

Comparing treatments for diabetic foot ulcers

Submission date 22/05/2017	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	☒ Prospectively registered ☒ Protocol
Registration date 06/06/2017	Overall study status Completed	☐ Statistical analysis plan ☒ Results
Last Edited 12/05/2026	Condition category Nutritional, Metabolic, Endocrine	☐ Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

Diabetic foot ulcers (DFU) are a complication of diabetes mellitus, a lifelong condition that causes high or uncontrolled blood sugar. In the UK, DFUs affect about 2.5% of people with diabetes. If a DFU takes a long time to heal there is more chance of developing other complications such as infection. This can mean more hospital visits and can impact daily life. These are called 'chronic' or 'hard to heal' diabetic foot ulcers. The NHS has different treatment choices for hard-to-heal diabetic foot ulcers. The usual treatment involves wearing special footwear to reduce pressure on the ulcer, removing hard skin, and bandaging the ulcer. Some of the other treatment options include: hydrosurgical debridement (HD) which uses a stream of water to help take away the dead skin, decellularised dermal allograft (DCD) which is a skin graft from donated human skin applied to the ulcer and negative pressure wound therapy (NPWT) that uses dressing on the ulcer that is attached a pump to suck away any fluid. The aim of this study is to find out the best combination of treatments to use to help DFUs heal more quickly by measuring the size of the ulcer and comparing the healing to the different treatment options.

Who can participate?

Adults aged 18 years and older who have diabetes mellitus and a DFU.

What does the study involve?

Participants are randomly allocated to one of four groups, which may contain one, all, or a combination of the treatments. Those in the first group receive the treatment as usual (TAU). Those in the second group receive TAU plus HD. Those in the third group receive TAU, HD, DCD. Finally, those in the last group receive all four treatments (TAU, HD, DCD, NPWT). The wounds are checked in the clinic one week after the treatment has been given. Participants also attend visits at 2, 4, 8, 12, 20 and 52 weeks after the treatment has been given. At some of these visits ulcers are measured again by tracing it onto a clear sheet. Photographs are taken of the foot and participants are asked to fill out some short questionnaires. If the ulcer heals in between these visits, the research team checks the ulcer in the diabetic foot clinic. The treatment options that show the greatest improvement in the DFUs will be continued in another phase of this study and are again compared to the TAU group.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

Participants may benefit from improvements in healing their foot ulcers. Participants may experience pain during the treatments and dressing changes, as well as infection and skin

irritation. There is a small risk of increased bleeding with the HD treatment, as well as a small risk of allergic reaction and fluid build-up with DCD.

Where is the study run from?

This study is being run by the University of Leeds (UK) and takes place in hospitals with diabetic foot ulcer clinics across the UK

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

April 2017 to February 2025

Who is funding the study?

National Institute for Health Research (UK)

Who is the main contact?

Miss Rachael Gilberts

r.m.gilberts@leeds.ac.uk or midfut@leeds.ac.uk

Contact information

Type(s)

Public

Contact name

Miss Rachael Gilberts

Contact details

Clinical Trials Research Unit (CTRU)

Leeds Institute of Clinical Trials Research

University of Leeds

Leeds

United Kingdom

LS2 9JT

+44 (0)113 343 1724

r.m.gilberts@leeds.ac.uk

Type(s)

Scientific

Contact name

Mr David Russell

ORCID ID

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1293-5618>

Contact details

Deputy TPD Vascular Surgery, Health Education Yorkshire and Humber

Leeds Vascular Institute

Leeds General Infirmary

Great George Street

Leeds

United Kingdom

LS1 3EX
+44 (0)7803 938880
davidrussell1@nhs.net

Additional identifiers

Central Portfolio Management System (CPMS)
33945

Study information

Scientific Title

Multiple Interventions of Diabetic Foot Ulcer Treatment trial

Acronym

MIDFUT

Study objectives

The aim of this study is to assess the use of hydrosurgical debridement alone or in combination with negative pressure wound therapy and/or decellularised dermal allograft in the treatment of hard to heal diabetic foot ulcers. These health technologies and their use will be compared in combination to treatment as usual.

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

Yorkshire and The Humber Bradford Leeds Research Ethics Committee, 26/04/2017, ref: 17/YH/0055

Primary study design

Interventional

Study design

Randomized; Interventional; Design type: Treatment, Device

Study type(s)

Treatment

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Diabetes mellitus

Interventions

Current interventions as of 10/12/2019:

Phase II:

Participants are randomly allocated to one of five four groups, which may contain one, all, or a combination of the treatments. The treatments include:

Treatment as usual (TAU): Everyone receives TAU. This involves checking the ulcer often in the diabetic foot ulcer clinic and with the community team and helping to reduce pressure on the

ulcer. This may include using special footwear to help reduce pressure when standing or walking. Any hard skin is removed and appropriate bandages or dressings are applied in the clinic and at home. Advice about how to look after the ulcer and diabetes management is also given.

Hydrosurgical debridement (HD): This uses a machine called 'VERSAJET'. VERSAJET uses a stream of water to help take away dead skin. It is used once on the ulcer in the diabetic foot ulcer clinic.

Decellularised dermal allograft (DCD): This is a type of skin graft. It is made from donated human skin with all human cells removed. It is applied once to the ulcer at the diabetic foot ulcer clinic.

Negative pressure wound therapy (NPWT): This uses a dressing on the ulcer covered with a waterproof layer. The dressing is attached to a pump which sucks fluid away from the ulcer. This is left in place for 2 weeks (but the dressing is changed during this time).

Participants are randomly allocated on a 2:1:1:1:1 basis to receive the following treatment strategies;

Group 1: Treatment as usual (TAU)

Group 2: TAU + hydrosurgical debridement (HD)

Group 3: TAU + HD + decellularised dermal allograft (DCD)

Group 4: TAU + HD + DCD + NPWT

The randomised treatment strategy is applied once at the baseline visit on the day of randomisation, however the NPWT remains in place for two weeks. The wounds are checked in the clinic one week after the treatment has been given. Follow up assessments takes place at 1, 2, 4, 8, 12, 20 and 52 weeks. At some of these visits ulcers are measured again by tracing it onto a clear sheet. Photographs are taken of the foot and participants are asked to fill out some short questionnaires. If the ulcer heals in between these visits, the research team checks the ulcer in the diabetic foot clinic.

Phase 3:

The intervention arms showing greatest evidence of efficiency in Phase II as well as the comparison arm (TAU) continue into Phase III. Participants are randomised on a 1:1:1 basis to one of the groups. The same processes are repeated as the second phase.

Previous interventions:

Phase II:

Participants are randomly allocated to one of five groups, which may contain one, all, or a combination of the treatments. The treatments include:

Treatment as usual (TAU): Everyone receives TAU. This involves checking the ulcer often in the diabetic foot ulcer clinic and with the community team and helping to reduce pressure on the ulcer. This may include using special footwear to help reduce pressure when standing or walking. Any hard skin is removed and appropriate bandages or dressings are applied in the clinic and at home. Advice about how to look after the ulcer and diabetes management is also given.

Hydrosurgical debridement (HD): This uses a machine called 'VERSAJET'. VERSAJET uses a stream of water to help take away dead skin. It is used once on the ulcer in the diabetic foot ulcer clinic.

Decellularised dermal allograft (DCD): This is a type of skin graft. It is made from donated human skin with all human cells removed. It is applied once to the ulcer at the diabetic foot ulcer clinic.

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Participants are randomly allocated on a 2:1:1:1:1 basis to receive the following treatment strategies;

Group 1: Treatment as usual (TAU)

Group 2: TAU + hydrosurgical debridement (HD)

Group 3: TAU + HD + negative pressure wound therapy (NPWT)

Group 4: TAU + HD + decellularised dermal allograft (DCD)

Group 5: TAU + HD + DCD + NPWT

The randomised treatment strategy is applied once at the baseline visit on the day of randomisation, however the NPWT remains in place for two weeks. The wounds are checked in the clinic one week after the treatment has been given. Follow up assessments takes place at 1, 2, 4, 8, 12, 20 and 52 weeks. At some of these visits ulcers are measured again by tracing it onto a clear sheet. Photographs are taken of the foot and participants are asked to fill out some short questionnaires. If the ulcer heals in between these visits, the research team checks the ulcer in the diabetic foot clinic.

Phase 3:

The two intervention arms showing greatest evidence of efficiency in Phase II as well as the comparison arm (TAU) continue into Phase III. Participants are randomised on a 1:1:1 basis to one of the groups. The same processes are repeated as the second phase.

Intervention Type

Procedure/Surgery

Primary outcome(s)

Phase II:

Reduction in index ulcer area size is calculated using wound tracing grid and image J software measurements at baseline and week four.

Phase III:

Time to healing is the length of time from randomisation to the date the index ulcer is confirmed as healed by the blinded assessor.

Key secondary outcome(s)

Phase II:

There are no secondary outcome measures:

Phase III:

1. Healing status of the index ulcer is measured by clinical assessment at week two, four, 12, 20 and 52
2. Incidence of infection according to IDSA criteria will be recorded at week two, four, 12, 20 and 52
3. Time to re-ulceration following healing will be measured as the date the index ulcer is confirmed as healed by a blinded assessor to the date re-ulceration is confirmed by a blinded

assessor

4. Quality of life is measured using the DFS-SF and the EQ-5D-5L questionnaires at week four, 12, 20, and 52 weeks post randomisation
5. Hospital admissions and amputations are measured using patient records at week four, 12, 20, 52 post randomisation
6. Cost effectiveness is measured using a health resource utilisation questionnaire at week four, 12, 20 and 52 post randomisation

Completion date

28/02/2025

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

Current inclusion criteria as of 15/02/2022:

1. Aged ≥ 18 years
 2. Diagnosis of Diabetes Mellitus (according to WHO criteria)
 3. Has a chronic DFU or surgical debridement wound or open minor amputation and in the opinion of the attending clinical team is not on a healing trajectory despite usual best care for a minimum of 4 weeks since initial presentation at the MDT DFU service*
 - 4.1 Ankle brachial index for the leg of the index ulcer ≥ 0.7 or non-compressible (measurements available in the participants notes taken within 3 months of randomisation can be used if no change in intervention or vascular events have occurred), OR
 - 4.2 Toe brachial index ≥ 0.5 or opening toe pressure ≥ 50 mmHg or non-compressible
 5. Expected to comply with the treatment strategies and follow up schedule
 6. Consent to foot and wound photography
 7. Consent to participate (written/witnessed verbal informed consent)
- *Defined as failure to achieve $>50\%$ reduction in index ulcer area over a minimum of 4 weeks using local wound measurement policies

Previous inclusion criteria as of 10/12/2019:

1. Aged ≥ 18 years
 2. Diagnosis of Diabetes Mellitus (according to WHO criteria)
 3. Has a chronic DFU or surgical debridement wound or open minor amputation and in the opinion of the attending clinical team is not on a healing trajectory despite usual best care for a minimum of 4 weeks since initial presentation at the MDT DFU service*
 4. Ankle brachial index for the leg of the index ulcer ≥ 0.7 or non-compressible (measurements available in the participants notes taken within 3 months of randomisation can be used if no change in intervention or vascular events have occurred)
 5. Expected to comply with the treatment strategies and follow up schedule
 6. Consent to foot and wound photography
 7. Consent to participate (written/witnessed verbal informed consent)
- *Defined as failure to achieve $>50\%$ reduction in index ulcer area over a minimum of 4 weeks using local wound measurement policies
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Previous inclusion criteria as of 22/11/2018:

1. Aged ≥ 18 years
 2. Diagnosis of Diabetes Mellitus (according to WHO criteria)
 3. Has a chronic DFU or surgical debridement wound or open minor amputation defined by either (a) OR (b) below:
 - 3(a). Duration of ≥ 12 weeks since initial presentation at the MDT DFU clinic and in the opinion of the attending clinical team is considered not to be on a healing trajectory despite usual best care†
 - 3(b). Having $<50\%$ reduction in index ulcer area during a minimum period of 4 weeks prior to randomisation*
 4. The index DFU has an area $\geq 0.8\text{cm}^2$
 5. Ankle brachial index for the leg of the index ulcer ≥ 0.7 or non-compressible (measurements available in the participants notes taken within 3 months of randomisation can be used if no change in intervention or vascular events have occurred)
 6. Expected to comply with the treatment strategies and follow up schedule
 7. Consent to foot and wound photography
 8. Consent to participate (written/witnessed verbal informed consent)
- † Participants who are eligible for randomisation under inclusion criteria 3(a) can be registered and randomised on the same day
- * Participants who are eligible for randomisation under inclusion criteria 3(b) will be randomised after a minimum 4 week suitability assessment period

Previous inclusion criteria from 07/09/2018 to 22/11/2018:

1. Aged ≥ 18 years
2. Diagnosis of Diabetes Mellitus (according to WHO criteria)
3. Has a chronic DFU or surgical debridement wound or open minor amputation defined as having $<50\%$ reduction in index ulcer area during a minimum period of 4 weeks prior to randomisation
4. The index DFU has an area $\geq 0.8\text{cm}^2$
5. Ankle brachial index ≥ 0.7 or non-compressible (measurements available in the participants notes taken within 3 months of randomisation can be used if no change in intervention or vascular events have occurred)
6. Expected to comply with the treatment strategies and follow up schedule
7. Consent to foot and wound photography
8. Consent to participate (written/witnessed verbal informed consent)

Original inclusion criteria:

1. Aged ≥ 18 years
2. Diagnosis of Diabetes Mellitus (according to WHO criteria)
3. Has a chronic DFU or surgical debridement wound or open minor amputation defined as having $<40\%$ reduction in index ulcer area in the preceding ≥ 4 weeks prior to randomisation
4. The index DFU has an area $\geq 1\text{cm}^2$
5. Ankle brachial index ≥ 0.7 or non-compressible (measurements available in the participants notes taken within 3 months of randomisation can be used if no change in intervention or vascular events have occurred)
6. Expected to comply with the treatment strategies and follow up schedule
7. Consent to foot and wound photography
8. Consent to participate (written/witnessed verbal informed consent)

Participant type(s)

Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Mixed

Lower age limit

18 Years

Upper age limit

100 Years

Sex

All

Total final enrolment

213

Key exclusion criteria

Current exclusion criteria as of 15/09/2017:

1. Has any current clinically infected DFU on the foot of the index ulcer (as per IDSA guidelines)
2. HbA1C > 110mmol/mol (measurements available in the participants notes taken within 3 months of randomisation can be used if no change in intervention or vascular events have occurred)
3. Estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) < 20mL/min/1.73m²
4. Index ulcer duration > 2 years (measurements taken within 3 months of randomisation can be used if no change in intervention or vascular events have occurred)
5. Planned or previous treatment with corticosteroids to an equivalent dose of prednisolone > 10mg per day or other immunosuppressive/immunomodulating therapy within 4 weeks prior to randomisation
6. Has evidence of connective tissue disorders as a cause of ulceration (e.g. vasculitis or rheumatoid arthritis)
7. Has evidence of dermatological disorders as a cause of ulceration (e.g. pyoderma gangrenosum or epidermolysis bullosa)
8. Planned or previous growth factor treatment within 4 weeks prior to randomisation
9. Planned or previous revascularisation or foot surgery affecting healing within the 4 weeks prior to randomisation
10. Index ulcer base has bone or joint involvement
11. Previously received DCD for the index ulcer within 4 weeks prior to randomisation
12. Previously received NPWT for the index ulcer within 4 weeks prior to randomisation
13. Previously received hydrosurgical or surgical debridement for the index ulcer within 4 weeks prior to randomisation
14. Has previously been randomised to the MIDFUT study
15. Unable to receive one or more of the randomised treatment strategies for any reason at the discretion of the attending clinical team (e.g. risk of excessive bleeding, serious falls risk, known allergies to NPWT dressings or dCELL dermis preparation components)

Previous exclusion criteria:

1. Has any current clinically infected DFU (as per IDSA guidelines)
2. HbA1C > 110mmol/mol
3. Estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) < 20mL/min/1.73m²

4. Index ulcer duration > 2 years
5. Planned or previous treatment with corticosteroids to an equivalent dose of prednisolone > 10mg per day or other immunosuppressive therapy within 4 weeks prior to randomisation
6. Has evidence of connective tissue disorders (e.g. vasculitis or rheumatoid arthritis) and has planned or is under active treatment
7. Has evidence of dermatological disorders as a cause of ulceration (e.g. pyoderma gangrenosum or epidermolysis bullosa)
8. Planned or previous growth factor treatment within 4 weeks prior to randomisation
9. Planned or previous revascularisation or foot surgery affecting healing within the 4 weeks prior to randomisation
10. Index ulcer base has bone or joint involvement
11. Previously received DCD for the index ulcer within 4 weeks prior to randomisation
12. Previously received NPWT for the index ulcer within 4 weeks prior to randomisation
13. Previously received hydrosurgical or surgical debridement for the index ulcer within 4 weeks prior to randomisation
14. Has previously been randomised to the MIDFUT study
15. Lacks mental capacity and is unable to provide informed consent

Date of first enrolment

01/10/2017

Date of final enrolment

31/08/2023

Locations

Countries of recruitment

United Kingdom

England

Scotland

Study participating centre

St James's University Hospital

Beckett Street

Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

Leeds

England

LS9 7TF

Study participating centre

Sunderland Royal Hospital

City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust

Kayll Road

Sunderland
England
SR4 7TP

Study participating centre

Russells Hall Hospital

The Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Pensnett Road
Dudley
England
DY1 2HQ

Study participating centre

Royal Cornwall Hospital

Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust
Truro
England
TR1 3HD

Study participating centre

St George's University Hospital

St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Blackshaw Road
London
England
SW17 0QT

Study participating centre

Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Foundation Trust

Combe Park
Bath
England
BA1 3NG

Study participating centre

Royal Berkshire Hospital

London Road
Reading
England
RG1 5AN

Study participating centre

The Royal Free Hospital

Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust
Pond Street
London
England
NW3 2QG

Study participating centre

Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust

Stott Lane
Salford
England
M6 8HD

Study participating centre

East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust

Kent and Canterbury Hospital
Ethelbert Road
Canterbury
England
CT1 3NG

Study participating centre

Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust

Hull Royal Infirmary
Anlaby Road
Hull
England
HU3 2JZ

Study participating centre

Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Colney Lane
Norwich
England
NR4 7UY

Study participating centre

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

OCDEM

Churchill Hospital

Old Road

Headington

Oxford

England

OX3 7LE

Study participating centre

Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust

Lantern Centre

Vicarage Lane

Fulwood

Preston

England

PR2 8DW

Study participating centre

York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Wigginton Road

York

England

YO31 8HE

Study participating centre

University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust

Clifford Bridge Road

Coventry

England

CV2 2DX

Study participating centre

NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

Queen Elizabeth University Hospital

Govan Road

Glasgow

Scotland

G51 4TF

Study participating centre

London North West Healthcare

Northwick Park Hospital
Watford Road
Harrow
England
HA1 3UJ

Study participating centre

Stockport NHS Foundation Trust

-

Stockport
England
SK2 7JE

Study participating centre

Royal Bournemouth Hospital NHS Trust

-

Bournemouth
England
BH7 7DW

Study participating centre

Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

Trust Headquarters
Mellor House
Corporation St
Stafford
England
ST16 3SR

Study participating centre

Kent Community NHS Foundation Trust

Trinity House
110-120 Upper Pemberton
Kennington
Ashford
England
TN25 4AZ

Study participating centre

Provide CIC

Braintree Community Hospital
Chadwick Drive
Braintree
England
CM7 2AL

Study participating centre**Guy's & St Thomas NHS Foundation Trust**

St Thomas' Hospital
Westminster Bridge Road
London
England
SE1 7EH

Study participating centre**Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**

Blackpool Victoria Hospital
Whinney Heys Road
Blackpool
England
FY3 8NR

Study participating centre**NHS Grampian**

Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership
50 Frederick Street
Aberdeen
Scotland
AB24 5HY

Study participating centre**Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**

Cheltenham General Hospital
Sandford Road
Cheltenham
England
GL53 7AN

Study participating centre

North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust

University Hospital of Hartlepool
Holdforth Road
Hartlepool
England
TS24 9AH

Study participating centre**Derbyshire Community Health Services NHS Foundation Trust**

Buxton Hospital
London Road
Buxton
England
SK17 9NJ

Study participating centre**Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust**

Manchester Royal Infirmary
Oxford Road
Manchester
England
M13 9WL

Sponsor information

Organisation

The Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

ROR

<https://ror.org/00v4dac24>

Funder(s)

Funder type

Government

Funder Name

National Institute for Health Research

Alternative Name(s)

National Institute for Health Research, NIHR Research, NIHRresearch, NIHR - National Institute for Health Research, NIHR (The National Institute for Health and Care Research), NIHR

Funding Body Type

Government organisation

Funding Body Subtype

National government

Location

United Kingdom

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

De-identified individual participant data datasets generated and/or analysed during the current study will be available upon request from the Clinical Trials Research Unit, University of Leeds (contact CTRU-DataAccess@leeds.ac.uk in the first instance). Data will be made available at the end of the trial, i.e. usually when all primary and secondary endpoints have been met and all key analyses are complete. Data will remain available from then on for as long as CTRU retains the data.

CTRU makes data available by a 'controlled access' approach. Data will only be released for legitimate secondary research purposes, where the Chief Investigator, Sponsor and CTRU agree that the proposed use has scientific value and will be carried out to a high standard (in terms of scientific rigour and information governance and security), and that there are resources available to satisfy the request. Data will only be released in line with participants' consent, all applicable laws relating to data protection and confidentiality, and any contractual obligations to which the CTRU is subject. No individual participant data will be released before an appropriate agreement is in place setting out the conditions of release. The agreement will govern data retention, usually stipulating that data recipients must delete their copy of the released data at the end of the planned project.

The CTRU encourages a collaborative approach to data sharing, and believe it is best practice for researchers who generated datasets to be involved in subsequent uses of those datasets. Recipients of trial data for secondary research will also receive data dictionaries, copies of key trial documents and any other information required to understand and reuse the released datasets.

The conditions of release for aggregate data may differ from those applying to individual participant data. Requests for aggregate data should also be sent to the above email address to discuss and agree suitable requirements for release.

IPD sharing plan summary

Available on request

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
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Results article			12/05/2026	Yes	No
Protocol article		19/04/2020	19/10/2022	Yes	No
HRA research summary			28/06/2023	No	No
Protocol (other)	Diabetic foot ulcer photography study: a study within a trial to assess the reliability of two-dimensional (2D) photography for the assessment of ulcer healing in patients with diabetes-related foot ulcers-protocol paper	09/01/2025	20/01/2025	No	No
Study website	Study website	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes