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BMJ Open

Study Protocol for Preoperative Stents Placement Before the Enucleation of Insulinoma Located in the Head and Neck of the Pancreas in Proximity to Main Pancreatic Duct: a multicenter randomized Clinical Trial

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Keywords:	Pancreatic surgery < SURGERY, Pancreatic disease < GASTROENTEROLOGY, Endocrine tumours < ONCOLOGY

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Reporting Item			Page Number
Administrative information			
Title	#1	Descriptive title identifying the study design, population, interventions, and, if applicable, trial acronym	1
Trial registration	#2a	Trial identifier and registry name. If not yet registered, name of intended registry	1
Trial registration: data set	#2b	All items from the World Health Organization Trial Registration Data Set	N/A
Protocol version	#3	Date and version identifier	N/A
Funding	#4	Sources and types of financial, material, and other support	6
Roles and responsibilities: contributorship	#5a	Names, affiliations, and roles of protocol contributors	1

Roles and responsibilities: sponsor contact information	#5b	Name and contact information for the trial sponsor	1
Roles and responsibilities: sponsor and funder	#5c	Role of study sponsor and funders, if any, in study design; collection, management, analysis, and interpretation of data; writing of the report; and the decision to submit the report for publication, including whether they will have ultimate authority over any of these activities	6
Roles and responsibilities: committees	#5d	Composition, roles, and responsibilities of the coordinating centre, steering committee, endpoint adjudication committee, data management team, and other individuals or groups overseeing the trial, if applicable (see Item 21a for data monitoring committee)	9
Introduction			
Background and rationale	#6a	Description of research question and justification for undertaking the trial, including summary of relevant studies (published and unpublished) examining benefits and harms for each intervention	2
Background and rationale: choice of comparators	#6b	Explanation for choice of comparators	3
Objectives	#7	Specific objectives or hypotheses	3
Trial design	#8	Description of trial design including type of trial (eg, parallel group, crossover, factorial, single group), allocation ratio, and framework (eg, superiority, equivalence, non-inferiority, exploratory)	3
Methods:			
Participants, interventions, and outcomes			
Study setting	#9	Description of study settings (eg, community clinic, academic hospital) and list of countries where data will be collected. Reference to where list of study sites can be obtained	3
Eligibility criteria	#10	Inclusion and exclusion criteria for participants. If applicable, eligibility criteria for study centres and individuals who will	10

		perform the interventions (eg, surgeons, psychotherapists)	
Interventions: description	#11a	Interventions for each group with sufficient detail to allow replication, including how and when they will be administered	4
Interventions: modifications	#11b	Criteria for discontinuing or modifying allocated interventions for a given trial participant (eg, drug dose change in response to harms, participant request, or improving / worsening disease)	4
Interventions: adherence	#11c	Strategies to improve adherence to intervention protocols, and any procedures for monitoring adherence (eg, drug tablet return; laboratory tests)	4
Interventions: concomitant care	#11d	Relevant concomitant care and interventions that are permitted or prohibited during the trial	4
Outcomes	#12	Primary, secondary, and other outcomes, including the specific measurement variable (eg, systolic blood pressure), analysis metric (eg, change from baseline, final value, time to event), method of aggregation (eg, median, proportion), and time point for each outcome. Explanation of the clinical relevance of chosen efficacy and harm outcomes is strongly recommended	3
Participant timeline	#13	Time schedule of enrolment, interventions (including any run-ins and washouts), assessments, and visits for participants. A schematic diagram is highly recommended (see Figure)	9
Sample size	#14	Estimated number of participants needed to achieve study objectives and how it was determined, including clinical and statistical assumptions supporting any sample size calculations	5
Recruitment	#15	Strategies for achieving adequate participant enrolment to reach target sample size	3
Methods: Assignment of interventions (for controlled trials)			
Allocation: sequence generation	#16a	Method of generating the allocation sequence (eg, computer-generated random numbers), and list of any factors for stratification. To reduce predictability of a random sequence, details of any planned restriction (eg, blocking) should be provided in a separate document that is unavailable to those who enrol participants or assign interventions	4

Allocation concealment mechanism	#16b	Mechanism of implementing the allocation sequence (eg, central telephone; sequentially numbered, opaque, sealed envelopes), describing any steps to conceal the sequence until interventions are assigned	4
Allocation: implementation	#16c	Who will generate the allocation sequence, who will enrol participants, and who will assign participants to interventions	4
Blinding (masking)	#17a	Who will be blinded after assignment to interventions (eg, trial participants, care providers, outcome assessors, data analysts), and how	N/A
Blinding (masking): emergency unblinding	#17b	If blinded, circumstances under which unblinding is permissible, and procedure for revealing a participant's allocated intervention during the trial	N/A
Methods: Data collection, management, and analysis			
Data collection plan	#18a	Plans for assessment and collection of outcome, baseline, and other trial data, including any related processes to promote data quality (eg, duplicate measurements, training of assessors) and a description of study instruments (eg, questionnaires, laboratory tests) along with their reliability and validity, if known. Reference to where data collection forms can be found, if not in the protocol	5
Data collection plan: retention	#18b	Plans to promote participant retention and complete follow-up, including list of any outcome data to be collected for participants who discontinue or deviate from intervention protocols	N/A
Data management	#19	Plans for data entry, coding, security, and storage, including any related processes to promote data quality (eg, double data entry; range checks for data values). Reference to where details of data management procedures can be found, if not in the protocol	5
Statistics: outcomes	#20a	Statistical methods for analysing primary and secondary outcomes. Reference to where other details of the statistical analysis plan can be found, if not in the protocol	5
Statistics: additional analyses	#20b	Methods for any additional analyses (eg, subgroup and adjusted analyses)	N/A

1	Declaration of interests	#28	Financial and other competing interests for principal investigators for the overall trial and each study site	6
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4	Data access	#29	Statement of who will have access to the final trial dataset, and disclosure of contractual agreements that limit such access for investigators	5
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10	Ancillary and post trial care	#30	Provisions, if any, for ancillary and post-trial care, and for compensation to those who suffer harm from trial participation	N/A
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13	Dissemination policy: trial results	#31a	Plans for investigators and sponsor to communicate trial results to participants, healthcare professionals, the public, and other relevant groups (eg, via publication, reporting in results databases, or other data sharing arrangements), including any publication restrictions	5
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20	Dissemination policy: authorship	#31b	Authorship eligibility guidelines and any intended use of professional writers	5
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24	Dissemination policy: reproducible research	#31c	Plans, if any, for granting public access to the full protocol, participant-level dataset, and statistical code	5
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28	Appendices			
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30	Informed consent materials	#32	Model consent form and other related documentation given to participants and authorised surrogates	N/A
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34	Biological specimens	#33	Plans for collection, laboratory evaluation, and storage of biological specimens for genetic or molecular analysis in the current trial and for future use in ancillary studies, if applicable	N/A
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BMJ Open

Study Protocol for Preoperative Pancreatic Stents Placement Before the Enucleation of Insulinoma Located in the Head and Neck of the Pancreas in Proximity to the Main Pancreatic Duct: a multicenter randomized Clinical Trial in Chinese Tertiary Medical Centers

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1 Study Protocol for Preoperative Pancreatic Stents Placement Before the Enucleation 2 of Insulinoma Located in the Head and Neck of the Pancreas in Proximity to the Main 3 Pancreatic Duct: a multicenter randomized Clinical Trial in Chinese Tertiary Medical 4 Centers

5 Gao Ruichen^{1,2*}, Yin Bohui^{1,2*}, Jin Jiabin³, Tian Xiaodong⁴, Zhang Yuhua⁵, Wei Jishu⁶, Cao
6 Feng⁷, Wang Zheng⁸, Ma Zhijun⁹, Wang Min¹⁰, Gou Shanmiao¹¹, Cong Lin¹, Xu Qiang^{1#},
7 Wu Wenming^{1#}, Zhao Yupei^{1#}

8 1 Department of General Surgery, Peking Union Medical College Hospital, Chinese Academy
9 of Medical Science & Peking Union Medical College, Beijing 100730, China

10 2 8-year MD program, Peking Union Medical College, Beijing 100730, China

11 3 Department of General Surgery, Pancreatic Disease Center, Ruijin Hospital, Shanghai Jiao
12 Tong University School of Medicine, Shanghai 200025, China.

13 4 Department of General Surgery, Peking University First Hospital, Beijing 100034, China.

14 5 Division of Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Surgery and Minimally Invasive Surgery, Zhejiang
15 Provincial People's Hospital, Hangzhou 310014, China.

16 6 Pancreas Center, The First Affiliated Hospital of Nanjing Medical University, Nanjing
17 210029, China.

18 7 General Surgery Department, Xuanwu Hospital, Capital Medical University, Beijing 100053,
19 China.

20 8 Department of Hepatobiliary Surgery, The First Affiliated Hospital of Xi'an Jiaotong
21 University, Xi'an 710061, China.

22 9 Panjin People's Hospital, Panjin, Liaoning 124221, China

23 10 Department of Biliary-Pancreatic Surgery, Huazhong University of Science and Technology
24 Tongji Medical College Tongji Hospital, Wuhan 430030, China.

25 11 Department of Pancreatic Surgery, Huazhong University of Science and Technology Tongji
26 Medical College First Clinical College Union Hospital, Wuhan 430022, China.

27 Gao Ruichen, gaoruichen@student.pumc.edu.cn

28 Yin bohui, yinbohui@student.pumc.edu.cn

29 Jin Jiabin, jjb11501@rjh.com.cn

30 Tian Xiaodong, tianxiaodong@pkufh.com

31 Zhang Yuhua, zhangyuhua1013@126.com

32 Wei Jishu, weijishu@njmu.edu.cn

33 Cao Feng, f.cao@xwhosp.org

34 Wang Zheng, zheng.wang11@mail.xjtu.edu.cn

35 Ma Zhijun, malu163@163.com

36 Wang Min, wangmin0013128@aliyun.com

37 Gou Shanmiao, shanmiaogou@hust.edu.cn

38 Cong Lin, conglin20082008@aliyun.com

39 Xu Qiang, xuqiang@pumch.cn

40 Wu Wenming, doctorwuu@126.com

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Zhao Yupei, zhao8028@263.net
* These authors contributed equally
Corresponding Author

Abstract

Introduction

The surgical intervention approach to insulinomas in proximity to the main pancreatic duct remains controversial. Standard pancreatic resection is recommended by several guidelines; however, enucleation (EN) still attracts surgeons with less risk of late exocrine/endocrine insufficiency, despite a higher postoperative pancreatic fistula (POPF) rate. Recently, the efficacy and safety of preoperative pancreatic stents placement before the enucleation have been demonstrated. Thus, a multicenter open-label study is being conducted to evaluate the efficacy and safety of stents placement in improving the outcome of enucleation of insulinomas in proximity to the main pancreatic duct.

Methods and analysis

This is a prospective, randomized, open-label, superiority clinical trial conducted at multiple tertiary centers in China. The major eligibility criteria is the presence of insulinoma located in the head and neck of the pancreas in proximity(≤ 2 mm) to the main pancreatic duct. Blocked randomization will be performed to allocate patients into the Stent EN group and the Direct EN group. Patients in the Stent EN group will go through stent placement by the endoscopist within 24 hours before the enucleation surgery, whereas other patients will receive enucleation surgery directly. The primary outcome is the assessment of the superiority of stent placement in reducing POPF rate measured by the International Study Group of Pancreatic Surgery (ISGPS) standard. Both interventions are performed in an inpatient setting and regular follow-up will be performed. The primary outcome (POPF rate) will be tested for superiority with the Chi-square test. The difference in secondary outcomes among the two groups will be analysed using appropriate tests.

Ethics and dissemination

The study was approved by the Peking Union Medical College Hospital Institutional Review Board (K23C0195). Results of the study will be published in an international peer-reviewed journal.

Trial registration number

ClinicalTrials.gov Registry (NCT05523778).

Keywords: Insulinoma, pancreatic duct stent, enucleation, postoperative pancreatic fistula

Article Summary

Strengths and limitations of this study

- A prospective multicenter clinical design to assess the efficacy and safety of a preventive intervention in improving the outcome of enucleation surgery.
- Recruiting patients from multiple tertiary medical centers across China.
- Local online communication tool exploited to promote interactions between investigators and patients

- The lack of blinding of the patients, surgeons, data collectors, and data analysts is the limitation of the study.

Introduction

Insulinomas are the most common functioning pancreatic neuroendocrine neoplasms, with an estimated incidence of 1–4 per million per year [1, 2] They are insulin-secreting tumors that cause common clinical features including neuroglycopenia and autonomic nervous system disorders caused by dysregulated secretion of insulin[3-5]. Surgical management remains the only curative modality for 90% of benign, localized insulinomas[4, 6].

According to several guidelines including the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) and the European Neuroendocrine Tumor Society (ENETS)[7, 8], enucleation(EN), a parenchymal preserving modality, that could reduce the risk of late exocrine/endocrine insufficiency, should be considered as the first-line surgical approach for exophytic and peripheral insulinomas[9].

However, in cases of endophytic insulinomas or tumors in proximity to the main pancreatic duct (MPD), the optimal choice of surgical intervention is controversial. Standard pancreatic resection, such as pancreaticoduodenectomy (PD) and distal pancreatectomy (DP), is indicated in guidelines while they aggressively eliminate normal pancreatic tissue, which can lead to long-term consequences including exocrine and endocrine pancreatic insufficiency [10, 11]. Recently, duodenum-preserving pancreatic head resection (DPPHR) was alternatively recommended for the resection of large PNETS.[12] In contrast, performing EN in cases with endophytic insulinomas and tumors in proximity to the MPD still baffles many surgeons as several retrospective researches suggested a significantly elevated rate of post-operative morbidity, especially postoperative pancreatic

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fistula(POPF). Lu et.al compared post-operative morbidity between PD and EN, indicating a significant difference in POPF (18.1% vs 61.1%) between the two approaches[13], and Heeger K et al. reported the POPF rate as 70% (21 of 30 patients) after EN of pancreatic tumors located ≤ 3 mm from the MPD [14]. Another study involving 52 patients who underwent EN also demonstrated a high POPF rate of 60% in the group of tumors located at less than or equal to 2 mm from the MPD.[15]. Recently, Dokmak et.al suggested the proximity to MPD < 3 mm as an independent risk factor of POPF in enucleation[16]. Therefore, preventive measures in EN that decrease the POPF rate would encourage the implementation of EN thus improving the long-term benefits for patients with insulinomas in proximity to the MPD.

POPF is usually derived from intraoperative injuries to MPD. Prophylactic preoperative stenting is believed to prevent the MPD injury in that it not only helps to identify the location of MPD in the surgical field thus preventing intraoperative damage but also decompresses pancreatic duct by reducing pancreatic juice leakage from the resection plane and providing support to the duct when stricture develops. Pertinent clinical evidence involving stenting and EN is still lacking. Some researchers reported the usage of preoperative stenting as a prophylaxis for EN[17-21], and despite they all revealed the feasibility and safety of the technique, most of these researches involved a limited number of patients and were single-armed studies.

Based on the knowledge and shortcomings on this topic, our team has collected 18 patients undergoing preoperative stenting in our center for 5 years. We retrospectively analyzed the risk factor of postoperative complications, especially POPF, and discovered

that the distance from insulinoma to MPD ≤ 2 mm was an independent risk factor for POPF (OR =6.011, $p = 0.003$). In addition, the preoperative pancreatic stent substantially reduced the incidence of POPF in patients with tumors located in proximity to the MPD (37.5% vs 71.4%, $p = 0.028$) [22]. Therefore, we launched the current clinical trial to assess the efficacy and safety of preoperative stenting before EN of insulinoma in the head and neck of the pancreas in proximity to the MPD. According to the Evidence Map of Pancreatic Surgery (www.evidencemap.surgery), this is the first trial of its kind[23].

Methods and analysis

➤ Study setting

This is a multicenter, double-arm, prospective, randomized trial in five high-volume medical centers in China. Experienced surgeons will determine the eligibility of their patients and obtain informed consent forms. Eligible patients with insulinoma in proximity to the MPD (≤ 2 mm) will be allocated randomly into two groups: Stented EN group, where the pancreatic duct stents are placed in patients by endoscopist within 24 hours before the enucleation surgery, and Direct EN group, where patients receive direct enucleation surgery. An overview of the protocol is shown in Figure 1. The study started in February 2023 and was planned to finish patient recruitment in December 2025.

➤ Endpoints

Primary endpoint: Rate of POPF within 3 months after EN.

