

# De Afhang Studie

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We hypothesize that there is no difference in the number of patients experiencing partial flap loss at six months post operative.

<b>Ethische beoordeling</b>	Positief advies
<b>Status</b>	Werving gestart
<b>Type aandoening</b>	-
<b>Onderzoekstype</b>	Observationeel onderzoek, zonder invasieve metingen

## Samenvatting

### ID

NL-OMON20011

### Bron

NTR

### Verkorte titel

DANGLE

### Aandoening

Lower leg reconstruction

Free flap

## Ondersteuning

**Primaire sponsor:** University Medical Center Utrecht

**Overige ondersteuning:** initiator

## Onderzoeksproduct en/of interventie

## Uitkomstmaten

### Primaire uitkomstmaten

The primary objective is to assess whether a no dangling protocol is non-inferior to a dangling protocol in terms of proportion of patients who experienced partial flaps loss which did not

require another free flap procedure at six months after surgery.

## Toelichting onderzoek

### Achtergrond van het onderzoek

Within the field of plastic surgery free tissue transfer is common practice. In knee and lower leg defects due to trauma, oncological resection or chronic infection adequate soft tissue coverage of bony structures is imminent. In case of insufficient bony coverage a muscle or fasciocutaneous (skin and fat) free tissue transplantation is performed. This is a microsurgical operation in which a part of the body is transplanted to the defect. However, there is a great diversity in the postoperative care for patients with a lower leg reconstructions. The frequency and way of post-operative monitoring, wrapping of the lower leg, total hospital stay, and the gradual increase of gravitational forces on the free flap (dangling) are all critical protocols in the postoperative care. Although, there is internationally no evidence based consensus supporting the use of some of these protocols. With this randomized controlled trial we would like to further investigate the need for dangling protocols in these patients.

Worldwide there are multiple variations of dangling protocols. The starting point, frequency, and duration of dependency vary widely; where some start the dangling protocol as early as on the second postoperative day, others wait until the fourth postoperative week (1-3). The remainders report to not use dangling as a standard procedure at all, or only in selected cases. When applied, the dangling sessions are prescribed once up to six or more times a day, with a duration ranging from one up to 21 minutes per session. In general the dangling protocol is performed in a hospital setting. Consequently, patient discharge plans are highly variable ranging from discharge at postoperative day four (when no dangling protocol is applied) to discharge in postoperative week three, with higher medical costs and patient discomfort as a result.

The best available evidence concerning an early start of the dangling procedure comes from the articles of Jokuszies et al. (2013) and Neubert et al. (2015). These are the only two known randomized controlled trials available. They show that the combined wrapping and dangling procedure can safely be started at postoperative day three, in patients treated with a variety of

free flaps. However it must be noted that the patients included in this study are for the most part the same group of patients. Furthermore, the number of patients in these studies were small: 31 and 49, for Jokuszies and Neubert respectively, resulting in an underpowered study. A larger randomized controlled trial is necessary to be able to amend the post-operative care in clinical settings.

Kolbensschlag et al. conducted a prospective cohort study and used the same dangling schedule. However, they did not start their dangling procedure until postoperative day 6 and furthermore, they differentiated between the different types of free flaps and medical conditions of patients.

Since there is limited evidence available in the literature supporting a dangling protocol further research is required.

### **Doel van het onderzoek**

We hypothesize that there is no difference in the number of patients experiencing partial flap loss at six months post operative.

### **Onderzoeksopzet**

1 week postoperative start study

12-15 days postoperative

6 weeks postoperative

3 months postoperative

6 months postoperative

### **Onderzoeksproduct en/of interventie**

Dangling of the lower leg vs. no dangling of the lower leg in patients treated with a free flap for lower leg reconstruction.

## **Contactpersonen**

### Deelname eisen

#### Belangrijkste voorwaarden om deel te mogen nemen (Inclusiecriteria)

- Male or female
- Age between 18 and 99 years old
- Lower leg defect in need for a free flap reconstruction

#### Belangrijkste redenen om niet deel te kunnen nemen (Exclusiecriteria)

- Age under 18 years
- Co-morbidities that prevent the patient from being able to undergo a dangling protocol
- Insufficient Dutch language skills to understand the study
- Mentally incompetent, Patients that are unable to give informed consent
- Reconstruction with 2 or more free flaps
- In case of a re-intervention the patient will be excluded from the study only if the arterial and/or venous anastomosis required a redo.
- In case the patient is getting a secondary free flap due to partial or total free flap necrosis of the primary one.

## Onderzoeksopzet

### Opzet

Type:	Observationeel onderzoek, zonder invasieve metingen
Onderzoeksmodel:	Parallel
Toewijzing:	Gerandomiseerd
Blinding:	Open / niet geblindeerd
Controle:	Geneesmiddel

### Deelname

Nederland	
Status:	Werving gestart
(Verwachte) startdatum:	11-10-2018
Aantal proefpersonen:	130
Type:	Verwachte startdatum

## Ethische beoordeling

Positief advies	
Datum:	10-10-2018
Soort:	Eerste indiening

## Registraties

### Opgevolgd door onderstaande (mogelijk meer actuele) registratie

ID: 50700  
Bron: ToetsingOnline  
Titel:

### Andere (mogelijk minder actuele) registraties in dit register

Geen registraties gevonden.

## In overige registers

Register	ID
NTR-new	NL7329
NTR-old	NTR7545
CCMO	NL63146.041.17
OMON	NL-OMON50700

## Resultaten