

Clinical Trial Protocol

Iranian Registry of Clinical Trials

10 Jun 2026

The effect of oral administration and topical application of *Linum usitatissimum* L. (flax seed) oil along with a calorie restricted diet on anthropometric indices, pain, physical function, and serum indices of oxidative stress in patients with knee osteoarthritis

Protocol summary

Study aim

The effect of oral administration and topical application of flax seed oil along with a calorie restricted diet on pain, physical function, and serum indices of oxidative stress in patients with knee osteoarthritis

Design

A parallel-group, double-blind, randomized, phase 3 clinical trial on 88 patients. Random array subset selection (RASS) was used for randomization.

Settings and conduct

Educational-therapeutic center of Imam Reza and Shohada of Tabriz After taking the blood samples of the patients and randomly assigning them to one of the groups, the supplements are delivered to the people for use for two weeks. After completion of the intervention period, the patients will visit Imam Reza Hospital and 5 cc of venous blood sample will be taken from them. To double-blind the conduct of the research, this will be done by an independent person from the study with using opaque sealed envelopes numbered 1, 2, 3, and 4 to conceal the allocation process. Subjects, clinical investigators, and the person responsible for statistical analysis will be blinded to the random assignment of subjects until the end of the study.

Participants/Inclusion and exclusion criteria

Adult men and women (over 40 years old)

Intervention groups

The first group receives flax seed oil in addition to topical flax seed oil along with a low calorie diet. The second group received a placebo of flax seed oil and topical flax seed oil along with a low calorie diet. The third group received flax seed oil plus topical paraffin oil as a placebo along with a low calorie diet. The fourth group received placebo flax seed oil and paraffin topical oil as a placebo along with a low calorie diet.

Main outcome variables

Changes in the average physical performance of the subjects based on the total score of the WOMAC index

General information

Reason for update

Acronym

IRCT registration information

IRCT registration number: **IRCT20161022030424N10**

Registration date: **2023-12-29, 1402/10/08**

Registration timing: **prospective**

Last update: **2023-12-29, 1402/10/08**

Update count: **0**

Registration date

2023-12-29, 1402/10/08

Registrant information

Name

Neda Dolatkah

Name of organization / entity

Country

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

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Recruitment status

Recruitment complete

Funding source

Expected recruitment start date

2024-04-18, 1403/01/30

Expected recruitment end date

2024-09-20, 1403/06/30

Actual recruitment start date

empty
Actual recruitment end date
empty
Trial completion date
empty

Scientific title
The effect of oral administration and topical application of *Linum usitatissimum* L. (flax seed) oil along with a calorie restricted diet on anthropometric indices, pain, physical function, and serum indices of oxidative stress in patients with knee osteoarthritis

Public title
The effect of *Linum usitatissimum* L. (flax seed) oil along with a calorie restricted diet in patients with knee osteoarthritis

Purpose
Treatment

Inclusion/Exclusion criteria
Inclusion criteria:
Diagnosis of knee osteoarthritis by a physical medicine specialist (mild, moderate) based on the diagnostic criteria of the American College of Rheumatology and the radiological evaluation of knee osteoarthritis by Clairgen Lawrence
Overweight and obese people based on body mass index of 25-40 weight per square meter
Not taking anticoagulants
Absence of knee joint replacement surgery
Absence of fractures involving the surface of the knee joint
Absence of skin diseases in the knee area
Absence of other systemic rheumatic diseases or RA, neuropathy, sensory disturbances due to drug, sedative or tobacco use
Exclusion criteria:
Treatment with oral or intra articular corticosteroids in the past 3 months

Age
From **40 years** old

Gender
Both

Phase
3

Groups that have been masked

- Participant
- Care provider
- Investigator
- Outcome assessor
- Data analyser

Sample size
Target sample size: **88**

Randomization (investigator's opinion)
Randomized

Randomization description
A block randomization method will be used to allocate participants to the groups with a 1:1:1:1 allocation using random allocation software (RAS) with block sizes of 4 and 8. Similarly sealed envelopes will be used to conceal the allocation in a sequentially numbered opaque package

Blinding (investigator's opinion)
Double blinded

Blinding description
Flaxseed and placebo food supplements are prepared and presented by Barij Essan Pharmaceutical Company, Kashan, Iran, and there will be no difference in color, shape, or taste between them. Liquid paraffin is packaged in containers similar to Flaxseed oil containers. Blocking and random allocation of the investigated subjects is done by a statistician outside the research team of the project. Outcome assessors, the person responsible for statistical analysis of the data, and the respondents will be blinded to the type of supplement received until the end of the study.