Secondary endpoints:

- 1) Rate of post-stent-placement acute pancreatitis in Stented EN group within in 3 weeks after EN

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149 2) Operation time
150 3) Intraoperative blood loss
151 4) Rate of postoperative abdominal infection within 3 weeks after EN
152 5) Rate of postpancreatectomy hemorrhage(PPH) within 3 weeks after EN
153 6) Rate of postoperative lung infection within 3 weeks after EN
154 7) Rate of postoperative delayed gastric emptying within 3 weeks after EN
155 8) Rate of postoperative dyspepsia within 6 months after EN
156 9) Rate of postoperative hyperglycemia within 6 months after EN
157 10) Total cost of hospitalization
158 ➤ Definition
159 In this study, POPF, delayed gastric emptying and PPH adopt the definition proposed by
160 the international pancreatic surgery research group (ISGPS) [24-26]. Pancreatitis,
161 abdominal infection, dyspepsia, lung infection, and hyperglycemia will be evaluated
162 based on Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Event (CTCAE) V.5.0. Severe
163 adverse events are defined as grade 3 or higher in CTCAE.
164 ➤ Patients eligibility
165 Inclusion and exclusion criteria are shown in Box 1
166 ➤ Randomization
167 Randomization will be initiated by authorized investigators of the trial after checking the
168 informed consent and the inclusion and exclusion criteria. Each eligible patient will be
169 allocated an individual code/randomization number, which has to be recorded in case
170 report form (CRF). Blocked randomization (blocked number=4) for each center will be

171 performed using SAS Studio by the study assistant prior to the beginning of enrollment.

172 After randomization, surgeons in all centers who enroll the patient will be informed of the
173 intervention assignment.

174 ➤ Blindness

175 In accordance with recent academic recommendations on the implementation of blinding
176 in surgical trials[27], meticulous consideration has been given to blinding strategies tailored
177 to distinct study contributors, which encompass patients, surgeons, data collectors, data
178 analysts, and outcome assessors. Patients participating in this study are deemed
179 unblinding due to the number of patients with POPF was 6 (37.5%) and 20 (71.4%),
180 respectively. According to the abovementioned POPF rate in two condition the intrinsic
181 procedural difference between the two groups. Surgeons, who possess a direct line of sight
182 to the presence of the stent during intraoperative procedures, are similarly unfeasible
183 candidates for blinding. Data collectors also find themselves in a position where blinding is
184 not viable, primarily due to the inevitable nature of their responsibilities, which involve the
185 encounter of specific clinical data and records which are integral to prompt group allocation
186 results. Examples of such records are operation records of stenting procedures and
187 diagnostic CT imaging, which may conclusively reveal the presence of a stent within MPD.
188 Furthermore, the integrity of data analysis relies on the unobstructed knowledge of group
189 allocation results, rendering the blinding of data analysts unviable. Recognizing the critical
190 importance of blinding in assessing primary and secondary endpoints, especially those
191 related to complications, outcome assessors are kept blinded to participant group
192 allocation. Based on our protocol, the assessment of endpoints is directly linked with

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193 objective clinical data which can be provided to independent assessors with blindness of
194 allocation. This strategy plays a pivotal role in reducing potential bias in the assessment of
195 primary and secondary outcomes while concurrently insulating the operating surgeon from
196 subjective judgment regarding clinical endpoints. Emergency unblinding is not deemed
197 necessary.

198 ➤ Study interventions

199 After baseline visit and admission, eligible participants are randomized to the stented EN
200 group or the direct EN group, as shown in Figure 1.

201 ■ Preoperative MPD stenting

202 The preoperative pancreatic duct stent was regarded as a possible effective method to
203 prevent POPF. The single-pigtail pancreatic duct stent is usually placed within 24 hours
204 before the enucleation endoscopically. The stent length should span the site of the tumor.
205 The length and the diameter of the stent used should be recorded in CRF. The stent was
206 removed by duodenoscopy about three months after surgery. Endoscopic stent placement
207 and removal represents a common procedure at the Endoscopic Center of Peking Union
208 Medical College Hospital and other centers and will be carried out by experienced
209 endoscopists (minimum of 50 procedures) for the study. Any adverse events should be
210 recorded in CRF including stent-related pancreatitis. Blood amylase is tested 2-4 hours
211 after stenting before enucleation to discover potential stenting-related acute pancreatitis.

212 ■ Enucleation

213 During the surgery, intraoperative ultrasound will be performed to evaluate the location of
214 the tumor and the distance between the tumor and MPD. The peripheral pancreatic lobule

covering the tumor will be exposed by the ultrasound scalpel. After exposure of the insulinoma, the surgeon sutures the lesion and suspends it, and then the insulinoma is dissected from the normal pancreatic tissue. Dissection was performed in contact with the lesion by a combination of harmonic scalpel and bipolar cautery. Frozen sections of resected specimens are regularly investigated to identify benign insulinomas. The operative field should be carefully examined and MPD disruption should be repaired immediately once detected. The prophylactic abdominal drainage tube is applied. Intraoperative conversion (to open procedure, DPPHR, or PD), surgery time, blood loss, and transfusion volume should be recorded in CRF.

■ Postoperative management

General clinical treatment and PF prevention treatment will be conducted in both two groups. The patient's body temperature and drainage volume were recorded daily. The amount and the amylase concentration of the drainage fluid as well as the blood was routinely measured on the 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 7th postoperative days. Extubation would be considered if the drainage volume is less than 10 ml for 3 consecutive days or the amylase level of the drainage solution is less than three times the upper limit of normal. If the drainage tube has not been removed at the time of discharge, the patient would be instructed to record the daily drainage until extubation in the outpatient setting.

■ Follow-up

For the first three months after discharge, patients should maintain a regular follow-up session for every two weeks through outpatient or telephone. The following information should be collected during each follow-up: basic information and general condition of the

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patient, whether the patient has been extubated (if not extubated, record the recent drainage condition), recent medical interventions, and possible manifestations of dyspepsia or hyperglycemia. Laboratory tests and imaging examinations will be done at the surgeon's discretion.

➤ Statistical methods

■ Hypothesis

◆ Null hypothesis

The rate of POPF in patients who undergo MPD stent placement before enucleation is not less than that of patients who undergo enucleation directly.

◆ Alternative hypothesis

The rate of POPF in patients who undergo MPD stent placement before enucleation is less than that of patients who undergo enucleation directly.

■ Sample size calculation

In our previous retrospective study, a total of 44 patients with insulinoma in proximity to the MPD who underwent enucleation were included, of which 16 had stent placement and 28 had no stent placement, and 38 evaluable patients per group will provide 85% power to reject the null hypothesis in a Z test(unpooled) for superiority at a one-sided significance level of 0.05 considering the POPF rate difference of at least 5% to represent a clinically relevant difference. Therefore, 78 patients in total are to be recruited in the study considering possible dropout.

■ Statistical analysis

The primary outcome (rate of POPF) will be tested for superiority with a Chi-square test assuming a superiority difference of 5% with a one-sided significance level of 0.05. All patients undergoing EN will be included. The analysis will be performed twice: firstly after about 50% of the patients have been discharged and secondly after all patients have finished the follow-up procedure. Secondary outcomes will be described by calculating means or relative frequencies for each treatment group with 95% CIs. Differences in secondary outcomes between two groups will be analyzed using appropriate tests (Shapiro-Wilk tests, t-tests, Mann-Whitney U tests, Wilcoxon rank-sum tests, Chi-square tests, Fisher's exact tests, etc.).

Ethics and dissemination

Written informed consent from all the patients screened will be obtained before the procedures start. The study protocol has been approved by the Peking Union Medical College Hospital Institutional Review Board (approval number K23C0195) and registered in ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT05523778). The study will be carried out in accordance with the protocol and with principles enunciated in the current version of the Declaration of Helsinki[28]. Throughout the study, all data acquired in this trial will be provided to the involved investigators and ethics committee members for monitoring, audits, and inspections. Results will be published in an international peer-reviewed journal.

➤ Patient and public involvement

Throughout the study, a study account based on a local online communication tool (WeChat) will be established to receive any suggestions and consultations from patients

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involved and information about the study will be updated for all patients who subscribed to the study account.

Discussion

Generally, enucleation is preferred over other operation approaches in treating insulinomas, as it circumvents complicated reconstructions and possible subsequent complications. However, POPF is common in the enucleation of insulinomas that are in proximal to MPD, which limits its clinical application. In this clinical trial, we aim to demonstrate the safety and efficacy of preoperative stenting as a prophylaxis for EN. Several observational studies have shown promising effects of MPD stent in prevention of POPF but with limited evidence. In this study, we aim to include patients who are prone to suffer from POPF to validate the efficacy of MPD stent. In our previous research, we demonstrated the distance from insulinoma to MPD ≤ 2 mm was an independent risk factor for POPF. Therefore, it is a reasonable and feasible choice to confine patients whose tumors are “deep” in our ongoing trial. Preoperative MPD stent placement, as an extra intervention procedure for treating insulinoma, is still a vague yet practical technique in the prevention of POPF. Thus, the conduction of this clinical trial in a randomized controlled way is under the general ethical principle of clinical equipoise according to our present knowledge. In this way, the result of this multicenter, prospective, randomized control clinical trial can offer substantial information on the feasibility of this approach, and thus hopefully widen the indication of enucleation and partially alter the treatment pathway of insulinoma.

Author Contributions

Contributors GR, YB, CL, XQ, WW, ZY participated in creating the study design. GR drafted the manuscript. JJ, TX, ZY, WJ, CF, WZ, MZ, WM, GS provided a critical revision of the manuscript. XQ obtained the funding for this study. All the authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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Disclaimer The funder will have no role in the conduct or analysis of the trial.

Competing interests None declared.

Total word count: 2466

Figure 1 Flow chart of the study. FBG, fasting blood glucose; HbA1c, glycosylated hemoglobin; INS, insulin; C-pep, C-peptide; CE-CT, contrast-enhanced CT; US, ultrasound; DM, diabetes mellitus; ASA American Society of Anesthesiology.

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403 **Box 1 Inclusion and exclusion criteria**

Inclusion Criteria
➤ Age 18-75 years
➤ The clinical qualitative diagnosis of insulinoma was clear;
➤ The localization diagnosis was clear, and it was determined that the tumor was single, located in the head and neck;
➤ The distance between the tumor and the main pancreatic duct was determined to be $\leq 2\text{mm}$ by preoperative imaging (enhanced CT, MRI, etc.);
➤ Truly informed and voluntarily participate in this study, with written informed consent.
Exclusion Criteria
➤ Maximum diameter of the tumor $>2\text{cm}$ proved pathologically
➤ Severe cardiopulmonary complications

- Combined with other known tumor diseases

➤ Invasive insulinoma or insulinoma with suspicious metastasis

➤ Previous upper abdominal surgery history

➤ Refusal or inability to cooperate in the study

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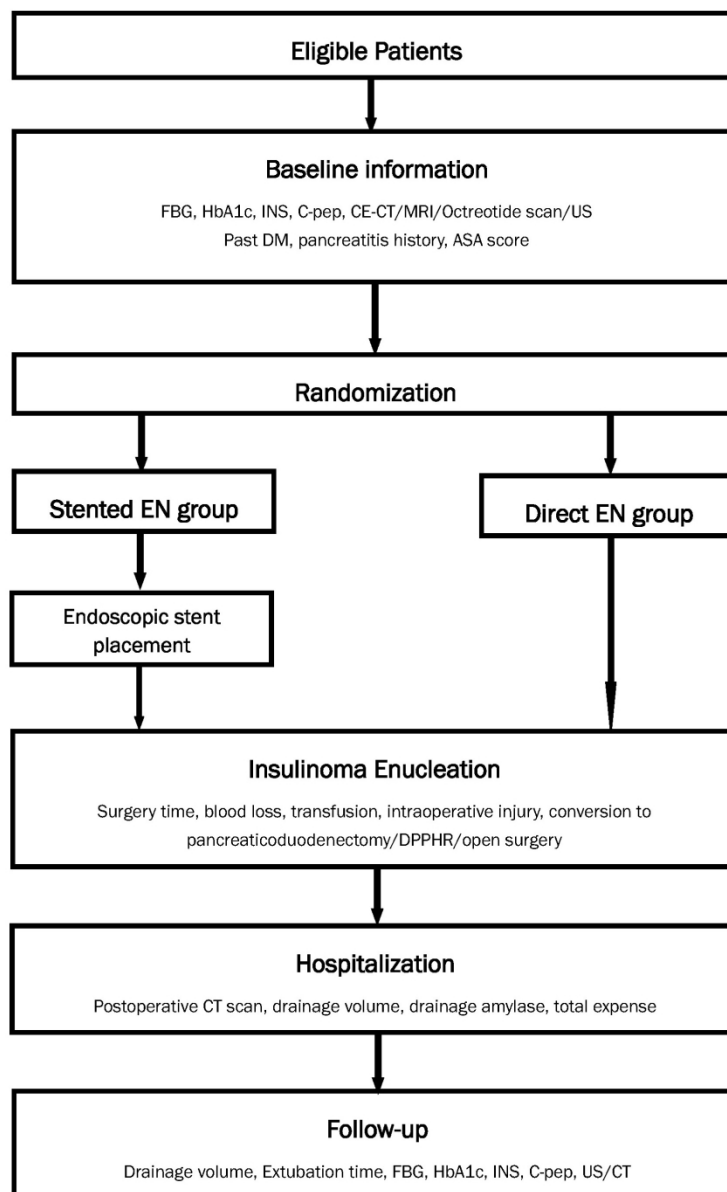


Figure 1 Flow chart of the study. FBG, fasting blood glucose; HbA1c, glycosylated hemoglobin; INS, insulin; C-pep, C-peptide; CE-CT, contrast-enhanced CT; US, ultrasound; DM, diabetes mellitus; ASA American Society of Anesthesiology.

147x232mm (300 x 300 DPI)

Reporting checklist for protocol of a clinical trial.

Based on the SPIRIT guidelines.

Instructions to authors

Complete this checklist by entering the page numbers from your manuscript where readers will find each of the items listed below.

Your article may not currently address all the items on the checklist. Please modify your text to include the missing information. If you are certain that an item does not apply, please write "n/a" and provide a short explanation.

Upload your completed checklist as an extra file when you submit to a journal.

In your methods section, say that you used the SPIRIT reporting guidelines, and cite them as:

Chan A-W, Tetzlaff JM, Gøtzsche PC, Altman DG, Mann H, Berlin J, Dickersin K, Hróbjartsson A, Schulz KF, Parulekar WR, Krleža-Jerić K, Laupacis A, Moher D. SPIRIT 2013 Explanation and Elaboration: Guidance for protocols of clinical trials. BMJ. 2013;346:e7586

	Reporting Item	Page Number
Administrative information		
Title	#1 Descriptive title identifying the study design, population, interventions, and, if applicable, trial acronym	1
Trial registration	#2a Trial identifier and registry name. If not yet registered,	1

		name of intended registry	
Trial registration:	#2b	All items from the World Health Organization Trial	N/A
data set		Registration Data Set	
Protocol version	#3	Date and version identifier	N/A
Funding	#4	Sources and types of financial, material, and other support	7
Roles and responsibilities: contributorship	#5a	Names, affiliations, and roles of protocol contributors	1&7
Roles and responsibilities: sponsor contact information	#5b	Name and contact information for the trial sponsor	1
Roles and responsibilities: sponsor and funder	#5c	Role of study sponsor and funders, if any, in study design; collection, management, analysis, and interpretation of data; writing of the report; and the decision to submit the report for publication, including whether they will have ultimate authority over any of these activities	7
Roles and responsibilities: committees	#5d	Composition, roles, and responsibilities of the coordinating centre, steering committee, endpoint adjudication committee, data management team, and other individuals or groups overseeing the trial, if	7

