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# The impact of prehospital blood sampling on the emergency department process of patients with chest pain, a pragmatic non-randomized controlled trial

**Submission date**
05/01/2022

**Recruitment status**
No longer recruiting

**Registration date**
09/01/2022

**Overall study status**
Completed

**Last Edited**
13/02/2024

**Condition category**
Circulatory System

[_] Prospectively registered
[_] Protocol
[_] Statistical analysis plan
[X] Results
[_] Individual participant data

## Plain English summary of protocol

Current plain English summary as of 03/05/2022:
Background and study aims
In patients with acute chest pain who arrive at the emergency department (ED) by ambulance, venous access is frequently established prehospital, and could be utilized to sample blood. Prehospital blood sampling may save time in the diagnostic process, which may ultimately improve clinical outcome. In our study, we assessed whether prehospital blood draw is independently associated with shorter blood sample arrival times at the laboratory, shorter troponin turnaround times, and shorter ED length of stay (LOS) in patients with chest pain without abnormalities at their ECG, arriving at the ED by ambulance for cardiology. Our hypothesis was that prehospital blood draw shortens all three time intervals, potentially expediting care for chest pain patients without abnormalities at their ECG.

Who can participate?
All adult patients who were transported to the ED by ambulance with chest pain and no abnormalities at their prehospital ECG.

What does the study involve?
We assessed the three time intervals in patients who were transported to the ED with chest pain without abnormalities at their prehospital electrocardiogram. Time intervals were compared between cases, in whom prehospital blood draw was performed, and controls, in which blood drawn was performed at the ED. We assessed the association of prehospital blood draw with blood sample arrival times, troponin turnaround times, and ED LOS using multivariate analyses. We also compared blood sample mix-ups and blood sample quality (number of hemolysis and insufficient blood) between cases and controls.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?
There are no risks. Possible benefits were shorter waiting times before results of blood are available, and shorter length of stay at the emergency department.

Where is the study run from?
The study ran from an inner-city hospital in the Hague, the Netherlands and the Emergency Medical Service in the Hague.

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?
January 2019 to February 2020.

Who is funding the study?
This study was funded by a grant from the Research Fund of Haaglanden Medical Centre (Netherlands). The funding source had no involvement in the study design, the collection, analysis and interpretation of the data, nor in the writing of the report and in the decision to submit the article for publication.

Who is the main contact?
Christien van der Linden, PhD, c.van.der.linden@haaglandenmc.nl

Previous plain English summary:
Background and study aims
In patients with acute chest pain who arrive at the emergency department (ED) by ambulance, venous access is frequently established prehospital, and could be utilized to sample blood. Prehospital blood sampling may save time in the diagnostic process, which may ultimately improve clinical outcome. In our study, we assessed whether prehospital blood draw is independently associated with shorter blood sample arrival times at the laboratory, shorter troponin turnaround times, and shorter ED length of stay (LOS) in patients with chest pain without ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI), arriving at the ED by ambulance. Our hypothesis was that prehospital blood draw shortens all three time intervals, potentially expediting care for chest pain patients without STEMI.

Who can participate?
All adult patients who were transported to the ED by ambulance with chest pain and no ST-elevation at their prehospital ECG.

What does the study involve?
We assessed the three time intervals in patients who were transported to the ED with chest pain without STEMI at their prehospital electrocardiogram. Time intervals were compared between cases, in whom prehospital blood draw was performed, and controls, in which blood drawn was performed at the ED. We assessed the association of prehospital blood draw with blood sample arrival times, troponin turnaround times, and ED LOS using multivariate analyses.

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Who is the main contact?
Christien van der Linden, PhD, c.van.der.linden@haaglandenmc.nl

# Contact information

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Principal investigator

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# Additional identifiers

### Clinical Trials Information System (CTIS)
Nil known

### ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT)
Nil known

### Protocol serial number
Z19-024

# Study information

### Scientific Title
In patients who are transported to the emergency department with chest pain and no abnormalities at their prehospital ECG, what are the blood sample arrival times, troponin turnaround times, and length of stay of patients in whom prehospital blood draw is performed compared with controls in whom blood draw is performed at the emergency department? BCLOSED (Blooddraw Chestpain patients, impact on Length Of Stay at the Emergency Department)

### Acronym
B-CLOSED

## Study objectives
Current study hypothesis:
Prehospital blood draw shortens all three time intervals, potentially expediting care for chest pain patients with no abnormalities at their ECG.

Previous study hypothesis:
Prehospital blood draw shortens all three time intervals, potentially expediting care for chest pain patients without STEMI.

## Ethics approval required
Old ethics approval format

## Ethics approval(s)
Approved 21/08/2019, Regional medical research committee Southwest Holland (METC-LDD, Albinusdreef 2, Postbus 9600, 2300 RC Leiden, Netherlands; +31(0)71-5263241; metc-ldd@lumc.nl), ref: 19-024, METC LDD

## Study design
Pragmatic non-randomized controlled trial

## Primary study design
Interventional

## Study type(s)
Diagnostic

## Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied
Patients with chest pain without abnormalities at their ECG, arriving at the ED by ambulance for cardiology

## Interventions
Current interventions as of 03/05/2022:
We conducted a pragmatic non-randomized controlled trial, comparing chest pain patients who underwent prehospital blood sampling with chest pain patients who were also brought in by ambulance, but in whom blood was drawn in the ED. The single-centre study took place at an ED in an inner-city teaching hospital and an EMS in The Hague, the Netherlands over a 5-month period (October 1, 2019 to February 29, 2020). Patients were eligible for inclusion in our study when they had chest pain as chief complaint, had no abnormalities at their prehospital ECG, were 18 years or older, and were brought to the ED for cardiology with ambulance urgency level A2.
Upon arrival at the ED, patients are triaged according to the Manchester Triage System (MTS). Only the patients who were assigned to triage level 2 (very urgent) according to the MTS were included in the study. Patients who died at the ED, patients who left the ED against medical advice, and patients who were transferred to another facility were excluded from the study. Of patients with more than one ED visit during the study period, only the first ED visit was included.

Participating ambulance nurses approached the patients who fulfilled the inclusion criteria for informed consent, while the patient was lying in the ambulance. After the patients' consent, blood sampling was performed by the ambulance nurse. The participating EMS nurses performed blood draws only in combination with the insertion of a PIVC. No changes were made

in the procedure for obtaining blood specimen in the ED: the blood sample was obtained through venepuncture or by drawing blood through a previously inserted PIVC (usual practice). The laboratory procedures for processing blood samples remained unchanged.

Previous interventions:
We conducted a non-randomized controlled trial, comparing chest pain patients who underwent prehospital blood sampling with chest pain patients who were also brought in by ambulance, but in whom blood was drawn in the ED. The single-centre study took place at an ED in an inner-city teaching hospital and an EMS in The Hague, the Netherlands over a 5-month period (October 1, 2019 to February 29, 2020). Patients were eligible for inclusion in our study when they had chest pain as chief complaint, had no ST-segment elevation at their prehospital ECG, were 18 years or older, and were brought to the ED with ambulance urgency level A2.
Upon arrival at the ED, patients are triaged according to the Manchester Triage System (MTS). Only the patients who were assigned to triage level 2 (very urgent) according to the MTS were included in the study. Patients who died at the ED, patients who left the ED against medical advice, and patients who were transferred to another facility were excluded from the study. Of patients with more than one ED visit during the study period, only the first ED visit was included.

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## Intervention Type
Procedure/Surgery

## Primary outcome(s)
All measured retrospectively:
1. Patient demographics: age and gender measured using hospital information system, through query
2. Patients' medical history and risk factors for cardiac ischemic events (smoking history, diabetes mellitus, hypertension, dyslipidemia, prior cardiovascular disease, family history coronary disease) measured using reviewing patient notes in the hospital information system
3. Arrival time measured using hospital information system, through query
4. Troponin values measured using reviewing patient notes in the hospital information system
5. Whether or not the patient underwent radiology tests measured using hospital information system, through query
6. Disposition measured using hospital information system, through query
7. Time intervals: Blood sample arrival times at the laboratory were defined as the duration between patient arrival at the ED and blood sample arrival at the laboratory. Troponin turnaround time was defined as time between patient arrival at the ED and the availability of the troponin result in the hospital information system. ED LOS was defined as the time between the patient's presentation at the ED and the time the patient left the ED to be admitted or discharged home measured using measured using hospital information system, through query
8. Whether the patient arrived during extreme busyness at the ED was measured with the NEDOCS, the National ED OverCrowding Score, a multidimensional scale to measure patient volume and hospital throughput measured using hospital information system, through query

### Key secondary outcome(s))
Current secondary outcome measures as of 03/05/2022:
1. Number of blood sample mix-ups
2. Blood sample quality (hemolysis and insufficient blood)

Previous secondary outcome measures:
There are no secondary outcome measures

### Completion date
29/02/2020

## Eligibility

### Key inclusion criteria
Current inclusion criteria as of 03/05/2022:
1. Patients with chest pain and no abnormalities at their ECG
2. Adult (18 years and older)
3. Transported by ambulance
4. Triage level 2 (orange)
5. Assessment by cardiology

Previous inclusion criteria:
1. Patients with chest pain and no ST-elevation at their ECG
2. Adult (18 years and older)
3. Transported by ambulance
4. Triage level 2 (orange)

### Participant type(s)
Patient

### Healthy volunteers allowed
No

### Age group
Adult

### Lower age limit
18 years

### Sex
All

### Total final enrolment
506

### Key exclusion criteria
1. Age <18 years
2. Not fulfilling inclusion criteria

### Date of first enrolment

01/10/2019

**Date of final enrolment**
29/02/2020

# Locations

**Countries of recruitment**
Netherlands

**Study participating centre**
**Haaglanden Medical Centre**
P.O. Box 432
The Hague
Netherlands
2501CK

# Sponsor information

**Organisation**
Haaglanden Medical Centre

# Funder(s)

**Funder type**
Hospital/treatment centre

**Funder Name**
Haaglanden Medical Centre

# Results and Publications

**Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan**
The dataset used and analysed during the current study is available from the corresponding author on reasonable request. c.van.der.linden@haaglandenmc.nl

**IPD sharing plan summary**
Available on request

**Study outputs**

| Output type | Details | Date created | Date added | Peer reviewed? | Patient-facing? |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Results article | | | 13/02/2024 | Yes | No |
| Participant information sheet | Participant information sheet | 11/11/2025 | 11/11/2025 | No | Yes |