and fifth toe) Written informed consent

## **Exclusion criteria**

DFU(s) or amputation(s) in history, active radicular syndrome or neurological disease interfering with sensation of the feet, as assessed in the interview and screening questionnaire (e.g. HIV and chemotherapy induced neuropathy) Previous surgery at lower extremity nerve compression sites Active Charcot foot Not able to understand written and oral instructions (i.e. insufficient command of Dutch language) Being incompetent (incapacitated) Current enrollment in a clinical trial which involves surgery of the lower extremity or medical drug trials investigating the effects on neuropathy symptoms. HbA1c level > 11% at baseline Pregnant women

# Study design

## Design

Study type: Interventional

Intervention model: Parallel

Allocation: Randomized controlled trial

Masking: Single blinded (masking used)

**Primary purpose:** Treatment

#### Recruitment

NL

Recruitment status: Recruiting
Start date (anticipated): 16-12-2019

Enrollment: 344

Type: Actual

## **Ethics review**

Approved WMO

Date: 19-09-2019

Application type: First submission

Review commission: METC NedMec

Approved WMO

Date: 04-11-2019

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: METC NedMec

Approved WMO

Date: 07-05-2020

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: METC NedMec

Approved WMO

Date: 11-08-2022

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: METC NedMec

Approved WMO

Date: 20-06-2023

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: METC NedMec

Approved WMO

Date: 24-10-2023

Application type: Amendment

Review commission: METC NedMec

# **Study registrations**

# Followed up by the following (possibly more current) registration

No registrations found.

# Other (possibly less up-to-date) registrations in this register

No registrations found.

# In other registers

Register ID

CCMO NL68312.041.19

Other NL7664