1		applicable (see Item 21a for data monitoring	
2		committee)	
3			
4			
5			
6	Introduction		
7			
8			
9	Background and	#6a	Description of research question and justification for
10			
11	rationale		undertaking the trial, including summary of relevant
12			
13			studies (published and unpublished) examining
14			
15			benefits and harms for each intervention
16			
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18			
19	Background and	#6b	Explanation for choice of comparators
20			
21	rationale: choice of		
22			
23	comparators		
24			
25			
26	Objectives	#7	Specific objectives or hypotheses
27			
28			
29	Trial design	#8	Description of trial design including type of trial (eg,
30			
31			parallel group, crossover, factorial, single group),
32			
33			allocation ratio, and framework (eg, superiority,
34			
35			equivalence, non-inferiority, exploratory)
36			
37			
38			
39	Methods:		
40			
41	Participants,		
42			
43	interventions, and		
44			
45	outcomes		
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48			
49	Study setting	#9	Description of study settings (eg, community clinic,
50			
51			academic hospital) and list of countries where data
52			
53			will be collected. Reference to where list of study sites
54			
55			can be obtained
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1	Eligibility criteria	#10	Inclusion and exclusion criteria for participants. If	10
2				
3			applicable, eligibility criteria for study centres and	
4				
5			individuals who will perform the interventions (eg,	
6				
7			surgeons, psychotherapists)	
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11	Interventions:	#11a	Interventions for each group with sufficient detail to	5-6
12				
13	description		allow replication, including how and when they will be	
14				
15			administered	
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17				
18	Interventions:	#11b	Criteria for discontinuing or modifying allocated	5-6
19				
20	modifications		interventions for a given trial participant (eg, drug	
21				
22			dose change in response to harms, participant	
23				
24			request, or improving / worsening disease)	
25				
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28	Interventions:	#11c	Strategies to improve adherence to intervention	5-6
29				
30	adherence		protocols, and any procedures for monitoring	
31				
32			adherence (eg, drug tablet return; laboratory tests)	
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36	Interventions:	#11d	Relevant concomitant care and interventions that are	5-6
37				
38	concomitant care		permitted or prohibited during the trial	
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41	Outcomes	#12	Primary, secondary, and other outcomes, including	4
42				
43			the specific measurement variable (eg, systolic blood	
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45			pressure), analysis metric (eg, change from baseline,	
46				
47			final value, time to event), method of aggregation (eg,	
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49			median, proportion), and time point for each outcome.	
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51			Explanation of the clinical relevance of chosen	
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53			efficacy and harm outcomes is strongly recommended	
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1	Participant timeline	#13	Time schedule of enrolment, interventions (including	10
2			any run-ins and washouts), assessments, and visits	
3			for participants. A schematic diagram is highly	
4			recommended (see Figure)	
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11	Sample size	#14	Estimated number of participants needed to achieve	6
12			study objectives and how it was determined, including	
13			clinical and statistical assumptions supporting any	
14			sample size calculations	
15				
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21	Recruitment	#15	Strategies for achieving adequate participant	4
22			enrolment to reach target sample size	
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26	Methods:			
27				
28	Assignment of			
29	interventions (for			
30	controlled trials)			
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36	Allocation: sequence	#16a	Method of generating the allocation sequence (eg,	4
37	generation		computer-generated random numbers), and list of any	
38			factors for stratification. To reduce predictability of a	
39			random sequence, details of any planned restriction	
40			(eg, blocking) should be provided in a separate	
41			document that is unavailable to those who enrol	
42			participants or assign interventions	
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53	Allocation	#16b	Mechanism of implementing the allocation sequence	4
54	concealment		(eg, central telephone; sequentially numbered,	
55			opaque, sealed envelopes), describing any steps to	
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		conceal the sequence until interventions are assigned	
Allocation:	#16c	Who will generate the allocation sequence, who will	4
implementation		enrol participants, and who will assign participants to interventions	
Blinding (masking)	#17a	Who will be blinded after assignment to interventions (eg, trial participants, care providers, outcome assessors, data analysts), and how	4-5
Blinding (masking):	#17b	If blinded, circumstances under which unblinding is permissible, and procedure for revealing a	5
emergency		participant's allocated intervention during the trial	
unblinding			
Methods: Data collection, management, and analysis			
Data collection plan	#18a	Plans for assessment and collection of outcome, baseline, and other trial data, including any related processes to promote data quality (eg, duplicate measurements, training of assessors) and a description of study instruments (eg, questionnaires, laboratory tests) along with their reliability and validity, if known. Reference to where data collection forms can be found, if not in the protocol	6
Data collection plan:	#18b	Plans to promote participant retention and complete	N/A
retention		follow-up, including list of any outcome data to be	

1		collected for participants who discontinue or deviate	
2		from intervention protocols	
3			
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6	Data management	#19 Plans for data entry, coding, security, and storage,	7
7			
8		including any related processes to promote data	
9			
10		quality (eg, double data entry; range checks for data	
11		values). Reference to where details of data	
12			
13		management procedures can be found, if not in the	
14			
15		protocol	
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20	Statistics: outcomes	#20a Statistical methods for analysing primary and	6
21			
22		secondary outcomes. Reference to where other	
23			
24		details of the statistical analysis plan can be found, if	
25			
26		not in the protocol	
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30	Statistics: additional	#20b Methods for any additional analyses (eg, subgroup	N/A
31			
32	analyses	and adjusted analyses)	
33			
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35	Statistics: analysis	#20c Definition of analysis population relating to protocol	N/A
36			
37	population and	non-adherence (eg, as randomised analysis), and any	
38			
39	missing data	statistical methods to handle missing data (eg,	
40			
41		multiple imputation)	
42			
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45	Methods: Monitoring		
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48	Data monitoring:	#21a Composition of data monitoring committee (DMC);	N/A
49			
50	formal committee	summary of its role and reporting structure; statement	
51			
52		of whether it is independent from the sponsor and	
53			
54		competing interests; and reference to where further	
55			
56		details about its charter can be found, if not in the	
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		protocol. Alternatively, an explanation of why a DMC is not needed	
Data monitoring: interim analysis	#21b	Description of any interim analyses and stopping guidelines, including who will have access to these interim results and make the final decision to terminate the trial	N/A
Harms	#22	Plans for collecting, assessing, reporting, and managing solicited and spontaneously reported adverse events and other unintended effects of trial interventions or trial conduct	N/A
Auditing	#23	Frequency and procedures for auditing trial conduct, if any, and whether the process will be independent from investigators and the sponsor	N/A
Ethics and dissemination			
Research ethics approval	#24	Plans for seeking research ethics committee / institutional review board (REC / IRB) approval	1
Protocol amendments	#25	Plans for communicating important protocol modifications (eg, changes to eligibility criteria, outcomes, analyses) to relevant parties (eg, investigators, REC / IRBs, trial participants, trial registries, journals, regulators)	N/A
Consent or assent	#26a	Who will obtain informed consent or assent from	3

1		potential trial participants or authorised surrogates,	
2			
3		and how (see Item 32)	
4			
5			
6	Consent or assent:	#26b Additional consent provisions for collection and use of	N/A
7			
8	ancillary studies	participant data and biological specimens in ancillary	
9			
10		studies, if applicable	
11			
12			
13	Confidentiality	#27 How personal information about potential and enrolled	7
14		participants will be collected, shared, and maintained	
15			
16		in order to protect confidentiality before, during, and	
17		after the trial	
18			
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23	Declaration of	#28 Financial and other competing interests for principal	7
24		investigators for the overall trial and each study site	
25	interests		
26			
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28			
29	Data access	#29 Statement of who will have access to the final trial	7
30		dataset, and disclosure of contractual agreements	
31		that limit such access for investigators	
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36	Ancillary and post	#30 Provisions, if any, for ancillary and post-trial care, and	N/A
37			
38	trial care	for compensation to those who suffer harm from trial	
39		participation	
40			
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44	Dissemination	#31a Plans for investigators and sponsor to communicate	7
45			
46	policy: trial results	trial results to participants, healthcare professionals,	
47			
48		the public, and other relevant groups (eg, via	
49		publication, reporting in results databases, or other	
50		data sharing arrangements), including any publication	
51		restrictions	
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Dissemination	#31b	Authorship eligibility guidelines and any intended use	7
policy: authorship		of professional writers	
Dissemination	#31c	Plans, if any, for granting public access to the full	7
policy: reproducible		protocol, participant-level dataset, and statistical code	
research			
Appendices			
Informed consent	#32	Model consent form and other related documentation	See supplement
materials		given to participants and authorised surrogates	ntal materials
Biological	#33	Plans for collection, laboratory evaluation, and	N/A
specimens		storage of biological specimens for genetic or	
		molecular analysis in the current trial and for future	
		use in ancillary studies, if applicable	

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BMJ Open

Study Protocol for Preoperative Pancreatic Stents Placement Before the Enucleation of Insulinoma Located in the Head and Neck of the Pancreas in Proximity to the Main Pancreatic Duct: a multicenter randomized Clinical Trial in Chinese Tertiary Medical Centers

Journal:	<i>BMJ Open</i>
Manuscript ID	bmjopen-2023-078516.R2
Article Type:	Protocol
Date Submitted by the Author:	06-Dec-2023
Complete List of Authors:	Gao, Ruichen; Peking Union Medical College Hospital, General surgery; Peking Union Medical College, 8-year MD program Yin, Bohui; Peking Union Medical College Hospital; Peking Union Medical College, 8-year MD program Jin, Jiabin; Shanghai Jiao Tong University Medical School Affiliated Ruijin Hospital Tian, Xiaodong; Peking University First Hospital, Department of General Surgery Zhang, Yuhua; Zhejiang Provincial People's Hospital, Division of Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Surgery and Minimally Invasive Surgery Wei, Jishu; The First Affiliated Hospital With Nanjing Medical University, Pancreas Center Cao, Feng; Xuanwu Hospital Wang, Zheng; The First Affiliated Hospital of Xi'an Jiaotong University, Department of Hepatobiliary Surgery Ma, Zhijun; Panjin People's Hospital Wang, Min; Huazhong University of Science and Technology Tongji Medical College Tongji Hospital, Department of Biliary-Pancreatic Surgery, Gou, Shanmiao; Huazhong University of Science and Technology Tongji Medical College First Clinical College Union Hospital, Department of Pancreatic Surgery Cong, Lin; Peking Union Medical College Hospital, General surgery Xu, Qiang; Peking Union Medical College Hospital, General Surgery Wu, Wenming; PUMCH, Department of General Surgery Zhao, Yupei; Peking Union Medical College Hospital
Primary Subject Heading:	Surgery
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1 Study Protocol for Preoperative Pancreatic Stents Placement Before the Enucleation 2 of Insulinoma Located in the Head and Neck of the Pancreas in Proximity to the Main 3 Pancreatic Duct: a multicenter randomized Clinical Trial in Chinese Tertiary Medical 4 Centers

5 Gao Ruichen^{1,2*}, Yin Bohui^{1,2*}, Jin Jiabin³, Tian Xiaodong⁴, Zhang Yuhua⁵, Wei Jishu⁶, Cao
6 Feng⁷, Wang Zheng⁸, Ma Zhijun⁹, Wang Min¹⁰, Gou Shanmiao¹¹, Cong Lin¹, Xu Qiang^{1#},
7 Wu Wenming^{1#}, Zhao Yupei^{1#}

8 1 Department of General Surgery, Peking Union Medical College Hospital, Chinese Academy
9 of Medical Science & Peking Union Medical College, Beijing 100730, China

10 2 8-year MD program, Peking Union Medical College, Beijing 100730, China

11 3 Department of General Surgery, Pancreatic Disease Center, Ruijin Hospital, Shanghai Jiao
12 Tong University School of Medicine, Shanghai 200025, China.

13 4 Department of General Surgery, Peking University First Hospital, Beijing 100034, China.

14 5 Division of Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Surgery and Minimally Invasive Surgery, Zhejiang
15 Provincial People's Hospital, Hangzhou 310014, China.

16 6 Pancreas Center, The First Affiliated Hospital of Nanjing Medical University, Nanjing
17 210029, China.

18 7 General Surgery Department, Xuanwu Hospital, Capital Medical University, Beijing 100053,
19 China.

20 8 Department of Hepatobiliary Surgery, The First Affiliated Hospital of Xi'an Jiaotong
21 University, Xi'an 710061, China.

22 9 Panjin People's Hospital, Panjin, Liaoning 124221, China

23 10 Department of Biliary-Pancreatic Surgery, Huazhong University of Science and Technology
24 Tongji Medical College Tongji Hospital, Wuhan 430030, China.

25 11 Department of Pancreatic Surgery, Huazhong University of Science and Technology Tongji
26 Medical College First Clinical College Union Hospital, Wuhan 430022, China.

27 Gao Ruichen, gaoruichen@student.pumc.edu.cn

28 Yin bohui, yinbohui@student.pumc.edu.cn

29 Jin Jiabin, jjb11501@rjh.com.cn

30 Tian Xiaodong, tianxiaodong@pkufh.com

31 Zhang Yuhua, zhangyuhua1013@126.com

32 Wei Jishu, weijishu@njmu.edu.cn

33 Cao Feng, f.cao@xwhosp.org

34 Wang Zheng, zheng.wang11@mail.xjtu.edu.cn

35 Ma Zhijun, malu163@163.com

36 Wang Min, wangmin0013128@aliyun.com

37 Gou Shanmiao, shanmiaogou@hust.edu.cn

38 Cong Lin, conglin20082008@aliyun.com

39 Xu Qiang, xuqiang@pumch.cn

40 Wu Wenming, doctorwuu@126.com

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41 Zhao Yupei, zhao8028@263.net
42 * These authors contributed equally
43 # Corresponding Author
44
Abstract
Introduction
The surgical intervention approach to insulinomas in proximity to the main pancreatic duct remains controversial. Standard pancreatic resection is recommended by several guidelines; however, enucleation (EN) still attracts surgeons with less risk of late exocrine/endocrine insufficiency, despite a higher postoperative pancreatic fistula (POPF) rate. Recently, the efficacy and safety of preoperative pancreatic stents placement before the enucleation have been demonstrated. Thus, a multicenter open-label study is being conducted to evaluate the efficacy and safety of stents placement in improving the outcome of enucleation of insulinomas in proximity to the main pancreatic duct.
Methods and analysis
This is a prospective, randomized, open-label, superiority clinical trial conducted at multiple tertiary centers in China. The major eligibility criteria is the presence of insulinoma located in the head and neck of the pancreas in proximity($\leq 2\text{mm}$) to the main pancreatic duct. Blocked randomization will be performed to allocate patients into the Stent EN group and the Direct EN group. Patients in the Stent EN group will go through stent placement by the endoscopist within 24 hours before the enucleation surgery, whereas other patients will receive enucleation surgery directly. The primary outcome is the assessment of the superiority of stent placement in reducing POPF rate measured by the International Study Group of Pancreatic Surgery (ISGPS) standard. Both interventions are performed in an inpatient setting and regular follow-up will be performed. The primary outcome (POPF rate) will be tested for superiority with the Chi-square test. The difference in secondary outcomes among the two groups will be analysed using appropriate tests.
Ethics and dissemination
The study was approved by the Peking Union Medical College Hospital Institutional Review Board (K23C0195). Results of the study will be published in an international peer-reviewed journal.
Trial registration number
ClinicalTrials.gov Registry (NCT05523778).
Keywords: Insulinoma, pancreatic duct stent, enucleation, postoperative pancreatic fistula
Article Summary
Strengths and limitations of this study

- A prospective multicenter clinical design to assess the efficacy and safety of a preventive intervention in improving the outcome of enucleation surgery.
- Recruiting patients from multiple tertiary medical centers across China.
- Local online communication tool exploited to promote interactions between investigators and patients

- The lack of blinding of the patients, surgeons, data collectors, and data analysts is the limitation of the study.

Introduction

Insulinomas are the most common functioning pancreatic neuroendocrine neoplasms, with an estimated incidence of 1–4 per million per year [1, 2] They are insulin-secreting tumors that cause common clinical features including neuroglycopenia and autonomic nervous system disorders caused by dysregulated secretion of insulin[3-5]. Surgical management remains the only curative modality for 90% of benign, localized insulinomas[4, 6].

According to several guidelines including the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) and the European Neuroendocrine Tumor Society (ENETS)[7, 8], enucleation(EN), a parenchymal preserving modality, that could reduce the risk of late exocrine/endocrine insufficiency, should be considered as the first-line surgical approach for exophytic and peripheral insulinomas[9].

However, in cases of endophytic insulinomas or tumors in proximity to the main pancreatic duct (MPD), the optimal choice of surgical intervention is controversial. Standard pancreatic resection, such as pancreaticoduodenectomy (PD) and distal pancreatectomy (DP), is indicated in guidelines while they aggressively eliminate normal pancreatic tissue, which can lead to long-term consequences including exocrine and endocrine pancreatic insufficiency [10, 11]. Recently, duodenum-preserving pancreatic head resection (DPPHR) was alternatively recommended for the resection of large PNETS.[12] In contrast, performing EN in cases with endophytic insulinomas and tumors in proximity to the MPD still baffles many surgeons as several retrospective researches suggested a significantly elevated rate of post-operative morbidity, especially postoperative pancreatic

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fistula(POPF). Lu et.al compared post-operative morbidity between PD and EN, indicating a significant difference in POPF (18.1% vs 61.1%) between the two approaches[13], and Heeger K et al. reported the POPF rate as 70% (21 of 30 patients) after EN of pancreatic tumors located ≤ 3 mm from the MPD [14]. Another study involving 52 patients who underwent EN also demonstrated a high POPF rate of 60% in the group of tumors located at less than or equal to 2 mm from the MPD.[15]. Recently, Dokmak et.al suggested the proximity to MPD < 3 mm as an independent risk factor of POPF in enucleation[16]. Therefore, preventive measures in EN that decrease the POPF rate would encourage the implementation of EN thus improving the long-term benefits for patients with insulinomas in proximity to the MPD.

POPF is usually derived from intraoperative injuries to MPD. Prophylactic preoperative stenting is believed to prevent the MPD injury in that it not only helps to identify the location of MPD in the surgical field thus preventing intraoperative damage but also decompresses pancreatic duct by reducing pancreatic juice leakage from the resection plane and providing support to the duct when stricture develops. Pertinent clinical evidence involving stenting and EN is still lacking. Some researchers reported the usage of preoperative stenting as a prophylaxis for EN[17-21], and despite they all revealed the feasibility and safety of the technique, most of these researches involved a limited number of patients and were single-armed studies.

