

# Virtual Monoenergetic Imaging of the Lower Extremities Using Dual-Energy CT Angiography in Patients with Diabetes Mellitus: A Randomized Controlled Trial

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<b>Ethical review</b>	Approved WMO
<b>Status</b>	Pending
<b>Health condition type</b>	Diabetic complications
<b>Study type</b>	Observational non invasive

## Summary

### ID

NL-OMON57087

### Source

ToetsingOnline

### Brief title

DECTA of lower extremities in patients with DM: RCT

### Condition

- Diabetic complications
- Arteriosclerosis, stenosis, vascular insufficiency and necrosis

### Synonym

Diabetes, peripheral vascular disease

### Research involving

Human

## Sponsors and support

**Primary sponsor:** Haaglanden Medisch Centrum

**Source(s) of monetary or material Support:** Wetenschapscommissie HMC

## Intervention

**Keyword:** Diabetes Mellitus, Dual energy CT, Lower extremity, peripheral arterial disease (PAD)

## Outcome measures

### Primary outcome

Primary endpoints are scores on image quality, image noise and vessel contrast on a 5 point scale (see chapter 3, table 1 of our research protocol) on both dual energy CTA and conventional CTA. Two experienced radiologists will score the CT-images.

### Secondary outcome

- Secondary endpoints are signal to noise ratio (SNR) and contrast to noise ratio (CNR). Attenuation values (HU) and standard deviation (SD) are quantified in lower leg arteries, subcutaneous fat and iliopsoas muscle in both DECTA and conventional CTA by a radiologist. The following formula is used to determine SNR and CNR:

$$\text{SNR} = (\text{HU,artery}) / (\text{SD,fat})$$

$$\text{CNR} = ((\text{HU,artery} - \text{HU,muscle})) / (\text{SD,fat})$$

- Total radiation dose will be automatically quantified by the CT-scan
- To evaluate the diagnostic accuracy of DECTA and conventional CTA in detecting stenosis or occlusions in the lower legs compared to DSA as gold standard; assessed by sensitivity, specificity, and area under the receiver

operating characteristic curve. This will be subgroup analysis, performed in participants who had a DSA within 60 days of their CTA as part of standard care.

## Study description

### Background summary

Type 2 diabetes mellitus (DM) is the most common metabolic disorder in the world and a major risk factor for cardiovascular disease, given its high prevalence. Peripheral arterial disease (PAD) in the lower legs represents a major complication of type 2 diabetes, often causing ischemic ulceration, gangrene and amputation.

While digital subtraction angiography (DSA) remains the gold standard for diagnosis of PAD, its invasive and time-consuming character makes it unsuitable to use in a large group of patients. Therefore, computed tomography angiography (CTA) is currently the method of choice for diagnosing PAD in the lower legs. Dual-energy CTA (DECTA) has several advantages over conventional CTA, due to different applications such as virtual mono-energetic imaging (VMI) and bone removal software. DECTA uses raw data from high and low energy radiation (high- and low-keV) beams to create low-keV images to improve image contrast and iodine signal. In recent years, several studies have shown that VMI reconstructions provide the best image contrast with the least possible noise in low-keV reconstructions.

Often, patients suffering from PAD show reduced iodine levels in the lower legs due to significant stenosis or occlusion upstream. Additionally, evaluation of the lower leg arteries in patients with PAD is often challenged by medial arterial calcifications causing blooming artefacts. Therefore, imaging of the lower legs in this particular group of patients can benefit from DECTA.

### Study objective

Several observational studies have been published evaluating DECTA for imaging of the lower legs, comparing this technique with conventional CTA.

However, to the best of our knowledge, no randomised controlled trial has been conducted comparing both conventional CTA and DECTA in patients with DM suffering from PAD.

Thus, the purpose of our randomised controlled trial is to evaluate the diagnostic accuracy and clinical utility of dual energy CTA using VMI with conventional CTA in assessing PAD of the lower extremities in patients with Rutherford stage 4 or higher. Additionally, it will explore the potential benefits of DECTA in terms of image quality, radiation dose reduction, and

visualization of small vessels.

## **Study design**

We aim to conduct a double blind randomized controlled trial conducted at Haaglanden Medisch Centrum (HMC), The Hague (The Netherlands). Patients with diabetes mellitus who are scheduled to undergo a CTA of their lower legs for suspected arterial disease with Rutherford stage 4 or higher will be recruited at the outpatient clinic for vascular surgery or the 'Eerste Diabetische Voethulp' outpatient clinic.

Participants will be randomly assigned to one of two study groups: one group will undergo a dual-energy CTA with VMI reconstructions (DECTA group) and the other group will undergo the conventional mono-energetic CTA (CCTA group). Imaging parameters and details concerning contrast media administration can be found in chapter 3 of our research protocol.

Two blinded, experienced interventional radiologists will score the DECTA and conventional CTA using a five point scale to assess image quality, image noise and vessel contrast (Table 1 in our research protocol).

## **Study burden and risks**

Participants are referred to the department of radiology for a CT scan of the abdomen and lower extremities as part of the standard care. Participants will undergo either a dual energy CTA or a conventional CTA; both have a similar radiation dose and similar iodine dosage. There will be no extra risk associated with participation. As the study consists of only one CTA-scan, no additional hospital visits are necessary.

## **Contacts**

### **Public**

Haaglanden Medisch Centrum

Lijnbaan 32  
Den Haag 2512 VA  
NL

### **Scientific**

Haaglanden Medisch Centrum

Lijnbaan 32  
Den Haag 2512 VA  
NL

## Trial sites

### Listed location countries

Netherlands

## Eligibility criteria

### Age

Adults (18-64 years)

Elderly (65 years and older)

### Inclusion criteria

- Adult patients (aged 18 years and above).
- Confirmed diagnosis of diabetes mellitus and critical limb ischemia (Rutherford classification stage 4 and higher)
- Scheduled for lower extremity CTA for suspected arterial disease.
- Signed informed consent papers

### Exclusion criteria

- Severe renal impairment (glomerular filtration rate  $<30$  mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>).
- Inability to tolerate CTA procedure (e.g., severe claustrophobia).
- Contraindication to iodinated contrast media (e.g. severe allergy).
- Pregnancy

## Study design

### Design

Study type:	Observational non invasive
Intervention model:	Parallel
Allocation:	Randomized controlled trial
Masking:	Double blinded (masking used)
Control:	Active

Primary purpose: Diagnostic

## Recruitment

NL

Recruitment status: Pending

Start date (anticipated): 01-12-2024

Enrollment: 135

Type: Anticipated

## Ethics review

Approved WMO

Date: 05-11-2024

Application type: First submission

Review commission: METC Leiden-Den Haag-Delft (Leiden)

metc-ldd@lumc.nl

## 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**

CCMO

**ID**

NL87141.058.24