

A trial of a very low calorie diet prior to cholecystectomy operation in obese patients

Submission date 10/03/2015	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered
Registration date 26/03/2015	Overall study status Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
Last Edited 09/05/2016	Condition category Nutritional, Metabolic, Endocrine	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results
		<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

The procedure used to remove a gallbladder is called laparoscopic cholecystectomy. This study is investigating whether following a very low calorie diet for 2 weeks prior to a laparoscopic cholecystectomy operation reduces operation time and makes the operation easier. We will also investigate if post-operative complications are reduced as a result of following this diet. The very low calorie diet is used routinely to improve weight loss surgery. The diet causes the liver to shrink and this shrinkage allows the operation to be performed much easier. As the gallbladder is attached to the liver we want to see if this diet can also make a cholecystectomy operation easier.

Who can participate?

Adult patients with a BMI of over 30 who are awaiting a cholecystectomy operation

What does the study involve?

Participants are randomly allocated to one of two groups: very low calorie diet group or normal diet group. The surgeon will not know which group they are in. We will look at how long the operation takes between the two groups. We will also look at the difference between the two groups in weight loss, complication rate after surgery, length of stay after surgery, day case rates and how difficult the operation was from a technical point of view.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

By taking part in this trial participants will be contributing to the advancement of medical knowledge of what is 'best practice' for the laparoscopic cholecystectomy procedure. If they are allocated to the low calorie arm they will lose some weight in the short term. Previous research has shown that weight loss reduces the size of the liver, which makes it easier for the surgeon to move the liver out of the way in order to remove the gallbladder. This should make the operation time shorter, and will, we hope, reduce the incidence of complications post-operatively. Previous studies have used low calorie diets for operations to the stomach which have helped to reduce the liver size and make the operation easier. The risks associated with this study are those associated with the operation. The procedure will not be different to the procedure normally carried out for the removal of gallbladders. Disadvantages of this study are that if participants do fall into the group for the low calorie diet, this will mean a lifestyle

adjustment for that period. Previous studies have shown that some people may feel light headed or dizzy on this diet especially when standing from a sitting or lying position. Additionally, some people following low calorie diets have felt more tired and some have had more headaches than usual. Participants will be asked to inform the research nurse of any side effects that they have and information on how to do this will be given on the diet sheet.

Where is the study run from?

Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital (UK)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?

September 2010 to May 2015

Who is funding the study?

Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital (UK)

Who is the main contact?

Mr Michael Lewis

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Contact information

Type(s)

Public

Contact name

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Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number

N/A

Study information

Scientific Title

A randomised, single blinded trial, assessing the effect of a two week preoperative very low calorie diet (VLCD) on laparoscopic cholecystectomy procedure in obese patients

Acronym

DOLCE

Study objectives

The aim of this study is to examine the effect of a two week VLCD on laparoscopic cholecystectomy in obese patients. We hypothesize that the reduction in size of the liver will improve surgical access and dissection, reduce operation complexity and ultimately operating time. By reducing operative difficulty, we propose that there will be a reduction in procedure related complications and an increase in the number of day case laparoscopic cholecystectomies.

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

Cambridge South, 11/02/2100, ref: 10/H0305/78

Study design

Interventional single-centre prospective randomised trial

Primary study design

Interventional

Study type(s)

Treatment

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Obese patients undergoing elective cholecystectomy surgery

Interventions

Intervention group: two week pre-operative very low calorie diet

Control group: continue normal diet

Intervention Type

Procedure/Surgery

Primary outcome(s)

Duration of surgery

Key secondary outcome(s)

1. Pre-operative weight loss
2. Post operative complication rate
3. Post operative length of stay
4. Post operative day case rate
5. Perceived difficulty of the operation

Completion date

01/05/2015

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

1. Adult patients with capacity to consent
2. Body mass index (BMI) over 30kg/m²
3. Symptomatic gallstone disease placed on a waiting list for elective laparoscopic cholecystectomy operation

Participant type(s)

Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Adult

Sex

All

Key exclusion criteria

1. Presence of any pre-existing liver disease
2. Diabetes mellitus
3. Confirmed common bile duct stones
4. Previous abdominal surgery

Date of first enrolment

01/05/2011

Date of final enrolment

01/05/2013

Locations**Countries of recruitment**

United Kingdom

England

Study participating centre

Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital

Colney Lane

Norwich

United Kingdom

NR4 7UY

Sponsor information

Organisation

Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital (UK)

ROR

<https://ror.org/021zm6p18>

Funder(s)**Funder type**

Hospital/treatment centre

Funder Name

Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital (UK)

Results and Publications**Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan****IPD sharing plan summary**

Available on request

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Results article	results	01/05/2016		Yes	No
Participant information sheet	Participant information sheet	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes