

Clinical Trial Protocol

Iranian Registry of Clinical Trials

11 Sep 2026

Studying the effect of the duration of hemovac drain placement 24 hours vs. 48 hours after lower limb orthopedic surgeries on the rate of microbial contamination and clinical outcomes of patients

Protocol summary

Study aim

To compare the effect of removing Hemovac drains 24 hours versus 48 hours after lower limb orthopedic surgeries on drain microbial contamination, microbial diversity, surgical site infection, hematoma, wound dehiscence, pain severity, length of hospital stay, and overall clinical outcomes of patients.

Design

Clinical trial with control group and intervention group, with parallel groups, single-blind on 180 people. Completely randomized block method for randomization

Settings and conduct

This randomized, single-blind clinical trial (blind assessor) will be conducted on orthopedic patients at Imam Khomeini Hospital in Sari. Patients will be randomly divided into two groups: removal of the Hemovac drain within 24 hours or 48 hours after surgery. At the time of drain removal, the last 5 cm of the drain will be cut sterilely and sent to the laboratory for microbial culture and antibiogram. Microbial contamination, bacterial species, and clinical complications (infection, hematoma, wound dehiscence, pain, length of stay, and antibiotic change) will be compared between the two groups.

Participants/Inclusion and exclusion criteria

Inclusion criteria: Type of surgery, age over 18 years, all patients with drains with closed lower limb orthopedic surgery with internal fixation, considering the patient's BMI. Exclusion criteria: Inability to remove the drain in patients with persistent discharge, active infection before surgery, changing the drain site or disrupting its function, patient's lack of cooperation in post-operative follow-up

Intervention groups

In the intervention group, the drain will be removed after 24 hours, and in the control group, the hemovac drain will be removed after 48 hours.

Main outcome variables

Microbial contamination of the Hemovac drain tip

General information

Reason for update

Acronym

IRCT registration information

IRCT registration number: **IRCT20251113067985N1**

Registration date: **2025-12-05, 1404/09/14**

Registration timing: **prospective**

Last update: **2025-12-05, 1404/09/14**

Update count: **0**

Registration date

2025-12-05, 1404/09/14

Registrant information

Name

Sheyda Dolatkah

Name of organization / entity

Country

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Phone

+98 45 3371 0476

Email address

s.dolatkah@mazums.ac.ir

Recruitment status

Recruitment complete

Funding source

Expected recruitment start date

2025-12-06, 1404/09/15

Expected recruitment end date

2026-04-26, 1405/02/06

Actual recruitment start date

empty

Actual recruitment end date

empty

Trial completion date
empty

Scientific title
Studying the effect of the duration of hemovac drain placement 24 hours vs. 48 hours after lower limb orthopedic surgeries on the rate of microbial contamination and clinical outcomes of patients

Public title
Examining the best time to remove the drain (drainage tube) after lower limb bone and joint surgery

Purpose
Prevention

Inclusion/Exclusion criteria
Inclusion criteria:
 Type of surgery Age over 18 years All patients with drains with closed lower limb orthopedic surgery with internal fixation Considering patient BMI
Exclusion criteria:
 Inability to remove drain in patients with persistent discharge Active infection before surgery Changing the location of the drain or disrupting its function Patient's lack of cooperation in post-surgical follow-up

Age
From **18 years** old

Gender
Both

Phase
N/A

Groups that have been masked

- Outcome assessor

Sample size
Target sample size: **180**

Randomization (investigator's opinion)
Randomized

Randomization description
In this study, samples were selected using simple random sampling. In this study, patients hospitalized in the orthopedic department who underwent orthopedic surgery of the lower extremities and had a hemovac drain inserted and met the conditions for entry into the study were listed. To allocate individuals to the control and intervention groups, a block randomization method was used to maintain a balance in the number of participants in the two groups. In this way, the patient list was numbered and random number generation software (Excel) was used. Small blocks of 4 or 6 people were created, the order within each block was randomly determined, and the patients were placed in the control and intervention groups in the same order, and finally 90 people were placed in the control group and 90 people in the intervention group without the researcher having any non-random interference in their selection or allocation.

Blinding (investigator's opinion)
Single blinded

Blinding description
The study is single-blinded and the evaluator will be unaware of the grouping of the participants in the study. In this study, we will have two groups. In one group, the

hemovac drain will be removed 24 hours after the operation and in the other group, the hemovac drain will be removed 48 hours after the operation. The allocation of patients to the study groups will be based on a randomized block design.

Placebo
Not used

Assignment
Parallel

Other design features

Secondary Ids

empty

Ethics committees

1

Ethics committee

Name of ethics committee

Ethics committee of Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences

Street address

No. 58, 14 Sabalan Alley, Phase one

City

Ardabil

Province

Ardabil

Postal code

5619766744

Approval date

2025-11-20, 1404/08/29

Ethics committee reference number

IR.MAZUMS.REC.1404.427

Health conditions studied

1

Description of health condition studied

Lower limb orthopedic surgeries

ICD-10 code

Y79

ICD-10 code description

Orthopedic devices associated with adverse incidents

Primary outcomes

1

Description

Hemovac drain contamination

Timepoint

24 hours

Method of measurement

Antibiogram test (antibiotic resistance and sensitivity) based on CLSI protocol

Secondary outcomes

1

Description

Wound infection (temperature above 38 degrees, redness, pain, and discharge)

Timepoint

On days 14, 7, 3 and 21 after surgery

Method of measurement

Based on standard guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

2

Description

Wound dehiscence

Timepoint

On days 14, 7, 3 and 21 after surgery

Method of measurement

Based on standard guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Intervention groups

1

Description

Intervention group: Intervention group: Drain will be removed 24 hours after surgery

Category

Prevention

2

Description

Control group: Intervention group: Drain will be removed 48hours after surgery

Category

Prevention

Recruitment centers

1

Recruitment center

Name of recruitment center

Imam Khomeini Hospital

Full name of responsible person

Sadegh Taheri

Street address

Faculty of Paramedical Sciences, Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences and Health Service, Farahabad

City

Sari

Province

Mazandaran

Postal code

4815733971

Phone

+98 914 455 1277

Fax

Email

sad_taheri@yahoo.com

Sponsors / Funding sources

1

Sponsor

Name of organization / entity

Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences

Full name of responsible person

Ahmad Ali Enayati

Street address

Deputy for Research and Technology Building, Moalem Square, Sari

City

Sari

Province

Mazandaran

Postal code

48175866

Phone

+98 11 3325 7230

Email

pajhooeshi@mazums.ac.ir

Grant name

Grant code / Reference number

Is the source of funding the same sponsor organization/entity?

Yes

Title of funding source

Mazandaran 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

Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences

Full name of responsible person

Shayda Dolatkah

Position

Student

Latest degree

Bachelor

Other areas of specialty/work

Others

Street address

No. 58, Sabalan Alley 14, Sabalan Town

City

Ardabil

Province

Ardabil

Postal code

5619766744

Phone
+98 914 455 1277
Email
sheydadolatkah@gmail.com

Person responsible for scientific inquiries

Contact

Name of organization / entity
Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences
Full name of responsible person
Sadegh Taheri
Position
Assistant Professor
Latest degree
Specialist
Other areas of specialty/work
Orthopedics
Street address
Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences,
Farahabad
City
Sari
Province
Mazandaran
Postal code
4815733971
Phone
+98 914 455 1277
Email
kouhikosar98@gmail.com

Person responsible for updating data

Contact

Name of organization / entity
Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences
Full name of responsible person
sheyda dolatkah
Position

student
Latest degree
Bachelor
Other areas of specialty/work
Others
Street address
No. 58, 14 Sabala Street, Sabalan Town
City
Ardabil
Province
Ardabil
Postal code
5619766744
Phone
+98 914 455 1277
Email
sheydadolatkah@gmail.com

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