Placebo
Used
Assignment
Factorial

Other design features

Secondary Ids
empty

Ethics committees
1

Ethics committee
Name of ethics committee
Research ethics committee of Tabriz University of Medical Sciences
Street address
Emam Reza hospital, Golgasht str., Azadi ave., Tabriz
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Tabriz
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Postal code
5165665931

Approval date
2023-09-25, 1402/07/03
Ethics committee reference number
IR.TBZMED.REC.1402.479

Health conditions studied
1

Description of health condition studied
Knee osteoarthritis
ICD-10 code
M17
ICD-10 code description
Osteoarthritis of knee

Primary outcomes
1

Description
Physical performance
Timepoint
Evaluation of physical performance at baseline (before

intervention) and 8 weeks after starting the oral and topical supplement of flaxseed oil.

Method of measurement

Western Ontario and McMaster Universities Osteoarthritis Index questionnaire

Secondary outcomes

1

Description

Pain intensity

Timepoint

Measurement of the pain intensity at baseline (before intervention) and 8 weeks after oral and topical supplement of flaxseed oil.

Method of measurement

Visual Analogue Scale

2

Description

Anthropometric indices

Timepoint

Measurement of the anthropometric indices at baseline (before intervention) and 8 weeks after oral and topical supplement of flaxseed oil.

Method of measurement

Seca digital scale

3

Description

Serum concentration of oxidative stress indices (MDA and TAC)

Timepoint

Measurement of the serum levels of inflammatory markers at baseline (before intervention) and 8 weeks after oral and topical supplement of flaxseed oil.

Method of measurement

Biochemical analysis

Intervention groups

1

Description

The first intervention group: was given one flax seed oil (Barij Essential Oil Company, Kashan, Iran) three times a day for 8 weeks, plus topical flax seed oil (Barij Essential Oil Company, Kashan, Iran) 20 drops every 8 hours to rub on the knees along with a low-calorie diet.

Category

Treatment - Drugs

2

Description

The second intervention group: for 8 weeks, they received a placebo of flaxseed oil and topical flaxseed oil (Barij Essan Pharmaceutical Company, Kashan, Iran) three times a day, 20 drops every 8 hours to rub on the

knees along with a low-calorie diet.

Category

Treatment - Drugs

3

Description

The third intervention group: For 8 weeks, they will receive one flaxseed oil three times a day (Barij Essence Pharmaceutical Company, Kashan, Iran) plus topical paraffin oil as a placebo to rub on the knees along with a low-calorie diet.

Category

Treatment - Drugs

4

Description

Control group: for 8 weeks, they received a placebo of flaxseed oil and topical paraffin oil as a placebo to rub on the knees three times a day along with a low-calorie diet.

Category

Placebo

Recruitment centers

1

Recruitment center

Name of recruitment center

Neda Dolatkah

Full name of responsible person

Neda Dolatkah

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Emam Reza hospital, Golgasht Str., Azadi Ave.

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Sponsors / Funding sources

1

Sponsor

Name of organization / entity

Tabriz University of Medical Sciences

Full name of responsible person

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Research Vice Chancellor, Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Daneshgah Ave.

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Grant name**Grant code / Reference number****Is the source of funding the same sponsor organization/entity?**

Yes

Title of funding source

Tabriz University of Medical Sciences

Proportion provided by this source

100

Public or private sector

Public

Domestic or foreign origin

Domestic

Category of foreign source of funding

empty

Country of origin**Type of organization providing the funding**

Academic

Person responsible for general inquiries**Contact****Name of organization / entity**

Tabriz University of Medical Sciences

Full name of responsible person

Neda Dolatkah

Position

Assistant Professor

Latest degree

Specialist

Other areas of specialty/work

Nutrition

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Sharing plan**Deidentified Individual Participant Data Set (IPD)**

Undecided - It is not yet known if there will be a plan to make this available

Study Protocol

Undecided - It is not yet known if there will be a plan to make this available

Statistical Analysis Plan

Undecided - It is not yet known if there will be a plan to make this available

Informed Consent Form

Undecided - It is not yet known if there will be a plan to make this available

Clinical Study Report

Undecided - It is not yet known if there will be a plan to make this available

Analytic Code

Undecided - It is not yet known if there will be a plan to make this available

Data Dictionary

Undecided - It is not yet known if there will be a plan to make this available