

Clinical Trial Protocol

Iranian Registry of Clinical Trials

27 Jul 2026

Effects of facial Neuromuscular Retraining with and without neural Mobilization on facial Symmetry and disability in patients with Bell's palsy

Protocol summary

Study aim

To determine the effects of facial neuromuscular retraining, with and without neural mobilization on facial symmetry and disability in patients with Bell's Palsy.

Design

Randomized Controlled Trial, Single-blinded study design, the sample size will be 44 participants

Settings and conduct

Trail will be conducted at General Hospital, Lahore Upon randomization, participants will be briefed on their respective therapy programs. The researcher responsible for outcome assessments will remain unaware of the group allocation throughout the study.

Participants/Inclusion and exclusion criteria

Inclusion Criteria: Unilateral loss of facial weakness. House Brackman grades 3 and 4 Acute onset 1-3 weeks. No history of earlier Bell's palsy or diabetes(6) Exclusion Criteria: Stroke associated with Bell's palsy Pregnancy Any fracture, or tumor Facial surgery Skin allergy on the face Facial nerve palsy

Intervention groups

Group A: will receive Facial Neuromuscular Retraining with Neural Mobilization and conventional treatment (Experimental group) Group B: will receive Facial Neuromuscular Retraining with conventional treatment (Controlled group)

Main outcome variables

Facial symmetry Disability

General information

Reason for update

Acronym

IRCT registration information

IRCT registration number: **IRCT20240509061716N1**

Registration date: **2024-05-23, 1403/03/03**

Registration timing: **registered_while_recruiting**

Last update: **2024-05-23, 1403/03/03**

Update count: **0**

Registration date

2024-05-23, 1403/03/03

Registrant information

Name

Samima Saeed

Name of organization / entity

Riphah international university

Country

Pakistan

Phone

+92 42 111 747 424

Email address

samimasaeedakhter@gmail.com

Recruitment status

Recruitment complete

Funding source

Expected recruitment start date

2024-05-14, 1403/02/25

Expected recruitment end date

2024-06-20, 1403/03/31

Actual recruitment start date

empty

Actual recruitment end date

empty

Trial completion date

empty

Scientific title

Effects of facial Neuromuscular Retraining with and without neural Mobilization on facial Symmetry and disability in patients with Bell's palsy

Public title

Effects of facial Neuromuscular Retraining with and without neural Mobilization on facial Symmetry and

disability in patients with Bell's palsy

Purpose
Supportive

Inclusion/Exclusion criteria
Inclusion criteria:
Age between 18 to 65 years Both genders Unilateral loss of facial weakness House Brackman grades 3 and 4 Acute onset 1-3 weeks No history of earlier bell's palsy or diabetes
Exclusion criteria:
Stroke associated with Bell's palsy Pregnancy Any fracture or tumor Facial surgery Skin allergy on face Facial nerve palsy

Age
From **18 years** old to **65 years** old

Gender
Both

Phase
N/A

Groups that have been masked

- Participant
- Care provider
- Outcome assessor

Sample size
Target sample size: **44**

Randomization (investigator's opinion)
Randomized

Randomization description
A lottery method of randomization using a fishbowl technique will be used by one of the research team members who is not involved in patient recruitment assessment or data analysis. After baseline assessment, eligible subjects will be arbitrarily allocated into group A (facial neuromuscular retraining with Neural mobilization) and group B (facial neuromuscular retraining). Upon randomization, participants will be briefed on their respective therapy programs. The researcher responsible for outcome assessments will remain unaware of the group allocation throughout the study.

Blinding (investigator's opinion)
Single blinded

Blinding description
Outcome assessors and participants will be kept unaware of the group assignments to maintain blinding.

Placebo
Used

Assignment
Parallel

Other design features

Secondary Ids
empty

Ethics committees

1
Ethics committee

Name of ethics committee
Ethics committee of Riphah international university
Lahore, Pakistan

Street address
Address: 25 Raza Saeed Rd, Bhabra Block M Gulberg III, Lahore, Punjab 25-M Block, Lahore, 54660, Pakistan

City
Lahore

Postal code
53700

Approval date
2024-04-29, 1403/02/10

Ethics committee reference number
F22C14G37033

Health conditions studied

1
Description of health condition studied
Bell's palsy
ICD-10 code
G51.0
ICD-10 code description
Bell's palsy

Primary outcomes

1
Description
Facial symmetry, Disability
Timepoint
Before the intervention and three weeks after the intervention
Method of measurement
Sunnybrook Facial Grading System (SBS), Modified House Brackmann grading system (HBGS), and Facial Disability Index (FDI)

Secondary outcomes

empty

Intervention groups

1
Description
Experimental group: e Facial Neuromuscular Retraining with Neural Mobilization and conventional treatment group
Category
Rehabilitation

2
Description
Control group: Facial Neuromuscular Retraining with conventional treatment
Category

Recruitment centers

1

Recruitment center

Name of recruitment center

General Hospital Lahore

Full name of responsible person

Mrs.Umoal Bunin Mushtaq

Street address

Ferozpur Road Near Ismail Nagar , Lahore.

City

Lahore

Postal code

54000

Phone

+92 42 99268801

Email

lahoregeneralhospital@yahoo.com

Web page address
<https://lgh.punjab.gov.pk/>

Sponsors / Funding sources

1

Sponsor

Name of organization / entity

Riphah International University

Full name of responsible person

Faculty of Rehabilitation and Allied Health Sciences(FRAHS)

Street address
25 Raza Saeed Rd, Bhabra Block M Gulberg III,
Lahore, Punjab 25-M Block, Lahore, 54660, Pakistan
City

Lahore

Postal code

05309

Phone

+92 309 3330153

Email

admissions.lahore@riphah.edu.pk

Web page address
<https://riphah.edu.pk/>
Grant name
Grant code / Reference number
Is the source of funding the same sponsor organization/entity?

Yes

Title of funding source

Riphah International University

Proportion provided by this source

100

Public or private sector

Private

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

Riphah International University

Full name of responsible person

Dr. SANA RIAZ

Position

Senior lecturer

Latest degree

Master

Other areas of specialty/work

Physiotherapy

Street address
25 Raza Saeed Rd, Bhabra Block M Gulberg III,
Lahore, Punjab 25-M Block, Lahore, 54660, Pakistan
City

Lahore

Province

Punjab

Postal code

54660

Phone

+92 300 0720826

Email

Sana.rcrs@riphah.edu.pk

Web page address
<https://riphah.edu.pk/>

Person responsible for scientific inquiries

Contact

Name of organization / entity

Riphah International University

Full name of responsible person

Dr. SANA RIAZ

Position

Senior lecturer

Latest degree

Master

Other areas of specialty/work

Physiotherapy

Street address
25 Raza Saeed Rd, Bhabra Block M Gulberg III,
Lahore, Punjab 25-M Block, Lahore, 54660, Pakistan
City

Lahore

Province

Punjab

Postal code

05309

Phone

+92 309 3330153

Email

Sana.rcrs@riphah.edu.pk

Person responsible for updating data

Sana.rcrs@riphah.edu.pk

Contact

Name of organization / entity

Riphah International University

Full name of responsible person

Dr. SANA RIAZ

Position

Senior lecturer

Latest degree

Master

Other areas of specialty/work

Physiotherapy

Street address

25 Raza Saeed Rd, Bhabra Block M Gulberg III,
Lahore, Punjab 25-M Block, Lahore, 54660, Pakistan

City

Lahore

Province

Punjab

Postal code

05309

Phone

+92 309 3330153

Email

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