Based on the knowledge and shortcomings on this topic, our team has collected 18 patients undergoing preoperative stenting in our center for 5 years. We retrospectively analyzed the risk factor of postoperative complications, especially POPF, and discovered

that the distance from insulinoma to MPD ≤ 2 mm was an independent risk factor for POPF (OR =6.011, $p = 0.003$). In addition, the preoperative pancreatic stent substantially reduced the incidence of POPF in patients with tumors located in proximity to the MPD (37.5% vs 71.4%, $p = 0.028$) [22]. Therefore, we launched the current clinical trial to assess the efficacy and safety of preoperative stenting before EN of insulinoma in the head and neck of the pancreas in proximity to the MPD. According to the Evidence Map of Pancreatic Surgery (www.evidencemap.surgery), this is the first trial of its kind[23].

Methods and analysis

➤ Study setting

This is a multicenter, double-arm, prospective, randomized trial in five high-volume medical centers in China. Experienced surgeons will determine the eligibility of their patients and obtain informed consent forms. (see Supplementary Materials) Eligible patients with insulinoma in proximity to the MPD (≤ 2 mm) will be allocated randomly into two groups: Stented EN group, where the pancreatic duct stents are placed in patients by endoscopist within 24 hours before the enucleation surgery, and Direct EN group, where patients receive direct enucleation surgery. An overview of the protocol is shown in Figure 1. The study started in February 2023 and was planned to finish patient recruitment in December 2025.

➤ Endpoints

Primary endpoint: Rate of POPF within 3 months after EN.

Secondary endpoints:

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- 41481) Rate of post-stent-placement acute pancreatitis in Stented EN group within in 3 weeks
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- 6149after EN
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- 91502) Operation time
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- 121513) Intraoperative blood loss
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- 141524) Rate of postoperative abdominal infection within 3 weeks after EN
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- 171535) Rate of postpancreatectomy hemorrhage(PPH) within 3 weeks after EN
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- 201546) Rate of postoperative lung infection within 3 weeks after EN
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- 221557) Rate of postoperative delayed gastric emptying within 3 weeks after EN
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- 251568) Rate of postoperative dyspepsia within 6 months after EN
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- 271579) Rate of postoperative hyperglycemia within 6 months after EN
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- 3015810) Total cost of hospitalization
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- 32159➤ Definition
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- 35160In this study, POPF, delayed gastric emptying and PPH adopt the definition proposed by
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- 38161the international pancreatic surgery research group (ISGPS) [24-26]. Pancreatitis,
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- 41162abdominal infection, dyspepsia, lung infection, and hyperglycemia will be evaluated
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- 43163based on Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Event (CTCAE) V.5.0. Severe
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- 45164adverse events are defined as grade 3 or higher in CTCAE.
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- 48165➤ Patients eligibility
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- 51166Inclusion and exclusion criteria are shown in Box 1
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- 53167➤ Randomization
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- 56168Randomization will be initiated by authorized investigators of the trial after checking the
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- 59169informed consent and the inclusion and exclusion criteria. Each eligible patient will be
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4 170 allocated an individual code/randomization number, which has to be recorded in case
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6 171 report form (CRF). Blocked randomization (blocked number=4) for each center will be
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9 172 performed using SAS Studio by the study assistant prior to the beginning of enrollment.
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12 173 After randomization, surgeons in all centers who enroll the patient will be informed of the
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14 174 intervention assignment.

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17 175 ➤ Blindness

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19 176 In accordance with recent academic recommendations on the implementation of blinding
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21 177 in surgical trials[27], meticulous consideration has been given to blinding strategies tailored
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23 178 to distinct study contributors, which encompass patients, surgeons, data collectors, data
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25 179 analysts, and outcome assessors. Patients participating in this study are deemed
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27 180 unblindingable due to the number of patients with POPF was 6 (37.5%) and 20 (71.4%),
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29 181 respectively. According to the abovementioned POPF rate in two condition the intrinsic
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31 182 procedural difference between the two groups. Surgeons, who possess a direct line of sight
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33 183 to the presence of the stent during intraoperative procedures, are similarly unfeasible
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35 184 candidates for blinding. Data collectors also find themselves in a position where blinding is
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37 185 not viable, primarily due to the inevitable nature of their responsibilities, which involve the
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39 186 encounter of specific clinical data and records which are integral to prompt group allocation
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41 187 results. Examples of such records are operation records of stenting procedures and
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43 188 diagnostic CT imaging, which may conclusively reveal the presence of a stent within MPD.
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45 189 Furthermore, the integrity of data analysis relies on the unobstructed knowledge of group
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47 190 allocation results, rendering the blinding of data analysts unviable. Recognizing the critical
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49 191 importance of blinding in assessing primary and secondary endpoints, especially those
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related to complications, outcome assessors are kept blinded to participant group allocation. Based on our protocol, the assessment of endpoints is directly linked with objective clinical data which can be provided to independent assessors with blindness of allocation. This strategy plays a pivotal role in reducing potential bias in the assessment of primary and secondary outcomes while concurrently insulating the operating surgeon from subjective judgment regarding clinical endpoints. Emergency unblinding is not deemed necessary.

➤ Study interventions

After baseline visit and admission, eligible participants are randomized to the stented EN group or the direct EN group, as shown in Figure 1.

■ Preoperative MPD stenting

The preoperative pancreatic duct stent was regarded as a possible effective method to prevent POPF. The single-pigtail pancreatic duct stent is usually placed within 24 hours before the enucleation endoscopically. The stent length should span the site of the tumor. The length and the diameter of the stent used should be recorded in CRF. The stent was removed by duodenoscopy about three months after surgery. Endoscopic stent placement and removal represents a common procedure at the Endoscopic Center of Peking Union Medical College Hospital and other centers and will be carried out by experienced endoscopists (minimum of 50 procedures) for the study. Any adverse events should be recorded in CRF including stent-related pancreatitis. Blood amylase is tested 2-4 hours after stenting before enucleation to discover potential stenting-related acute pancreatitis.

■ Enucleation

214 During the surgery, intraoperative ultrasound will be performed to evaluate the location of
215 the tumor and the distance between the tumor and MPD. The peripheral pancreatic lobule
216 covering the tumor will be exposed by the ultrasound scalpel. After exposure of the
217 insulinoma, the surgeon sutures the lesion and suspends it, and then the insulinoma is
218 dissected from the normal pancreatic tissue. Dissection was performed in contact with the
219 lesion by a combination of harmonic scalpel and bipolar cautery. Frozen sections of
220 resected specimens are regularly investigated to identify benign insulinomas. The
221 operative field should be carefully examined and MPD disruption should be repaired
222 immediately once detected. The prophylactic abdominal drainage tube is applied.
223 Intraoperative conversion (to open procedure, DPPHR, or PD), surgery time, blood loss,
224 and transfusion volume should be recorded in CRF.

■ Postoperative management

226 General clinical treatment and PF prevention treatment will be conducted in both two
227 groups. The patient's body temperature and drainage volume were recorded daily. The
228 amount and the amylase concentration of the drainage fluid as well as the blood was
229 routinely measured on the 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 7th postoperative days. Extubation would be
230 considered if the drainage volume is less than 10 ml for 3 consecutive days or the amylase
231 level of the drainage solution is less than three times the upper limit of normal. If the
232 drainage tube has not been removed at the time of discharge, the patient would be
233 instructed to record the daily drainage until extubation in the outpatient setting.

■ Follow-up

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For the first three months after discharge, patients should maintain a regular follow-up session for every two weeks through outpatient or telephone. The following information should be collected during each follow-up: basic information and general condition of the patient, whether the patient has been extubated (if not extubated, record the recent drainage condition), recent medical interventions, and possible manifestations of dyspepsia or hyperglycemia. Laboratory tests and imaging examinations will be done at the surgeon's discretion. Normally, CT or MRI scans will be performed routinely at 3 months postoperatively, just before stent removal, and then again 3 months after the stent removal.

➤ Statistical methods

■ Hypothesis

◆ Null hypothesis

The rate of POPF in patients who undergo MPD stent placement before enucleation is not less than that of patients who undergo enucleation directly.

◆ Alternative hypothesis

The rate of POPF in patients who undergo MPD stent placement before enucleation is less than that of patients who undergo enucleation directly.

■ Sample size calculation

In our previous retrospective study, a total of 44 patients with insulinoma in proximity to the MPD who underwent enucleation were included, of which 16 had stent placement and 28 had no stent placement, and 38 evaluable patients per group will provide 85% power to reject the null hypothesis in a Z test(unpooled) for superiority at a one-sided significance

level of 0.05 considering the POPF rate difference of at least 5% to represent a clinically relevant difference. Therefore, 78 patients in total are to be recruited in the study considering possible dropout.

■ Statistical analysis

The primary outcome (rate of POPF) will be tested for superiority with a Chi-square test assuming a superiority difference of 5% with a one-sided significance level of 0.05. All patients undergoing EN will be included. The analysis will be performed twice: firstly after about 50% of the patients have been discharged and secondly after all patients have finished the follow-up procedure. Secondary outcomes will be described by calculating means or relative frequencies for each treatment group with 95% CIs. Differences in secondary outcomes between two groups will be analyzed using appropriate tests (Shapiro-Wilk tests, t-tests, Mann-Whitney U tests, Wilcoxon rank-sum tests, Chi-square tests, Fisher's exact tests, etc.).

Ethics and dissemination

Written informed consent from all the patients screened will be obtained before the procedures start. The study protocol has been approved by the Peking Union Medical College Hospital Institutional Review Board (approval number K23C0195) and registered in ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT05523778). The study will be carried out in accordance with the protocol and with principles enunciated in the current version of the Declaration of Helsinki [28]. Throughout the study, all data acquired in this trial will be provided to the involved investigators and ethics committee members for monitoring, audits, and inspections. Results will be published in an international peer-reviewed journal.

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Ensignment Supérieur (ABES)

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In response to the submission and approval of our protocol, several modifications have been incorporated into the study design, all of which have undergone thorough scrutiny and received approval from our ethics committee. Firstly, a new timepoint at postoperative day 7 (pod7) has been added for the measurement of amylase levels, leveraging the existing practice of routinely measuring amylase levels for all patients at this timepoint. Secondly, we have introduced an exclusion criterion based on the maximum diameter of the tumor (>2cm), a feasible addition given that no enrolled patients before this change meet the exclusion criteria. Thirdly, a significant refinement involves blinding outcome assessors, a practicable adjustment as assessors can re-evaluate outcomes solely based on the information recorded in the case report form (CRF). Lastly, we have clarified that the primary outcome measurement will occur at 90 days postoperatively, enhancing precision in reporting the study's findings. These modifications aim to strengthen the study's scientific integrity, participant safety, and overall methodological rigor.

➤ Patient and public involvement

Throughout the study, a study account based on a local online communication tool (WeChat) will be established to receive any suggestions and consultations from patients involved and information about the study will be updated for all patients who subscribed to the study account.

Discussion

Generally, enucleation is preferred over other operation approaches in treating insulinomas, as it circumvents complicated reconstructions and possible subsequent complications.

However, POPF is common in the enucleation of insulinomas that are in proximal to MPD, which limits its clinical application. In this clinical trial, we aim to demonstrate the safety and efficacy of preoperative stenting as a prophylaxis for EN. Several observational studies have shown promising effects of MPD stent in prevention of POPF but with limited evidence. In this study, we aim to include patients who are prone to suffer from POPF to validate the efficacy of MPD stent. In our previous research, we demonstrated the distance from insulinoma to MPD ≤ 2 mm was an independent risk factor for POPF. Therefore, it is a reasonable and feasible choice to confine patients whose tumors are “deep” in our ongoing trial. Preoperative MPD stent placement, as an extra intervention procedure for treating insulinoma, is still a vague yet practical technique in the prevention of POPF. Thus, the conduction of this clinical trial in a randomized controlled way is under the general ethical principle of clinical equipoise according to our present knowledge. In this way, the result of this multicenter, prospective, randomized control clinical trial can offer substantial information on the feasibility of this approach, and thus hopefully widen the indication of enucleation and partially alter the treatment pathway of insulinoma.

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317 Author Contributions

318 Contributors GR, YB, CL, XQ, WW, ZY participated in creating the study design. GR
319 drafted the manuscript. JJ, TX, ZY, WJ, CF, WZ, MZ, WM, GS provided a critical revision
320 of the manuscript. XQ obtained the funding for this study. All the authors read and approved
321 the final manuscript.

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Competing interests None declared.

Total word count: 2654

Figure 1 Flow chart of the study. FBG, fasting blood glucose; HbA1c, glycosylated hemoglobin; INS, insulin; C-pep, C-peptide; CE-CT, contrast-enhanced CT; US, ultrasound; DM, diabetes mellitus; ASA American Society of Anesthesiology.

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Box 1 Inclusion and exclusion criteria

Inclusion Criteria
➤ Age 18-75 years ➤ The clinical qualitative diagnosis of insulinoma was clear; ➤ The localization diagnosis was clear, and it was determined that the tumor was single, located in the head and neck; ➤ The distance between the tumor and the main pancreatic duct was determined to be ≤ 2mm by preoperative imaging (enhanced CT, MRI, etc.); ➤ Truly informed and voluntarily participate in this study, with written informed consent.
Exclusion Criteria
➤ Maximum diameter of the tumor >2cm proved pathologically ➤ Severe cardiopulmonary complications ➤ Combined with other known tumor diseases ➤ Invasive insulinoma or insulinoma with suspicious metastasis ➤ Previous upper abdominal surgery history ➤ Refusal or inability to cooperate in the study

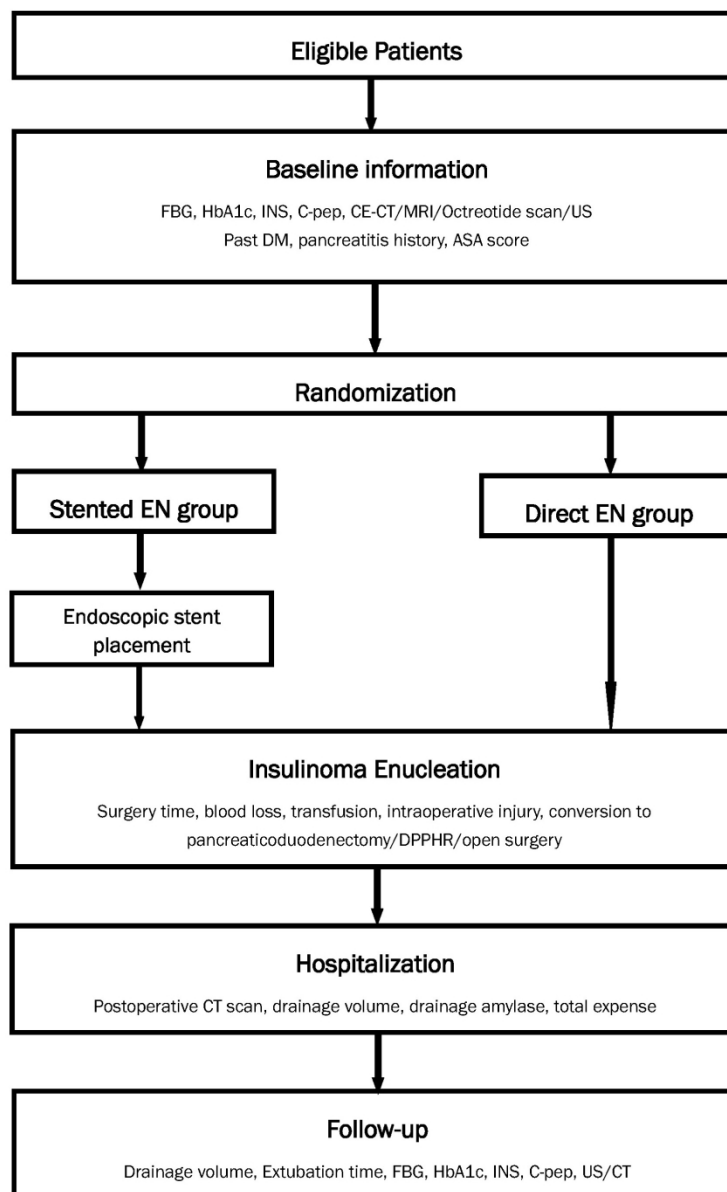


Figure 1 Flow chart of the study. FBG, fasting blood glucose; HbA1c, glycosylated hemoglobin; INS, insulin; C-pep, C-peptide; CE-CT, contrast-enhanced CT; US, ultrasound; DM, diabetes mellitus; ASA American Society of Anesthesiology.

147x232mm (300 x 300 DPI)

Written informed consent form

Medical Research	Preoperative Pancreatic Stents
Topics:	Placement Before the Enucleation of Insulinoma Located in the Head and Neck of the Pancreas in Proximity to the Main Pancreatic Duct
Protocol number (if applicable):	
Study Site:	Peking Union Medical College Hospital, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences
Principal investigators:	Qiang Xu
Informed consent form Version No.	V3.0
Informed consent	2022/12/30

form version date

Subject Name:

Subject ID:

For peer review only

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Dear Subject:

We would like to invite you to participate in a clinical study entitled "A Randomized Controlled Study of Preoperative Pancreatic Stents Placement Before the Enucleation of Insulinoma Located in the Head and Neck of the Pancreas in Proximity to the Main Pancreatic Duct".

Before you decide whether to consent to participate, please read this informed consent form carefully and ask the investigators questions about your concerns. You may also ask your family, friends, or others. Once you have decided to participate in the study, you will be asked to sign this informed consent form.

1. Research Background

Insulinoma is the most common type of functional pancreatic endocrine tumors, which is characterized by uncontrolled excessive insulin secretion. Its main treatment is surgical resection. 90% of patients with insulinoma can be cured by surgical treatment. We found that for insulinomas located in the pancreatic head and neck near the main pancreatic duct, enucleation is prone to cause main pancreatic duct injury, which increases the risk of postoperative pancreatic fistula and other serious complications. Therefore, pancreaticoduodenectomy is recommended, but it requires combined resection of part of the stomach, duodenum, common bile duct and gallbladder, and there is a high risk of postoperative pancreatic exocrine insufficiency. In contrast, enucleation still has the advantages of less trauma and low incidence of long-term postoperative pancreatic secretion insufficiency, which is of great help to improve the long-term quality of life of patients after surgery. At present, the surgical management of this type of tumor is still inconclusive in the world, and many large pancreatic centers are still conducting clinical studies on enucleation. Studies have shown that preoperative placement of pancreatic duct stents followed by enucleation can reduce the incidence of postoperative pancreatic fistula and increase the long-term postoperative benefits, but the placement of pancreatic duct stents may cause stent-related adverse events. However, the placement of pancreatic stent may cause stent-related adverse events. However, there is no high-level clinical study to demonstrate its advantages and disadvantages. Therefore, the aim of this study is to investigate the safety and efficacy of preoperative pancreatic stent placement in patients with insulinoma in the pancreatic head and neck near the main pancreatic duct through a multi-center randomized controlled trial, so as to provide evidence-based medical evidence for standardized treatment of insulinoma and thus to change the current treatment guidelines.

This study was approved by the Peking Union Medical College Hospital Ethics Committee.

2. What was the purpose of this clinical study?

To compare the clinical efficacy, safety and efficacy between direct enucleation and preoperative placement of pancreatic stent followed by enucleation for insulinoma near the main pancreatic duct in the head and neck of the pancreas, and to evaluate the application value of the former surgical treatment strategy.

3. Methods: Study

This study was an intervention study. Participants were divided into two groups: experimental

group and control group. Enrollment in the two groups is 1:1, grouping will be random (like a lottery), and neither you nor the investigator can choose in advance which group to participate in. The study was unblinded, meaning that after randomization, you, the investigator, and the clinician knew which group you had been assigned to. The study had an anticipated enrollment of 78 patients nationwide.

4. Study PROCESS

Before commencing any research related activities, you will first need to sign this informed consent form.

During the screening period, the researcher will ask and collect your personal information, previous diagnosis and treatment, your combined medications, comorbidities, and order your blood routine, liver function, renal function, pancreatic function, fasting blood glucose, insulin, C-peptide, abdominal and pelvic enhanced CT, MRI and other examinations. We will determine whether you meet the inclusion criteria through your current clinical symptoms, performance, and examination results.

If you meet the eligibility criteria, study treatment will be initiated, and you will be randomly assigned to either an experimental group (placement of a pancreatic duct stent before enucleation) or a control group (enucleation alone). You will then proceed to endoscopic stent placement and surgery according to standard protocols.

During your hospitalization, we will collect your laboratory test results, surgery-related information, and recovery, which do not require your additional cooperation. If you are assigned to the experimental group, you will be scheduled to undergo ERCP-guided pancreatic duct stenting approximately 1 day before the procedure, which is in accordance with the usual practice of our hospital.

After you are discharged from the hospital, you are required to follow the doctor's advice for regular outpatient follow-up. At follow-up visits, the investigator will ask about your diet and measure your blood sugar. You will be contacted by telephone every 1 month to inquire about your postoperative recovery, diet, etc.

□

5. How the Study Ended

If you complete all study visits, the study will last for 24 months, and you will be scheduled for additional visits as needed during the study, after which you will be available at your usual frequency.

The study will conclude after the completion of the last subject's treatment, and it is anticipated that your time in the study may last 1-2 years.

You may opt out of the study at any time during the study, and the study physician may ask you to do so for your health and benefit. Prior to withdrawal, the study physician may order tests to ensure that you can exit safely. Your data will not be included in the results of the study, and your medical treatment and rights will not be affected.

During the course of the study, study physicians, study funders, regulatory authorities, and ethics committees may terminate the study.

6. Study Benefits

Your surgical outcome and long-term quality of life may improve by participating in this study, but we cannot guarantee that you will. You will receive careful evaluation, monitoring, and treatment beyond routine monitoring.

Your participation in this study may help physicians learn more about the effects of treatment for high-risk insulinomas, information that other patients with the same or similar conditions may benefit from in the future.

7. Research Risks and inconveniences

There are known or unknown risks associated with any research. Some are mild and transient, some are severe and permanent, and whether and which risks arise and their severity will vary from person to person. Your research physician will take all precautions and monitor your condition closely. If you experience any discomfort, be sure to inform your study physician immediately so that necessary treatment can be taken promptly.

Risks of study-related procedures: Preoperative ERCP endoscopy and pancreatic duct stenting may pose risks of pancreatitis, perforation, bleeding, and stent migration. There are risks of pancreatic fistula, bleeding, and infection after surgery, and these risks are also risks in the process of disease treatment. Participation in this study does not increase the incidence of these risks.

Possible inconvenience of the study: To participate in this study, you need to strictly record the amount of drainage and the time of extubation. The rest were the same as routine. Patients were followed up 4 times on time after the operation and completed the examinations required by the experiment (the number and content of follow-up visits were the same as the recommended routine diagnosis and treatment process for postoperative patients). Please take these inconveniences into account when deciding whether to participate in this study.

8. Alternatives that can be adopted

If you do not participate in the study, you can choose to perform pancreaticoduodenectomy or enucleation with or without pancreatic stent placement, as is standard practice for insulinoma management at this hospital. Your study physician will explain to you the potential benefits and risks of treatment.

9. New information during the study

During the course of the study, the investigator has acquired important and up-to-date information relevant to the study. We will keep you informed and it is up to you to decide whether to continue participating in the study.

10. Study-related costs

If you are assigned to the experimental group, you may be responsible for some study-related costs, which primarily include the cost of endoscopic procedures (including pancreatic stent

placement) that may be involved in the study. Regardless of whether you are assigned to the control group or the experimental group, medications and other routine tests are necessary in the course of routine clinical care and therefore will be paid for by you (or covered by medical insurance, if applicable). You will also have to pay for the treatment and tests you need for any coexisting medical conditions.

You will not be paid for your participation in the study, but the study will purchase clinical trial liability insurance for each patient who participates, which will be paid directly by the study investigators.

11. Study-related damages

If you experience any discomfort during the study, please contact the study doctor in time. The study doctor will guide you in the follow-up treatment. The researcher has purchased insurance for this study, and the insurance company will be responsible for the cost of treatment and reimbursement if you suffer any damage to your health as a result of participating in this study.

12. Confidentiality Policy

Your personal and medical information may be collected or processed in this study, including but not limited to: your name, gender, date of birth, address, telephone, diagnosis and treatment, examination, medical imaging, surgical records, etc.

Your personal information will be used only for the purposes described in the study protocol and this informed consent form.

Your medical information obtained by participating in this study will be kept confidential. The results of the study will also be published in academic journals without revealing any personally identifiable information about you.



13. Possible conflicts of interest from funding sources

This study was funded by the National High Level Hospital Clinical Research Funding of Peking Union Medical College Hospital, and there was no conflict of interest between the investigators and this study.

14. Voluntary Participation

Your participation is entirely voluntary. You may not participate or withdraw from the study at any time during the course of the study. This will not affect your relationship with the medical staff and your usual medical care will not be affected in any way.

15. Notes for Subjects

- Please tell the research doctor about your health status (especially whether you have other tumors and heart and lung diseases) and previous surgery history;
- Please follow the doctor's advice to the hospital on time for follow-up;
- If you feel any discomfort, please inform your research doctor in time;

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16. Contact information

If you experience any discomfort, or if you have any questions about the study, you can contact the investigator at:

Position: Research physician	Name: Xu Qiang	Telephone number: 13810096103
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If you have any questions about your rights as a subject, you can contact the Ethics Committee at:

Position: Ethics Secretary	Name: Li Jiayue	Phone number: 010- 69156874
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Thank you for reading and considering participation in the study.

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17. Signature page

Subject:

I confirm the following information:

- (1) I have read and understood the informed information and have had sufficient time to consider participation in the study.
- (2) All my questions have been satisfactorily answered.
- (3) I voluntarily participated in the study and followed the study procedures.
- (4) I understand that I can withdraw from the study at any time without giving a reason and that my treatment or rights will not be affected.
- (5) I have received an informed consent form and signed consent form for my retention.
- (6) I agree to have my sample collected and used as described in this informed consent.
- (7) I give permission for my personal information to be collected and used in this study.
- (8) I understand that I may be contacted in the future to obtain my permission for this study or any related substudy.

By signing this document, I agree to participate in the study as stated in the Informed Information and consent form.

Subject's name (in block letters) :

Signature of Subject: Date:

The following is limited to the subject who is incapacitated, and the signature of the guardian is required.

[Subject's name (in block letters), relationship between guardian and subject is.]

Guardian's name (in block letters) : Contact Number:

Signature of Guardian: Date:

The following is limited to subjects without the ability to read and write, and the signature of an impartial witness is required.

Witness's name (in block letters) : Contact Number:

Signature of Witness: Date:

Name of investigator/authorizer (in block letters) :

Signature of investigator/authorizer: Date:

Reporting checklist for protocol of a clinical trial.

Based on the SPIRIT guidelines.

Instructions to authors

Complete this checklist by entering the page numbers from your manuscript where readers will find each of the items listed below.

Your article may not currently address all the items on the checklist. Please modify your text to include the missing information. If you are certain that an item does not apply, please write "n/a" and provide a short explanation.

Upload your completed checklist as an extra file when you submit to a journal.

In your methods section, say that you used the SPIRIT reporting guidelines, and cite them as:

Chan A-W, Tetzlaff JM, Gøtzsche PC, Altman DG, Mann H, Berlin J, Dickersin K, Hróbjartsson A, Schulz KF, Parulekar WR, Krleža-Jerić K, Laupacis A, Moher D. SPIRIT 2013 Explanation and Elaboration: Guidance for protocols of clinical trials. BMJ. 2013;346:e7586

	Reporting Item	Page Number
Administrative information		
Title	#1 Descriptive title identifying the study design, population, interventions, and, if applicable, trial acronym	1
Trial registration	#2a Trial identifier and registry name. If not yet registered,	1

		name of intended registry	
Trial registration:	#2b	All items from the World Health Organization Trial	N/A
data set		Registration Data Set	
Protocol version	#3	Date and version identifier	N/A
Funding	#4	Sources and types of financial, material, and other support	7
Roles and responsibilities: contributorship	#5a	Names, affiliations, and roles of protocol contributors	1&7
Roles and responsibilities: sponsor contact information	#5b	Name and contact information for the trial sponsor	1
Roles and responsibilities: sponsor and funder	#5c	Role of study sponsor and funders, if any, in study design; collection, management, analysis, and interpretation of data; writing of the report; and the decision to submit the report for publication, including whether they will have ultimate authority over any of these activities	7
Roles and responsibilities: committees	#5d	Composition, roles, and responsibilities of the coordinating centre, steering committee, endpoint adjudication committee, data management team, and other individuals or groups overseeing the trial, if	7

1		applicable (see Item 21a for data monitoring	
2		committee)	
3			
4			
5			
6	Introduction		
7			
8			
9	Background and	#6a	2-3
10		Description of research question and justification for	
11	rationale	undertaking the trial, including summary of relevant	
12		studies (published and unpublished) examining	
13		benefits and harms for each intervention	
14			
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18	Background and	#6b	3
19		Explanation for choice of comparators	
20	rationale: choice of		
21			
22	comparators		
23			
24			
25			
26	Objectives	#7	3
27		Specific objectives or hypotheses	
28			
29	Trial design	#8	4
30		Description of trial design including type of trial (eg,	
31		parallel group, crossover, factorial, single group),	
32		allocation ratio, and framework (eg, superiority,	
33		equivalence, non-inferiority, exploratory)	
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39	Methods:		
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41	Participants,		
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43	interventions, and		
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45	outcomes		
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48			
49	Study setting	#9	4
50		Description of study settings (eg, community clinic,	
51		academic hospital) and list of countries where data	
52		will be collected. Reference to where list of study sites	
53		can be obtained	
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1	Eligibility criteria	#10	Inclusion and exclusion criteria for participants. If	10
2				
3			applicable, eligibility criteria for study centres and	
4			individuals who will perform the interventions (eg,	
5			surgeons, psychotherapists)	
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10				
11	Interventions:	#11a	Interventions for each group with sufficient detail to	5-6
12				
13	description		allow replication, including how and when they will be	
14			administered	
15				
16				
17				
18	Interventions:	#11b	Criteria for discontinuing or modifying allocated	5-6
19				
20	modifications		interventions for a given trial participant (eg, drug	
21			dose change in response to harms, participant	
22			request, or improving / worsening disease)	
23				
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25				
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27				
28	Interventions:	#11c	Strategies to improve adherence to intervention	5-6
29				
30	adherence		protocols, and any procedures for monitoring	
31			adherence (eg, drug tablet return; laboratory tests)	
32				
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35				
36	Interventions:	#11d	Relevant concomitant care and interventions that are	5-6
37				
38	concomitant care		permitted or prohibited during the trial	
39				
40				
41	Outcomes	#12	Primary, secondary, and other outcomes, including	4
42				
43			the specific measurement variable (eg, systolic blood	
44			pressure), analysis metric (eg, change from baseline,	
45			final value, time to event), method of aggregation (eg,	
46			median, proportion), and time point for each outcome.	
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48			Explanation of the clinical relevance of chosen	
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50			efficacy and harm outcomes is strongly recommended	
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		conceal the sequence until interventions are assigned	
Allocation:	#16c	Who will generate the allocation sequence, who will	4
implementation		enrol participants, and who will assign participants to interventions	
Blinding (masking)	#17a	Who will be blinded after assignment to interventions (eg, trial participants, care providers, outcome assessors, data analysts), and how	4-5
Blinding (masking):	#17b	If blinded, circumstances under which unblinding is permissible, and procedure for revealing a participant's allocated intervention during the trial	5
emergency unblinding			
Methods: Data collection, management, and analysis			
Data collection plan	#18a	Plans for assessment and collection of outcome, baseline, and other trial data, including any related processes to promote data quality (eg, duplicate measurements, training of assessors) and a description of study instruments (eg, questionnaires, laboratory tests) along with their reliability and validity, if known. Reference to where data collection forms can be found, if not in the protocol	6
Data collection plan:	#18b	Plans to promote participant retention and complete follow-up, including list of any outcome data to be	N/A
retention			

1		collected for participants who discontinue or deviate	
2		from intervention protocols	
3			
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6	Data management	#19 Plans for data entry, coding, security, and storage,	7
7			
8		including any related processes to promote data	
9			
10		quality (eg, double data entry; range checks for data	
11		values). Reference to where details of data	
12			
13		management procedures can be found, if not in the	
14			
15		protocol	
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20	Statistics: outcomes	#20a Statistical methods for analysing primary and	6
21			
22		secondary outcomes. Reference to where other	
23			
24		details of the statistical analysis plan can be found, if	
25			
26		not in the protocol	
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30	Statistics: additional	#20b Methods for any additional analyses (eg, subgroup	N/A
31			
32	analyses	and adjusted analyses)	
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35			
36	Statistics: analysis	#20c Definition of analysis population relating to protocol	N/A
37			
38	population and	non-adherence (eg, as randomised analysis), and any	
39			
40	missing data	statistical methods to handle missing data (eg,	
41			
42		multiple imputation)	
43			
44			
45	Methods: Monitoring		
46			
47			
48	Data monitoring:	#21a Composition of data monitoring committee (DMC);	N/A
49			
50	formal committee	summary of its role and reporting structure; statement	
51			
52		of whether it is independent from the sponsor and	
53			
54		competing interests; and reference to where further	
55			
56		details about its charter can be found, if not in the	
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		protocol. Alternatively, an explanation of why a DMC is not needed	
Data monitoring: interim analysis	#21b	Description of any interim analyses and stopping guidelines, including who will have access to these interim results and make the final decision to terminate the trial	N/A
Harms	#22	Plans for collecting, assessing, reporting, and managing solicited and spontaneously reported adverse events and other unintended effects of trial interventions or trial conduct	N/A
Auditing	#23	Frequency and procedures for auditing trial conduct, if any, and whether the process will be independent from investigators and the sponsor	N/A
Ethics and dissemination			
Research ethics approval	#24	Plans for seeking research ethics committee / institutional review board (REC / IRB) approval	1
Protocol amendments	#25	Plans for communicating important protocol modifications (eg, changes to eligibility criteria, outcomes, analyses) to relevant parties (eg, investigators, REC / IRBs, trial participants, trial registries, journals, regulators)	N/A
Consent or assent	#26a	Who will obtain informed consent or assent from	3

1		potential trial participants or authorised surrogates,	
2			
3		and how (see Item 32)	
4			
5			
6	Consent or assent:	#26b Additional consent provisions for collection and use of	N/A
7			
8	ancillary studies	participant data and biological specimens in ancillary	
9			
10		studies, if applicable	
11			
12			
13	Confidentiality	#27 How personal information about potential and enrolled	7
14		participants will be collected, shared, and maintained	
15			
16		in order to protect confidentiality before, during, and	
17		after the trial	
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23	Declaration of	#28 Financial and other competing interests for principal	7
24		investigators for the overall trial and each study site	
25	interests		
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29	Data access	#29 Statement of who will have access to the final trial	7
30		dataset, and disclosure of contractual agreements	
31		that limit such access for investigators	
32			
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36	Ancillary and post	#30 Provisions, if any, for ancillary and post-trial care, and	N/A
37			
38	trial care	for compensation to those who suffer harm from trial	
39		participation	
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44	Dissemination	#31a Plans for investigators and sponsor to communicate	7
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46	policy: trial results	trial results to participants, healthcare professionals,	
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48		the public, and other relevant groups (eg, via	
49		publication, reporting in results databases, or other	
50		data sharing arrangements), including any publication	
51		restrictions	
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Dissemination	#31b	Authorship eligibility guidelines and any intended use	7
policy: authorship		of professional writers	
Dissemination	#31c	Plans, if any, for granting public access to the full	7
policy: reproducible		protocol, participant-level dataset, and statistical code	
research			
Appendices			
Informed consent	#32	Model consent form and other related documentation	See supplement
materials		given to participants and authorised surrogates	ntal materials
Biological	#33	Plans for collection, laboratory evaluation, and	N/A
specimens		storage of biological specimens for genetic or	
		molecular analysis in the current trial and for future	
		use in ancillary studies, if applicable	

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BMJ Open

Study Protocol for Preoperative Pancreatic Stents Placement Before the Enucleation of Insulinoma Located in the Head and Neck of the Pancreas in Proximity to the Main Pancreatic Duct: a multicenter randomized Clinical Trial in Chinese Tertiary Medical Centers

Journal:	<i>BMJ Open</i>
Manuscript ID	bmjopen-2023-078516.R3
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Complete List of Authors:	Gao, Ruichen; Peking Union Medical College Hospital, General surgery; Peking Union Medical College, 8-year MD program Yin, Bohui; Peking Union Medical College Hospital; Peking Union Medical College, 8-year MD program Jin, Jiabin; Shanghai Jiao Tong University Medical School Affiliated Ruijin Hospital Tian, Xiaodong; Peking University First Hospital, Department of General Surgery Zhang, Yuhua; Zhejiang Provincial People's Hospital, Division of Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Surgery and Minimally Invasive Surgery Wei, Jishu; The First Affiliated Hospital With Nanjing Medical University, Pancreas Center Cao, Feng; Xuanwu Hospital Wang, Zheng; The First Affiliated Hospital of Xi'an Jiaotong University, Department of Hepatobiliary Surgery Ma, Zhijun; Panjin People's Hospital Wang, Min; Huazhong University of Science and Technology Tongji Medical College Tongji Hospital, Department of Biliary-Pancreatic Surgery, Gou, Shanmiao; Huazhong University of Science and Technology Tongji Medical College First Clinical College Union Hospital, Department of Pancreatic Surgery Cong, Lin; Peking Union Medical College Hospital, General surgery Xu, Qiang; Peking Union Medical College Hospital, General Surgery Wu, Wenming; PUMCH, Department of General Surgery Zhao, Yupei; Peking Union Medical College Hospital
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Study Protocol for Preoperative Pancreatic Stents Placement Before the Enucleation of Insulinoma Located in the Head and Neck of the Pancreas in Proximity to the Main Pancreatic Duct: a multicenter randomized Clinical Trial in Chinese Tertiary Medical Centers

Gao Ruichen^{1,2*}, Yin Bohui^{1,2*}, Jin Jiabin³, Tian Xiaodong⁴, Zhang Yuhua⁵, Wei Jishu⁶, Cao Feng⁷, Wang Zheng⁸, Ma Zhijun⁹, Wang Min¹⁰, Gou Shanmiao¹¹, Cong Lin¹, Xu Qiang^{1#}, Wu Wenming^{1#}, Zhao Yupei^{1#}

1 Department of General Surgery, Peking Union Medical College Hospital, Chinese Academy of Medical Science & Peking Union Medical College, Beijing 100730, China

2 8-year MD program, Peking Union Medical College, Beijing 100730, China

3 Department of General Surgery, Pancreatic Disease Center, Ruijin Hospital, Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine, Shanghai 200025, China.

4 Department of General Surgery, Peking University First Hospital, Beijing 100034, China.

5 Division of Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Surgery and Minimally Invasive Surgery, Zhejiang Provincial People's Hospital, Hangzhou 310014, China.

6 Pancreas Center, The First Affiliated Hospital of Nanjing Medical University, Nanjing 210029, China.

7 General Surgery Department, Xuanwu Hospital, Capital Medical University, Beijing 100053, China.

8 Department of Hepatobiliary Surgery, The First Affiliated Hospital of Xi'an Jiaotong University, Xi'an 710061, China.

9 Panjin People's Hospital, Panjin, Liaoning 124221, China

10 Department of Biliary-Pancreatic Surgery, Huazhong University of Science and Technology Tongji Medical College Tongji Hospital, Wuhan 430030, China.

11 Department of Pancreatic Surgery, Huazhong University of Science and Technology Tongji Medical College First Clinical College Union Hospital, Wuhan 430022, China.

Gao Ruichen, gaoruichen@student.pumc.edu.cn

Yin bohui, yinbohui@student.pumc.edu.cn

Jin Jiabin, jjb11501@rjh.com.cn

Tian Xiaodong, tianxiaodong@pkufh.com

Zhang Yuhua, zhangyuhua1013@126.com

Wei Jishu, weijishu@njmu.edu.cn

Cao Feng, f.cao@xwhosp.org

Wang Zheng, zheng.wang11@mail.xjtu.edu.cn

Ma Zhijun, malu163@163.com

Wang Min, wangmin0013128@aliyun.com

Gou Shanmiao, shanmiaogou@hust.edu.cn

Cong Lin, conglin20082008@aliyun.com

Xu Qiang, xuqiang@pumch.cn

Wu Wenming, doctorwuu@126.com

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41 Zhao Yupei, zhao8028@263.net
42 * These authors contributed equally
43 # Corresponding Author
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Abstract

Introduction

The surgical intervention approach to insulinomas in proximity to the main pancreatic duct remains controversial. Standard pancreatic resection is recommended by several guidelines; however, enucleation (EN) still attracts surgeons with less risk of late exocrine/endocrine insufficiency, despite a higher postoperative pancreatic fistula (POPF) rate. Recently, the efficacy and safety of preoperative pancreatic stents placement before the enucleation have been demonstrated. Thus, a multicenter open-label study is being conducted to evaluate the efficacy and safety of stents placement in improving the outcome of enucleation of insulinomas in proximity to the main pancreatic duct.

Methods and analysis

This is a prospective, randomized, open-label, superiority clinical trial conducted at multiple tertiary centers in China. The major eligibility criteria is the presence of insulinoma located in the head and neck of the pancreas in proximity(≤ 2 mm) to the main pancreatic duct. Blocked randomization will be performed to allocate patients into the Stent EN group and the Direct EN group. Patients in the Stent EN group will go through stent placement by the endoscopist within 24 hours before the enucleation surgery, whereas other patients will receive enucleation surgery directly. The primary outcome is the assessment of the superiority of stent placement in reducing POPF rate

measured by the International Study Group of Pancreatic Surgery (ISGPS) standard. Both interventions will be performed in an inpatient setting and regular follow-up will be performed. The primary outcome (POPF rate) will be tested for superiority with the Chi-square test. The difference in secondary outcomes between the two groups will be analyzed using appropriate tests.

Ethics and dissemination

The study has been approved by the Peking Union Medical College Hospital Institutional Review Board (K23C0195), Ruijin Hospital Ethics Committee (2023-314), Peking University First Hospital Ethics Committee (2024033-001), Institutional Review Board of Xuanwu Hospital of Capital Medical University (2023223-002), Ethics Committee of The First Affiliated Hospital of Xi'an Jiaotong University (XJTU1AF2023LSK-473), Institutional Review Board of Tongji Medical College Tongji Hospital (TJ-IRB202402059), Ethics Committee of Tongji Medical College Union Hospital (2023-0929), and Shanghai Cancer Center Institutional Review Board (2309282-16). The results of the study will be published in an international peer-reviewed journal.

Trial registration number

ClinicalTrials.gov Registry (NCT05523778).

Keywords: Insulinoma, pancreatic duct stent, enucleation, postoperative pancreatic fistula

Article Summary

Strengths and limitations of this study

➤ A prospective multicenter clinical design to assess the efficacy and safety of a

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87 preventive intervention in improving the outcome of enucleation surgery.

88 ➤ Recruiting patients from multiple tertiary medical centers across China.

89 ➤ Local online communication tool exploited to promote interactions between

90 investigators and patients

91 ➤ The lack of blinding of the patients, surgeons, data collectors, and data analysts

92 is the limitation of the study.

93 **Introduction**

94 Insulinomas are the most common functioning pancreatic neuroendocrine neoplasms, with

95 an estimated incidence of 1–4 per million per year [1, 2] They are insulin-secreting tumors

96 that cause common clinical features including neuroglycopenia and autonomic nervous

97 system disorders caused by dysregulated secretion of insulin[3-5]. Surgical management

98 remains the only curative modality for 90% of benign, localized insulinomas[4, 6].

99 According to several guidelines including the National Comprehensive Cancer Network

100 (NCCN) and the European Neuroendocrine Tumor Society (ENETs)[7, 8], enucleation(EN),

101 a parenchymal preserving modality, that could reduce the risk of late exocrine/endocrine

102 insufficiency, should be considered as the first-line surgical approach for exophytic and

103 peripheral insulinomas[9].

104 However, in cases of endophytic insulinomas or tumors in proximity to the main pancreatic

105 duct (MPD), the optimal choice of surgical intervention is controversial. Standard

106 pancreatic resection, such as pancreaticoduodenectomy (PD) and distal pancreatectomy

107 (DP), is indicated in guidelines while they aggressively eliminate normal pancreatic tissue,

108 which can lead to long-term consequences including exocrine and endocrine pancreatic

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4 109 insufficiency [10, 11]. Recently, duodenum-preserving pancreatic head resection (DPPHR)
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6 110 was alternatively recommended for the resection of large PNETS.[12] In contrast,
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9 111 performing EN in cases with endophytic insulinomas and tumors in proximity to the MPD
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12 112 still baffles many surgeons as several retrospective researches suggested a significantly
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14 113 elevated rate of postoperative morbidity, especially postoperative pancreatic fistula(POPF).
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17 114 Lu et.al compared postoperative morbidity between PD and EN, indicating a significant
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19 115 difference in POPF (18.1% vs 61.1%) between the two approaches[13], and Heeger K et
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21 116 al. reported the POPF rate as 70% (21 of 30 patients) after EN of pancreatic tumors
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24 117 located ≤ 3 mm from the MPD [14]. Another study involving 52 patients who underwent EN
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27 118 also demonstrated a high POPF rate of 60% in the group of tumors located at less than or
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30 119 equal to 2 mm from the MPD.[15]. Recently, Dokmak et.al suggested the proximity to MPD
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32 120 < 3 mm as an independent risk factor of POPF in enucleation[16]. Therefore, preventive
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35 121 measures in EN that decrease the POPF rate would encourage the implementation of EN
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38 122 thus improving the long-term benefits for patients with insulinomas in proximity to the MPD.
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41 123 POPF is usually derived from intraoperative injuries to MPD. Prophylactic preoperative
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43 124 stenting is believed to prevent the MPD injury in that it not only helps to identify the location
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46 125 of MPD in the surgical field thus preventing intraoperative damage but also decompresses
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48 126 pancreatic duct by reducing pancreatic juice leakage from the resection plane and
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51 127 providing support to the duct when stricture develops. Pertinent clinical evidence involving
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54 128 stenting and EN is still lacking. Some researchers reported the usage of preoperative
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56 129 stenting as a prophylaxis for EN[17-21], and despite they all revealed the feasibility and
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59 130 safety of the technique, most of these researches involved a limited number of patients
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131 and were single-armed studies.

132 Based on the knowledge and shortcomings on this topic, our team has collected 18

133 patients undergoing preoperative stenting in our center for 5 years. We retrospectively

134 analyzed the risk factor of postoperative complications, especially POPF, and discovered

135 that the distance from insulinoma to MPD ≤ 2 mm was an independent risk factor for POPF

136 (OR =6.011, p = 0.003). In addition, the preoperative pancreatic stent substantially reduced

137 the incidence of POPF in patients with tumors located in proximity to the MPD (37.5% vs

138 71.4%, p = 0.028) [22]. Therefore, we launched the current clinical trial to assess the

139 efficacy and safety of preoperative stenting before EN of insulinoma in the head and neck

140 of the pancreas in proximity to the MPD. According to the Evidence Map of Pancreatic

141 Surgery (www.evidencemap.surgery), this is the first trial of its kind[23].

142 **Methods and analysis**

143 ➤ Study setting

144 This is a multicenter, double-arm, prospective, randomized trial in eight high-volume

145 medical centers in China. Experienced surgeons will determine the eligibility of their

146 patients and obtain informed consent forms. (see Supplementary Materials) Eligible

147 patients with insulinoma in proximity to the MPD (≤ 2 mm) will be allocated randomly into

148 two groups: Stented EN group, where the pancreatic duct stents will be placed in patients

149 by endoscopist within 24 hours before the enucleation surgery, and Direct EN group, where

150 patients will receive direct enucleation surgery. An overview of the protocol is shown in

151 Figure 1. The study started in February 2023 and is planned to finish patient recruitment in

152 December 2025.

153 ➤ Endpoints

154 Primary endpoint: Rate of POPF within 3 months after EN.

155 Secondary endpoints:

156 1) Rate of post-stent-placement acute pancreatitis in Stented EN group within in 3 weeks

157 after EN

158 2) Operation time

159 3) Intraoperative blood loss

160 4) Rate of postoperative abdominal infection within 3 weeks after EN

161 5) Rate of postpancreatectomy hemorrhage(PPH) within 3 weeks after EN

162 6) Rate of postoperative lung infection within 3 weeks after EN

163 7) Rate of postoperative delayed gastric emptying within 3 weeks after EN

164 8) Rate of postoperative dyspepsia within 6 months after EN

165 9) Rate of postoperative hyperglycemia within 6 months after EN

166 10) Total cost of hospitalization

167 ➤ Definition

168 In this study, POPF, delayed gastric emptying and PPH adopt the definition proposed by

169 the International Pancreatic Surgery Research Group (ISGPS) [24-26]. Pancreatitis,

170 abdominal infection, dyspepsia, lung infection, and hyperglycemia will be evaluated

171 based on Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Event (CTCAE) V.5.0. Severe

172 adverse events are defined as grade 3 or higher in CTCAE.

173 ➤ Patients eligibility

174 Inclusion and exclusion criteria are shown in Box 1

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175 ➤ Randomization

176 Randomization will be initiated by authorized investigators of the trial after checking the
177 informed consent and the inclusion and exclusion criteria. Each eligible patient will be
178 allocated an individual code/randomization number, which has to be recorded in case
179 report form (CRF). Blocked randomization (blocked number=4) for each center will be
180 performed using SAS Studio by the study assistant prior to the beginning of enrollment.
181 After randomization, surgeons in all centers who enroll the patient will be informed of the
182 intervention assignment.

183 ➤ Blindness

184 Following recent academic recommendations on the implementation of blinding in surgical
185 trials[27], meticulous consideration has been given to blinding strategies tailored to distinct
186 study contributors, which encompass patients, surgeons, data collectors, data analysts,
187 and outcome assessors. Patients participating in this study are deemed unblinding due
188 to the intrinsic procedural difference between the two groups. Surgeons, who possess a
189 direct line of sight to the presence of the stent during intraoperative procedures, are
190 similarly unfeasible candidates for blinding. Data collectors also find themselves in a
191 position where blinding is not viable, primarily due to the inevitable nature of their
192 responsibilities, which involve the encounter of specific clinical data and records that are
193 integral to prompt group allocation results. Examples of such records are operation records
194 of stenting procedures and diagnostic CT imaging, which may conclusively reveal the
195 presence of a stent within MPD. Furthermore, the integrity of data analysis relies on the
196 unobstructed knowledge of group allocation results, rendering the blinding of data analysts

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4 197 unviable. Recognizing the critical importance of blinding in assessing primary and
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6 198 secondary endpoints, especially those related to complications, outcome assessors are
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9 199 kept blinded to participant group allocation. Based on our protocol, the assessment of
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11 200 endpoints is directly linked with objective clinical data which can be provided to
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14 201 independent assessors with blindness of allocation. This strategy plays a pivotal role in
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17 202 reducing potential bias in the assessment of primary and secondary outcomes while
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19 203 concurrently insulating the operating surgeon from subjective judgment regarding clinical
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22 204 endpoints. Emergency unblinding is not deemed necessary.

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25 205 ➤ Study interventions

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27 206 After baseline visit and admission, eligible participants will be randomized to the stented
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30 207 EN group or the direct EN group, as shown in Figure 1.

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32 208 ■ Preoperative MPD stenting

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35 209 The preoperative pancreatic duct stent was regarded as a possible effective method to
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37 210 prevent POPF. The single-pigtail pancreatic duct stent is usually placed within 24 hours
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40 211 before the enucleation endoscopically. The stent length should span the site of the tumor.
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43 212 The length and the diameter of the stent used will be recorded in CRF. The stent will
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45 213 beremoved by duodenoscopy about three months after surgery. Endoscopic stent
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48 214 placement and removal represent a common procedure at the Endoscopic Center of
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51 215 Peking Union Medical College Hospital and other centers and will be carried out by
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53 216 experienced endoscopists (minimum of 50 procedures) for the study. Any adverse events
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56 217 will be recorded in CRF including stent-related pancreatitis. Blood amylase will be tested
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2-4 hours after stenting before enucleation to discover potential stenting-related acute pancreatitis.

■ Eucleation

During the surgery, intraoperative ultrasound will be performed to evaluate the location of the tumor and the distance between the tumor and MPD. The peripheral pancreatic lobule covering the tumor will be exposed by the ultrasound scalpel. After exposure of the insulinoma, the surgeon will suture the lesion and suspend it, and then the insulinoma will be dissected from the normal pancreatic tissue. Dissection will be performed in contact with the lesion by a combination of harmonic scalpel and bipolar cautery. Frozen sections of resected specimens will be regularly investigated to identify benign insulinomas. The operative field will be carefully examined and MPD disruption will be repaired immediately once detected. The prophylactic abdominal drainage tube will be applied. Intraoperative conversion (to open procedure, DPPHR, or PD), surgery time, blood loss, and transfusion volume will be recorded in CRF.

■ Postoperative management

General clinical treatment and PF prevention treatment will be conducted in both two groups. The patient's body temperature and drainage volume were recorded daily. The amount and the amylase concentration of the drainage fluid as well as the blood will be routinely measured on the 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 7th postoperative days. Extubation would be considered if the drainage volume is less than 10 ml for 3 consecutive days or the amylase level of the drainage solution is less than three times the upper limit of normal. If the

239 drainage tube has not been removed at the time of discharge, the patient will be instructed
240 to record the daily drainage until extubation in the outpatient setting.

241 ■ Follow-up

242 For the first three months after discharge, patients should maintain a regular follow-up
243 session every two weeks through outpatient or telephone. The following information will be
244 collected during each follow-up: basic information and the general condition of the patient,
245 whether the patient has been extubated (if not extubated, record the recent drainage
246 condition), recent medical interventions, and possible manifestations of dyspepsia or
247 hyperglycemia. Laboratory tests and imaging examinations will be done at the surgeon's
248 discretion. Normally, CT or MRI scans will be performed routinely at 3 months
249 postoperatively, just before stent removal, and then again 3 months after the stent removal.

250 ➤ Statistical methods

251 ■ Hypothesis

252 ◆ Null hypothesis

253 The rate of POPF in patients who undergo MPD stent placement before enucleation
254 is not less than that of patients who undergo enucleation directly.

255 ◆ Alternative hypothesis

256 The rate of POPF in patients who undergo MPD stent placement before enucleation
257 is less than that of patients who undergo enucleation directly.

258 ■ Sample size calculation

259 In our previous retrospective study, a total of 44 patients with insulinoma in proximity to the
260 MPD who underwent enucleation were included, of which 16 had stent placement and 28

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had no stent placement, and the number of patients with POPF was 6 (37.5%) and 20 (71.4%), respectively. According to the abovementioned POPF rate in two conditions, 38 evaluable patients per group will provide 85% power to reject the null hypothesis in a Z test (unpooled) for superiority at a one-sided significance level of 0.05 considering the POPF rate difference of at least 5% to represent a clinically relevant difference. Therefore, 78 patients in total are to be recruited in the study considering possible dropout.

■ Statistical analysis

The primary outcome (rate of POPF) will be tested for superiority with a Chi-square test assuming a superiority difference of 5% with a one-sided significance level of 0.05. All patients undergoing EN will be included. The analysis will be performed twice: firstly after about 50% of the patients have been discharged and secondly after all patients have finished the follow-up procedure. Secondary outcomes will be described by calculating means or relative frequencies for each treatment group with 95% CIs. Differences in secondary outcomes between two groups will be analyzed using appropriate tests (Shapiro-Wilk tests, t-tests, Mann-Whitney U tests, Wilcoxon rank-sum tests, Chi-square tests, Fisher's exact tests, etc.).

Ethics and dissemination

Written informed consent from all the patients screened will be obtained before the procedures start. The study protocol has been approved by the Peking Union Medical College Hospital Institutional Review Board (approval number K23C0195), Ruijin Hospital Ethics Committee (2023-314), Peking University First Hospital Ethics Committee (2024033-001), Institutional Review Board of Xuanwu Hospital of Capital Medical

University (2023223-002), Ethics Committee of The First Affiliated Hospital of Xi'an Jiaotong University (XJTU1AF2023LSK-473), Institutional Review Board of Tongji Medical College Tongji Hospital (TJ-IRB202402059), Ethics Committee of Tongji Medical College Union Hospital (2023-0929), and Shanghai Cancer Center Institutional Review Board (2309282-16) and registered in ClinicalTrials.gov(NCT05523778). The study will be carried out in accordance with the protocol and with principles enunciated in the current version of the Declaration of Helsinki[28]. Throughout the study, all data acquired in this trial will be provided to the involved investigators and ethics committee members for monitoring, audits, and inspections. Results will be published in an international peer-reviewed journal.

In response to the submission and approval of our protocol, several modifications have been incorporated into the study design, all of which have undergone thorough scrutiny and received approval from our ethics committee. Firstly, a new timepoint at postoperative day 7 (pod7) has been added for the measurement of amylase levels, leveraging the existing practice of routinely measuring amylase levels for all patients at this time point. Secondly, we have introduced an exclusion criterion based on the maximum diameter of the tumor (>2cm), a feasible addition given that no enrolled patients before this change met the exclusion criteria. Thirdly, a significant refinement involves blinding outcome assessors, a practicable adjustment as assessors can re-evaluate outcomes solely based on the information recorded in the case report form (CRF). Lastly, we have clarified that the primary outcome measurement will occur at 90 days postoperatively, enhancing precision in reporting the study's findings. These modifications aim to strengthen the study's scientific integrity, participant safety, and overall methodological rigor.

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305 ➤ Patient and public involvement

306 Throughout the study, a study account based on a local online communication tool
307 (WeChat) will be established to receive any suggestions and consultations from patients
308 involved and information about the study will be updated for all patients who subscribed to
309 the study account.

310

311 **Discussion**

312 Generally, enucleation is preferred over other operation approaches in treating insulinomas,
313 as it circumvents complicated reconstructions and possible subsequent complications.
314 However, POPF is common in the enucleation of insulinomas that are in proximal to MPD,
315 which limits its clinical application. In this clinical trial, we aim to demonstrate the safety
316 and efficacy of preoperative stenting as a prophylaxis for EN. Several observational studies
317 have shown promising effects of MPD stent in the prevention of POPF but with limited
318 evidence. In this study, we aim to include patients who are prone to suffer from POPF to
319 validate the efficacy of MPD stent. In our previous research, we demonstrated the distance
320 from insulinoma to MPD ≤ 2 mm was an independent risk factor for POPF. Therefore, it is
321 a reasonable and feasible choice to confine patients whose tumors are “deep” in our
322 ongoing trial. Preoperative MPD stent placement, as an extra intervention procedure for
323 treating insulinoma, is still a vague yet practical technique in the prevention of POPF. Thus,
324 the conduction of this clinical trial in a randomized controlled way is under the general
325 ethical principle of clinical equipoise according to our present knowledge. In this way, the
326 result of this multicenter, prospective, randomized control clinical trial can offer substantial

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Enseignement Supérieur (ABES).

information on the feasibility of this approach, and thus hopefully widen the indication of enucleation and partially alter the treatment pathway of insulinoma.

Author Contributions

Contributors GR, YB, CL, XQ, WW, ZY participated in creating the study design. GR drafted the manuscript. JJ, TX, ZY, WJ, CF, WZ, MZ, WM, GS provided a critical revision of the manuscript. XQ obtained the funding for this study. All the authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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Disclaimer The funder will have no role in the conduct or analysis of the trial.

Competing interests None declared.

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Figure 1 Flow chart of the study. FBG, fasting blood glucose; HbA1c, glycosylated hemoglobin; INS, insulin; C-pep, C-peptide; CE-CT, contrast-enhanced CT; US, ultrasound; DM, diabetes mellitus; ASA American Society of Anesthesiology.

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Box 1 Inclusion and exclusion criteria

Inclusion Criteria

- Age 18-75 years
- The clinical qualitative diagnosis of insulinoma is clear;
- The localization diagnosis is clear, and it was determined that the tumor is single, located in the head and neck;
- The distance between the tumor and the main pancreatic duct is determined to be $\leq 2\text{mm}$ by preoperative imaging (enhanced CT, MRI, etc.);

➤ Truly informed and voluntarily participate in this study, with written informed consent.
Exclusion Criteria
➤ Maximum diameter of the tumor >2cm proved pathologically
➤ Severe cardiopulmonary complications
➤ Combined with other known tumor diseases
➤ Invasive insulinoma or insulinoma with suspicious metastasis
➤ Previous upper abdominal surgery history
➤ Refusal or inability to cooperate in the study

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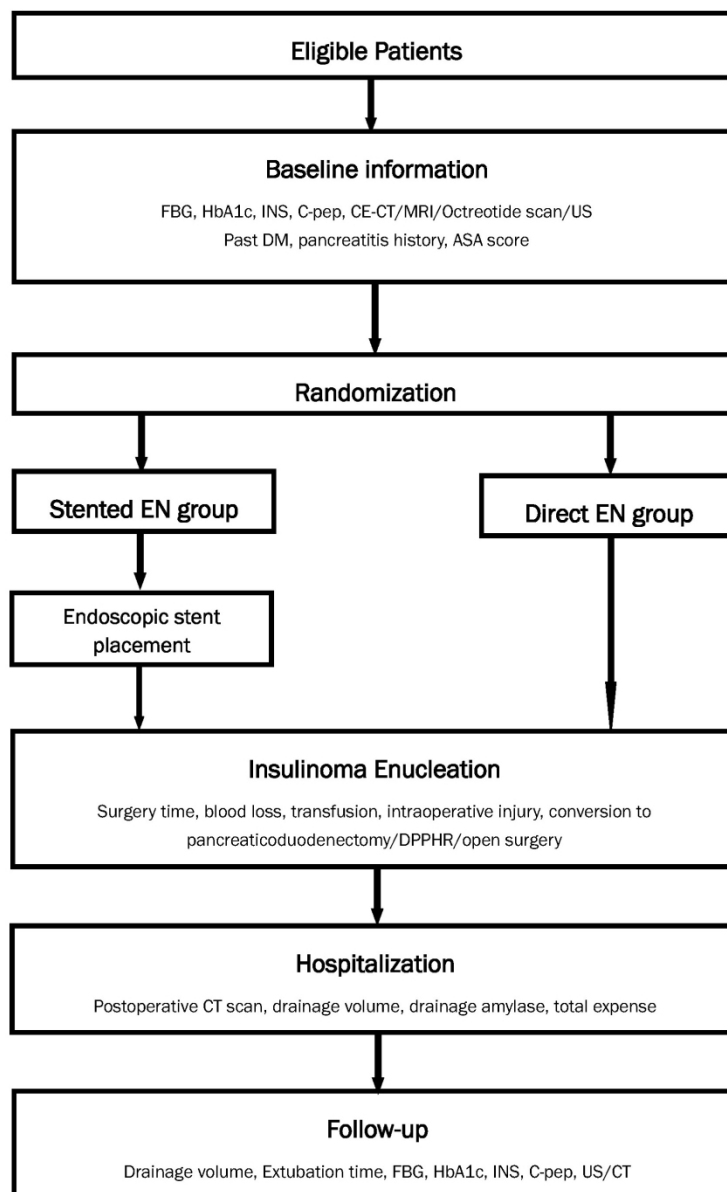


Figure 1 Flow chart of the study. FBG, fasting blood glucose; HbA1c, glycosylated hemoglobin; INS, insulin; C-pep, C-peptide; CE-CT, contrast-enhanced CT; US, ultrasound; DM, diabetes mellitus; ASA American Society of Anesthesiology.

147x232mm (300 x 300 DPI)

Written informed consent form

Medical Research	Preoperative Pancreatic Stents
Topics:	Placement Before the Enucleation of Insulinoma Located in the Head and Neck of the Pancreas in Proximity to the Main Pancreatic Duct
Protocol number (if applicable):	
Study Site:	Peking Union Medical College Hospital, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences
Principal investigators:	Qiang Xu
Informed consent form Version No.	V3.0
Informed consent	2022/12/30

form version date

Subject Name:

Subject ID:

For peer review only

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Dear Subject:

We would like to invite you to participate in a clinical study entitled "A Randomized Controlled Study of Preoperative Pancreatic Stents Placement Before the Enucleation of Insulinoma Located in the Head and Neck of the Pancreas in Proximity to the Main Pancreatic Duct".

Before you decide whether to consent to participate, please read this informed consent form carefully and ask the investigators questions about your concerns. You may also ask your family, friends, or others. Once you have decided to participate in the study, you will be asked to sign this informed consent form.

1. Research Background

Insulinoma is the most common type of functional pancreatic endocrine tumors, which is characterized by uncontrolled excessive insulin secretion. Its main treatment is surgical resection. 90% of patients with insulinoma can be cured by surgical treatment. We found that for insulinomas located in the pancreatic head and neck near the main pancreatic duct, enucleation is prone to cause main pancreatic duct injury, which increases the risk of postoperative pancreatic fistula and other serious complications. Therefore, pancreaticoduodenectomy is recommended, but it requires combined resection of part of the stomach, duodenum, common bile duct and gallbladder, and there is a high risk of postoperative pancreatic exocrine insufficiency. In contrast, enucleation still has the advantages of less trauma and low incidence of long-term postoperative pancreatic secretion insufficiency, which is of great help to improve the long-term quality of life of patients after surgery. At present, the surgical management of this type of tumor is still inconclusive in the world, and many large pancreatic centers are still conducting clinical studies on enucleation. Studies have shown that preoperative placement of pancreatic duct stents followed by enucleation can reduce the incidence of postoperative pancreatic fistula and increase the long-term postoperative benefits, but the placement of pancreatic duct stents may cause stent-related adverse events. However, the placement of pancreatic stent may cause stent-related adverse events. However, there is no high-level clinical study to demonstrate its advantages and disadvantages. Therefore, the aim of this study is to investigate the safety and efficacy of preoperative pancreatic stent placement in patients with insulinoma in the pancreatic head and neck near the main pancreatic duct through a multi-center randomized controlled trial, so as to provide evidence-based medical evidence for standardized treatment of insulinoma and thus to change the current treatment guidelines.

This study was approved by the Peking Union Medical College Hospital Ethics Committee.

2. What was the purpose of this clinical study?

To compare the clinical efficacy, safety and efficacy between direct enucleation and preoperative placement of pancreatic stent followed by enucleation for insulinoma near the main pancreatic duct in the head and neck of the pancreas, and to evaluate the application value of the former surgical treatment strategy.

3. Methods: Study

This study was an intervention study. Participants were divided into two groups: experimental

group and control group. Enrollment in the two groups is 1:1, grouping will be random (like a lottery), and neither you nor the investigator can choose in advance which group to participate in. The study was unblinded, meaning that after randomization, you, the investigator, and the clinician knew which group you had been assigned to. The study had an anticipated enrollment of 78 patients nationwide.

4. Study PROCESS

Before commencing any research related activities, you will first need to sign this informed consent form.

During the screening period, the researcher will ask and collect your personal information, previous diagnosis and treatment, your combined medications, comorbidities, and order your blood routine, liver function, renal function, pancreatic function, fasting blood glucose, insulin, C-peptide, abdominal and pelvic enhanced CT, MRI and other examinations. We will determine whether you meet the inclusion criteria through your current clinical symptoms, performance, and examination results.

If you meet the eligibility criteria, study treatment will be initiated, and you will be randomly assigned to either an experimental group (placement of a pancreatic duct stent before enucleation) or a control group (enucleation alone). You will then proceed to endoscopic stent placement and surgery according to standard protocols.

During your hospitalization, we will collect your laboratory test results, surgery-related information, and recovery, which do not require your additional cooperation. If you are assigned to the experimental group, you will be scheduled to undergo ERCP-guided pancreatic duct stenting approximately 1 day before the procedure, which is in accordance with the usual practice of our hospital.

After you are discharged from the hospital, you are required to follow the doctor's advice for regular outpatient follow-up. At follow-up visits, the investigator will ask about your diet and measure your blood sugar. You will be contacted by telephone every 1 month to inquire about your postoperative recovery, diet, etc.

□

5. How the Study Ended

If you complete all study visits, the study will last for 24 months, and you will be scheduled for additional visits as needed during the study, after which you will be available at your usual frequency.

The study will conclude after the completion of the last subject's treatment, and it is anticipated that your time in the study may last 1-2 years.

You may opt out of the study at any time during the study, and the study physician may ask you to do so for your health and benefit. Prior to withdrawal, the study physician may order tests to ensure that you can exit safely. Your data will not be included in the results of the study, and your medical treatment and rights will not be affected.

During the course of the study, study physicians, study funders, regulatory authorities, and ethics committees may terminate the study.

6. Study Benefits

Your surgical outcome and long-term quality of life may improve by participating in this study, but we cannot guarantee that you will. You will receive careful evaluation, monitoring, and treatment beyond routine monitoring.

Your participation in this study may help physicians learn more about the effects of treatment for high-risk insulinomas, information that other patients with the same or similar conditions may benefit from in the future.

7. Research Risks and inconveniences

There are known or unknown risks associated with any research. Some are mild and transient, some are severe and permanent, and whether and which risks arise and their severity will vary from person to person. Your research physician will take all precautions and monitor your condition closely. If you experience any discomfort, be sure to inform your study physician immediately so that necessary treatment can be taken promptly.

Risks of study-related procedures: Preoperative ERCP endoscopy and pancreatic duct stenting may pose risks of pancreatitis, perforation, bleeding, and stent migration. There are risks of pancreatic fistula, bleeding, and infection after surgery, and these risks are also risks in the process of disease treatment. Participation in this study does not increase the incidence of these risks.

Possible inconvenience of the study: To participate in this study, you need to strictly record the amount of drainage and the time of extubation. The rest were the same as routine. Patients were followed up 4 times on time after the operation and completed the examinations required by the experiment (the number and content of follow-up visits were the same as the recommended routine diagnosis and treatment process for postoperative patients). Please take these inconveniences into account when deciding whether to participate in this study.

8. Alternatives that can be adopted

If you do not participate in the study, you can choose to perform pancreaticoduodenectomy or enucleation with or without pancreatic stent placement, as is standard practice for insulinoma management at this hospital. Your study physician will explain to you the potential benefits and risks of treatment.

9. New information during the study

During the course of the study, the investigator has acquired important and up-to-date information relevant to the study. We will keep you informed and it is up to you to decide whether to continue participating in the study.

10. Study-related costs

If you are assigned to the experimental group, you may be responsible for some study-related costs, which primarily include the cost of endoscopic procedures (including pancreatic stent

placement) that may be involved in the study. Regardless of whether you are assigned to the control group or the experimental group, medications and other routine tests are necessary in the course of routine clinical care and therefore will be paid for by you (or covered by medical insurance, if applicable). You will also have to pay for the treatment and tests you need for any coexisting medical conditions.

You will not be paid for your participation in the study, but the study will purchase clinical trial liability insurance for each patient who participates, which will be paid directly by the study investigators.

11. Study-related damages

If you experience any discomfort during the study, please contact the study doctor in time. The study doctor will guide you in the follow-up treatment. The researcher has purchased insurance for this study, and the insurance company will be responsible for the cost of treatment and reimbursement if you suffer any damage to your health as a result of participating in this study.

12. Confidentiality Policy

Your personal and medical information may be collected or processed in this study, including but not limited to: your name, gender, date of birth, address, telephone, diagnosis and treatment, examination, medical imaging, surgical records, etc.

Your personal information will be used only for the purposes described in the study protocol and this informed consent form.

Your medical information obtained by participating in this study will be kept confidential. The results of the study will also be published in academic journals without revealing any personally identifiable information about you.



13. Possible conflicts of interest from funding sources

This study was funded by the National High Level Hospital Clinical Research Funding of Peking Union Medical College Hospital, and there was no conflict of interest between the investigators and this study.

14. Voluntary Participation

Your participation is entirely voluntary. You may not participate or withdraw from the study at any time during the course of the study. This will not affect your relationship with the medical staff and your usual medical care will not be affected in any way.

15. Notes for Subjects

- Please tell the research doctor about your health status (especially whether you have other tumors and heart and lung diseases) and previous surgery history;
- Please follow the doctor's advice to the hospital on time for follow-up;
- If you feel any discomfort, please inform your research doctor in time;

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16. Contact information

If you experience any discomfort, or if you have any questions about the study, you can contact the investigator at:

Position: Research physician	Name: Xu Qiang	Telephone number: 13810096103
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If you have any questions about your rights as a subject, you can contact the Ethics Committee at:

Position: Ethics Secretary	Name: Li Jiayue	Phone number: 010- 69156874
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Thank you for reading and considering participation in the study.

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17. Signature page

Subject:

I confirm the following information:

- (1) I have read and understood the informed information and have had sufficient time to consider participation in the study.
- (2) All my questions have been satisfactorily answered.
- (3) I voluntarily participated in the study and followed the study procedures.
- (4) I understand that I can withdraw from the study at any time without giving a reason and that my treatment or rights will not be affected.
- (5) I have received an informed consent form and signed consent form for my retention.
- (6) I agree to have my sample collected and used as described in this informed consent.
- (7) I give permission for my personal information to be collected and used in this study.
- (8) I understand that I may be contacted in the future to obtain my permission for this study or any related substudy.

By signing this document, I agree to participate in the study as stated in the Informed Information and consent form.

Subject's name (in block letters) :

Signature of Subject: Date:

The following is limited to the subject who is incapacitated, and the signature of the guardian is required.

[Subject's name (in block letters), relationship between guardian and subject is.]

Guardian's name (in block letters) : Contact Number:

Signature of Guardian: Date:

The following is limited to subjects without the ability to read and write, and the signature of an impartial witness is required.

Witness's name (in block letters) : Contact Number:

Signature of Witness: Date:

Name of investigator/authorizer (in block letters) :

Signature of investigator/authorizer: Date:

Reporting checklist for protocol of a clinical trial.

Based on the SPIRIT guidelines.

Instructions to authors

Complete this checklist by entering the page numbers from your manuscript where readers will find each of the items listed below.

Your article may not currently address all the items on the checklist. Please modify your text to include the missing information. If you are certain that an item does not apply, please write "n/a" and provide a short explanation.

Upload your completed checklist as an extra file when you submit to a journal.

In your methods section, say that you used the SPIRIT reporting guidelines, and cite them as:

Chan A-W, Tetzlaff JM, Gøtzsche PC, Altman DG, Mann H, Berlin J, Dickersin K, Hróbjartsson A, Schulz KF, Parulekar WR, Krleža-Jerić K, Laupacis A, Moher D. SPIRIT 2013 Explanation and Elaboration: Guidance for protocols of clinical trials. BMJ. 2013;346:e7586

	Reporting Item	Page Number
Administrative information		
Title	#1 Descriptive title identifying the study design, population, interventions, and, if applicable, trial acronym	1
Trial registration	#2a Trial identifier and registry name. If not yet registered,	1

		name of intended registry	
Trial registration:	#2b	All items from the World Health Organization Trial	N/A
data set		Registration Data Set	
Protocol version	#3	Date and version identifier	N/A
Funding	#4	Sources and types of financial, material, and other support	7
Roles and responsibilities: contributorship	#5a	Names, affiliations, and roles of protocol contributors	1&7
Roles and responsibilities: sponsor contact information	#5b	Name and contact information for the trial sponsor	1
Roles and responsibilities: sponsor and funder	#5c	Role of study sponsor and funders, if any, in study design; collection, management, analysis, and interpretation of data; writing of the report; and the decision to submit the report for publication, including whether they will have ultimate authority over any of these activities	7
Roles and responsibilities: committees	#5d	Composition, roles, and responsibilities of the coordinating centre, steering committee, endpoint adjudication committee, data management team, and other individuals or groups overseeing the trial, if	7

1		applicable (see Item 21a for data monitoring	
2			
3		committee)	
4			
5			
6	Introduction		
7			
8			
9	Background and	#6a	Description of research question and justification for
10			
11	rationale		undertaking the trial, including summary of relevant
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13			studies (published and unpublished) examining
14			
15			benefits and harms for each intervention
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18	Background and	#6b	Explanation for choice of comparators
19			
20	rationale: choice of		
21			
22	comparators		
23			
24			
25	Objectives	#7	Specific objectives or hypotheses
26			
27			
28			
29	Trial design	#8	Description of trial design including type of trial (eg,
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31			parallel group, crossover, factorial, single group),
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33			allocation ratio, and framework (eg, superiority,
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35			equivalence, non-inferiority, exploratory)
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37			
38			
39	Methods:		
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41	Participants,		
42			
43	interventions, and		
44			
45	outcomes		
46			
47			
48			
49	Study setting	#9	Description of study settings (eg, community clinic,
50			
51			academic hospital) and list of countries where data
52			
53			will be collected. Reference to where list of study sites
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55			can be obtained
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1	Eligibility criteria	#10	Inclusion and exclusion criteria for participants. If	10
2				
3			applicable, eligibility criteria for study centres and	
4			individuals who will perform the interventions (eg,	
5			surgeons, psychotherapists)	
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11	Interventions:	#11a	Interventions for each group with sufficient detail to	5-6
12				
13	description		allow replication, including how and when they will be	
14			administered	
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19	Interventions:	#11b	Criteria for discontinuing or modifying allocated	5-6
20			interventions for a given trial participant (eg, drug	
21	modifications		dose change in response to harms, participant	
22			request, or improving / worsening disease)	
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29	Interventions:	#11c	Strategies to improve adherence to intervention	5-6
30				
31	adherence		protocols, and any procedures for monitoring	
32			adherence (eg, drug tablet return; laboratory tests)	
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36	Interventions:	#11d	Relevant concomitant care and interventions that are	5-6
37				
38	concomitant care		permitted or prohibited during the trial	
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42	Outcomes	#12	Primary, secondary, and other outcomes, including	4
43			the specific measurement variable (eg, systolic blood	
44			pressure), analysis metric (eg, change from baseline,	
45			final value, time to event), method of aggregation (eg,	
46			median, proportion), and time point for each outcome.	
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48			Explanation of the clinical relevance of chosen	
49			efficacy and harm outcomes is strongly recommended	
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1	Participant timeline	#13	Time schedule of enrolment, interventions (including	10
2			any run-ins and washouts), assessments, and visits	
3			for participants. A schematic diagram is highly	
4			recommended (see Figure)	
5				
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10				
11	Sample size	#14	Estimated number of participants needed to achieve	6
12			study objectives and how it was determined, including	
13			clinical and statistical assumptions supporting any	
14			sample size calculations	
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21	Recruitment	#15	Strategies for achieving adequate participant	4
22			enrolment to reach target sample size	
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25				
26	Methods:			
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28	Assignment of			
29	interventions (for			
30	controlled trials)			
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36	Allocation: sequence	#16a	Method of generating the allocation sequence (eg,	4
37	generation		computer-generated random numbers), and list of any	
38			factors for stratification. To reduce predictability of a	
39			random sequence, details of any planned restriction	
40			(eg, blocking) should be provided in a separate	
41			document that is unavailable to those who enrol	
42			participants or assign interventions	
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53	Allocation	#16b	Mechanism of implementing the allocation sequence	4
54	concealment		(eg, central telephone; sequentially numbered,	
55			opaque, sealed envelopes), describing any steps to	
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		conceal the sequence until interventions are assigned	
Allocation:	#16c	Who will generate the allocation sequence, who will	4
implementation		enrol participants, and who will assign participants to interventions	
Blinding (masking)	#17a	Who will be blinded after assignment to interventions (eg, trial participants, care providers, outcome assessors, data analysts), and how	4-5
Blinding (masking):	#17b	If blinded, circumstances under which unblinding is permissible, and procedure for revealing a participant's allocated intervention during the trial	5
emergency unblinding			
Methods: Data collection, management, and analysis			
Data collection plan	#18a	Plans for assessment and collection of outcome, baseline, and other trial data, including any related processes to promote data quality (eg, duplicate measurements, training of assessors) and a description of study instruments (eg, questionnaires, laboratory tests) along with their reliability and validity, if known. Reference to where data collection forms can be found, if not in the protocol	6
Data collection plan:	#18b	Plans to promote participant retention and complete follow-up, including list of any outcome data to be	N/A
retention			

1		collected for participants who discontinue or deviate	
2		from intervention protocols	
3			
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6	Data management	#19 Plans for data entry, coding, security, and storage,	7
7			
8		including any related processes to promote data	
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10		quality (eg, double data entry; range checks for data	
11		values). Reference to where details of data	
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13		management procedures can be found, if not in the	
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15		protocol	
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20	Statistics: outcomes	#20a Statistical methods for analysing primary and	6
21			
22		secondary outcomes. Reference to where other	
23			
24		details of the statistical analysis plan can be found, if	
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26		not in the protocol	
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30	Statistics: additional	#20b Methods for any additional analyses (eg, subgroup	N/A
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32	analyses	and adjusted analyses)	
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35	Statistics: analysis	#20c Definition of analysis population relating to protocol	N/A
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37	population and	non-adherence (eg, as randomised analysis), and any	
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39	missing data	statistical methods to handle missing data (eg,	
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41		multiple imputation)	
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45	Methods: Monitoring		
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48	Data monitoring:	#21a Composition of data monitoring committee (DMC);	N/A
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50	formal committee	summary of its role and reporting structure; statement	
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52		of whether it is independent from the sponsor and	
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54		competing interests; and reference to where further	
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56		details about its charter can be found, if not in the	
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		protocol. Alternatively, an explanation of why a DMC is not needed	
Data monitoring: interim analysis	#21b	Description of any interim analyses and stopping guidelines, including who will have access to these interim results and make the final decision to terminate the trial	N/A
Harms	#22	Plans for collecting, assessing, reporting, and managing solicited and spontaneously reported adverse events and other unintended effects of trial interventions or trial conduct	N/A
Auditing	#23	Frequency and procedures for auditing trial conduct, if any, and whether the process will be independent from investigators and the sponsor	N/A
Ethics and dissemination			
Research ethics approval	#24	Plans for seeking research ethics committee / institutional review board (REC / IRB) approval	1
Protocol amendments	#25	Plans for communicating important protocol modifications (eg, changes to eligibility criteria, outcomes, analyses) to relevant parties (eg, investigators, REC / IRBs, trial participants, trial registries, journals, regulators)	N/A
Consent or assent	#26a	Who will obtain informed consent or assent from	3

1		potential trial participants or authorised surrogates,	
2			
3		and how (see Item 32)	
4			
5			
6	Consent or assent:	#26b Additional consent provisions for collection and use of	N/A
7			
8	ancillary studies	participant data and biological specimens in ancillary	
9			
10		studies, if applicable	
11			
12			
13	Confidentiality	#27 How personal information about potential and enrolled	7
14			
15		participants will be collected, shared, and maintained	
16			
17		in order to protect confidentiality before, during, and	
18			
19		after the trial	
20			
21			
22			
23	Declaration of	#28 Financial and other competing interests for principal	7
24			
25	interests	investigators for the overall trial and each study site	
26			
27			
28			
29	Data access	#29 Statement of who will have access to the final trial	7
30			
31		dataset, and disclosure of contractual agreements	
32			
33		that limit such access for investigators	
34			
35			
36	Ancillary and post	#30 Provisions, if any, for ancillary and post-trial care, and	N/A
37			
38	trial care	for compensation to those who suffer harm from trial	
39			
40		participation	
41			
42			
43			
44	Dissemination	#31a Plans for investigators and sponsor to communicate	7
45			
46	policy: trial results	trial results to participants, healthcare professionals,	
47			
48		the public, and other relevant groups (eg, via	
49			
50		publication, reporting in results databases, or other	
51			
52		data sharing arrangements), including any publication	
53			
54		restrictions	
55			
56			
57			
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Dissemination	#31b	Authorship eligibility guidelines and any intended use	7
policy: authorship		of professional writers	
Dissemination	#31c	Plans, if any, for granting public access to the full	7
policy: reproducible		protocol, participant-level dataset, and statistical code	
research			
Appendices			
Informed consent	#32	Model consent form and other related documentation	See supplement
materials		given to participants and authorised surrogates	ntal materials
Biological	#33	Plans for collection, laboratory evaluation, and	N/A
specimens		storage of biological specimens for genetic or	
		molecular analysis in the current trial and for future	
		use in ancillary studies, if applicable	

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