Multi-centre randomised controlled trial to compare the clinical and cost-effectiveness of a ‘vein bypass first’ with a ‘best endovascular treatment first’ revascularisation strategy for severe limb ischaemia due to infra-popliteal arterial disease

Bypass vs. Angioplasty in Severe Ischaemia of the Leg-2

TRIAL PROTOCOL: Version 2 31st July 2014

Sponsor: University of Birmingham
Chief Investigator: Professor Andrew Bradbury
Coordinating Centre: Birmingham Clinical Trials Unit
Funder: NIHR Health Technology Assessment programme

ISRCTN: 27728689
Main REC Ref. No.: 14/WM/0057
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
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Email: basil-2@trials.bham.ac.uk  
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---

**Randomisation**

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Website: [www.birmingham.ac.uk/basil2](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/basil2)

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**Safety Reporting**

Safety reporting is described in Section 6

Fax SAE Forms to: 0121 415 9135
Chief Investigator and Sponsor Signatures

The Chief Investigator and Sponsor have discussed and agree to abide by this this protocol and to conduct the trial in compliance with EU Good Clinical Practice (GCP), the UK Data Protection Act (1998), the Trust Information Governance Policy (or other local equivalent) and the Research Governance Framework (2005 2nd Edition; as amended).

Chief investigator

Professor Andrew Bradbury

______________________________
Signature Date

Sponsor Representative

Dr Sean Jennings

University of Birmingham

______________________________
Signature Date

This protocol describes the BASIL-2 trial only. The trial will be conducted in accordance with the protocol and GCP. Every care has been taken in the drafting of this protocol, but future amendments may be necessary, which will receive the required approvals prior to implementation.
Principal Investigator Signature Page

Principal Investigator:

I have read and agree to the protocol, as detailed in this document. I agree to adhere to the protocol as outlined and agree that any suggested changes to the protocol must be approved by the Trial Steering Committee prior to seeking approval from the Main Research Ethics Committee (MREC).

I am aware of my responsibilities as an Investigator under the guidelines of Good Clinical Practice (GCP), the Declaration of Helsinki and the trial protocol and I agree to conduct the trial according to these guidelines and to appropriately direct and assist the staff under my control, who will be involved in the trial.

Principal investigator

<insert name>

________________________________________
Signature                          Date

Name of Institution

<insert name>

________________________________________
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AATK</td>
<td>At or Above the Knee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABPI</td>
<td>Ankle to Brachial Pressure Index</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACS</td>
<td>Acute Coronary Syndrome</td>
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<td>AE</td>
<td>Adverse Event</td>
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<td>Amputation Free Survival</td>
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<td>AI</td>
<td>Aorto-Iliac</td>
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<td>Anterior Tibial Artery</td>
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<td>BA</td>
<td>Balloon Angioplasty</td>
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<tr>
<td>BASIL-1</td>
<td>Bypass versus Angioplasty in Severe Ischaemia of the Leg(-1) Trial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BCTU</td>
<td>Birmingham Clinical Trials Unit</td>
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<tr>
<td>BET</td>
<td>Best Endovascular Treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMT</td>
<td>Best Medical Treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BP</td>
<td>Blood Pressure</td>
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<td>BTK</td>
<td>Below the Knee</td>
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<tr>
<td>BMS</td>
<td>Bare Metal Stent</td>
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<td>CLI</td>
<td>Critical Limb Ischaemia</td>
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<tr>
<td>CKD</td>
<td>Chronic Kidney Disease</td>
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<td>CI</td>
<td>Chief Investigator</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRF</td>
<td>Case Report Form</td>
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<td>CFA</td>
<td>Common Femoral Artery</td>
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<td>CTA</td>
<td>Computed Tomographic Angiography</td>
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<td>CABG</td>
<td>Coronary Artery Bypass Graft</td>
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<td>DM</td>
<td>Diabetes Mellitus</td>
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<td>DMC</td>
<td>Data Monitoring Committee</td>
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<td>DSA</td>
<td>Digital Subtraction Angiography</td>
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<td>DPA</td>
<td>Dorsalis Pedis Artery</td>
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<tr>
<td>DCB</td>
<td>Drug Coated Balloon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEB</td>
<td>Drug Eluting Balloon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abbreviation</td>
<td>Full Form</td>
</tr>
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<td>--------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DES</td>
<td>Drug Eluting Stent</td>
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<td>DUS</td>
<td>Duplex Ultrasound</td>
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<td>ET</td>
<td>Endovascular Treatment</td>
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<tr>
<td>EQ-5D-5L</td>
<td>European Quality of Life- 5 dimension- 5 level</td>
</tr>
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<td>FP</td>
<td>Femoro-popliteal</td>
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<tr>
<td>GA</td>
<td>General Anaesthetic</td>
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<tr>
<td>GFR</td>
<td>Glomerular Filtration Rate</td>
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<td>GCP</td>
<td>Good Clinical Practice</td>
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<td>GSV</td>
<td>Great Saphenous Vein</td>
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<td>HADS</td>
<td>Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale</td>
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<td>HTA</td>
<td>Health Technology Assessment</td>
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<td>IC</td>
<td>Intermittent Claudication</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICECAP-O</td>
<td>ICEpop CAPability measure for Older people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IG</td>
<td>Infra-geniculate</td>
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<tr>
<td>IP</td>
<td>Infra-popliteal</td>
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<tr>
<td>IR</td>
<td>Interventional Radiologist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITT</td>
<td>Intention to Treat</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISRCTN</td>
<td>International Standard Randomised Control Trial Number</td>
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<td>IMP</td>
<td>Investigational Medicinal Products</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISF</td>
<td>Investigator Site File</td>
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<tr>
<td>LA</td>
<td>Local Anaesthetic</td>
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<tr>
<td>MRA</td>
<td>Magnetic Resonance Angiography</td>
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<tr>
<td>MACE</td>
<td>Major Adverse Cardiovascular Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MALE</td>
<td>Major Adverse Limb Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>MDT</td>
<td>Multi-disciplinary Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MI</td>
<td>Myocardial Infarction</td>
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<tr>
<td>MREC</td>
<td>Main Research Ethics Committee</td>
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<td>NHS R&amp;D</td>
<td>National Health Service Research &amp; Development</td>
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<td>NICE</td>
<td>National Institute of Clinical and Health Excellence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abbreviation</td>
<td>Full Form</td>
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<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>NIHR</td>
<td>National Institute of Health Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OS</td>
<td>Overall Survival</td>
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<tr>
<td>PIS</td>
<td>Patient Information Sheet</td>
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<tr>
<td>PCI</td>
<td>Percutaneous Coronary Intervention</td>
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<td>PAD</td>
<td>Peripheral Artery Disease</td>
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<td>PerA</td>
<td>Peroneal Artery</td>
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<td>PI</td>
<td>Principal Investigator</td>
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<td>POBA</td>
<td>Plain Old Balloon Angioplasty</td>
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<td>PIS</td>
<td>Participant Information Sheet</td>
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<td>PA</td>
<td>Popliteal Artery</td>
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<td>PTA</td>
<td>Posterior Tibial Artery</td>
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<tr>
<td>QALY</td>
<td>Quality Adjusted Life Year</td>
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<td>QoL</td>
<td>Quality of Life</td>
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<tr>
<td>R&amp;D</td>
<td>Research and Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>RCT</td>
<td>Randomised Controlled Trial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RN</td>
<td>Research Nurse</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLI</td>
<td>Severe Limb Ischaemia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAE</td>
<td>Serious Adverse Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF-12</td>
<td>Short Form 12 QoL questionnaire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSV</td>
<td>Small Saphenous Vein</td>
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<tr>
<td>SFA</td>
<td>Superficial Femoral Artery</td>
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<tr>
<td>TBPI</td>
<td>Toe to Brachial Pressure Index</td>
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<tr>
<td>TMG</td>
<td>Trial Management Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>TPT</td>
<td>Tibioperoneal Trunk</td>
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<td>TSC</td>
<td>Trial Steering Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>Ultrasound</td>
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<td>UK</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
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<tr>
<td>VAS</td>
<td>Visual Analogue Scale</td>
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<td>VascuQoL</td>
<td>Vascular QoL Questionnaire</td>
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### 1 Trial Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Multi-centre randomised controlled trial to compare the clinical and cost-effectiveness of a ‘VB first’ with a ‘BET first’ revascularisation strategy for SLI due to IP arterial disease.</th>
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<td>Short title/Acronym</td>
<td>Bypass vs. Angioplasty in Severe Ischaemia of the Leg-2 Trial: BASIL-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of trial</td>
<td>An individually randomised multi-centre pragmatic two-arm open trial of two alternative revascularisation strategies (VB first vs. BET first) for the management of SLI due to IP, with or without FP, disease, incorporating an internal pilot and within-trial economic evaluation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Outcome measures | **Primary end-point:**

AFS, defined as the time to major limb (above the ankle) amputation of the index (trial) limb or death from any cause.

**Secondary end-points:**

- OS
- In-hospital and 30-day morbidity and mortality
- MALE defined as amputation (transtibial or above) of, or any major vascular re-intervention (thrombectomy, thrombolysis, BA, stenting or surgery) to, the trial leg
- MACE (SLI and amputation affecting the contralateral limb, ACS, stroke)
- Relief of ischaemic pain (VAS, medication usage)
- Psychological morbidity (HADS)
- QoL using generic (EQ-5D-5L, SF-12, ICECAP-O) and disease specific (VascuQoL) tools
- Re- and cross-over intervention rates
- Healing of tissue loss (ulcers, gangrene) of arterial aetiology as assessed by the PEDIS and WiFi instruments |
Extent and healing of minor (toe and forefoot) amputations (also using PEDIS and WiFi)
- Haemodynamic changes; absolute ankle and toe pressures ABPI, TBPI

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Trial design</th>
<th>Superiority RCT</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mean trial duration per participant</td>
<td>39 months (range: 24 – 60 months)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total trial duration</td>
<td>69 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planned trial sites</td>
<td>Multicentre, UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participants</td>
<td>600</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Main inclusion and exclusion criteria

**Inclusion criteria:**
- SLI due to IP +/- FP disease
- Judged by the responsible clinicians (consultant VS, IR, diabetologists) working as part of a MDT to require early IP +/- FP revascularisation in addition to BMT, foot and wound care
- Have AI ‘inflow’ adequate to support VB and BET (if not, then patients can be randomised after a successful AI procedure which can be either surgical or endovascular)
- Judged suitable for both VB and BET following diagnostic imaging and a formal (documented) discussion by consultant VS and IR in a properly constituted MDT meeting

**Exclusion criteria:**
- Life expectancy <6 months
- Unable to provide informed consent due to incapacity (as defined by Mental Capacity Act 2005 or Adults with Incapacity [Scotland] Act 2000)
- Non-English speaker where translation facilities are insufficient to guarantee informed consent
- Judged unsuitable for either revascularisation strategy by the responsible VS and IR.
- Tissue loss considered to be primarily of venous aetiology
1.1 Trial Schema (Figure 1)
2 Introduction

The problem of SLI

As a result of a combination smoking, DM, high BP, high cholesterol levels, CKD and the ageing process, some people develop atherosclerosis (aka ‘hardening’ of the arteries) in their legs; a condition known as PAD. PAD can narrow or block lower limb arteries so reducing the blood supply to people’s legs and feet. In the early stages, such disease often causes pain in the leg only when walking, a condition termed IC. However, as the disease progresses, the blood supply to the leg can become so poor that people get severe pain (often requiring morphine) all the time (ischaemic rest pain), especially at night (ischaemic night pain). At this stage, even minor injuries to the foot can fail to heal, allowing infection to enter the tissues, resulting in the development of ulceration, even gangrene. The presence of rest / night pain, tissue loss, or both, of presumed arterial aetiolo gy is termed critical or severe limb ischaemia (SLI) [1].

One in every 1000-2000 people in the UK will be diagnosed with SLI each year. The incidence of SLI is rising principally as a result of our ageing population, the increasing numbers of people with DM, and continuing high rates of smoking. Unless the blood supply to the leg and foot is improved, many people affected by SLI will lose their limb and/or die within 12 months. SLI often affects both legs and bilateral amputation is not an uncommon outcome. Approximately 5-6,000 major lower limb amputations are carried out in the UK every year (NHS Choices http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/amputation) of which about 70% are for SLI. People with type 1 or 2 DM are 15 times more likely to need an amputation than the general population. As well as causing great suffering, SLI places a large economic burden upon health (NHS) and social care services. SLI is a growing global healthcare problem affecting every country in the world.

VB and BET for SLI

The two treatments currently available for SLI are:

1. VB, where a vein is used to bypass the blockage

2. BET, which involves opening up the diseased arteries with balloons and sometimes the use of small metal tubes called stents

Both treatments have pros and cons and there is considerable debate and uncertainty as to which is preferable, when, in which arteries, and in which patients [2]. Those who favour a ‘VB first’ revascularisation strategy usually emphasise good long-term anatomic patency and clinical durability. Proponents of a ‘BET first’ strategy usually point to the potential for lower procedural morbidity and mortality, reduced costs, the speed with which the procedure can
be undertaken, and shortened hospital stay.

In recent years, a number of “advanced” endovascular technologies (BMS, DES, DEB) have become available. These devices are more expensive than POBA and, as yet, there is no evidence that they are more clinically effective, or that they are cost-effective, in patients with SLI [3].

The purpose of BASIL-2 is to determine which treatment is best at preventing amputation and death, getting the ulcers and gangrene to heal, and relieving pain, in people with SLI due to disease of the IP arteries; namely, the PTA, ATA (DPA) and PerA. We will invite people affected by SLI due to IP +/- FP disease, and who are suitable for both VB and BET, to be randomly allocated to one or other of these revascularisation strategies first. If the allocated treatment doesn't work, then they can go on and have the other treatment. We will follow-up patients for an average of 3.3 years, during which they will be offered further medical, surgical, and endovascular treatment as required. Recovery time from surgery and endovascular intervention is often prolonged. SLI patients are frequently discharged to nursing and residential homes and those that return home often require significant support in the community as well as expensive adaptations to their homes. SLI is, therefore, extremely costly to NHS and social care services. For this reason, we will also study the costs of the two revascularisation strategies (VB first vs. BET first) to see which offers the best ‘value for money’ for the NHS.

2.1 BASIL-2 and NICE

In their Clinical Guideline 147 (http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG147), NICE concluded that due to the lack of evidence supporting the use “advanced” endovascular interventions in patients with SLI due to IP disease, RCTs should be conducted to address the two following questions:

1. What is the clinical and cost effectiveness of a ‘bypass surgery first’ strategy compared with an ‘angioplasty first’ strategy for treating people with critical limb ischaemia caused by disease of the IP arteries?

2. What is the clinical and cost effectiveness of selective stent placement compared with angioplasty plus primary stent placement for treating people with critical limb ischaemia caused by disease in the IP arteries?

BASIL-2 directly addresses the first of these questions. If BASIL-2 supports BET as a clinically and cost-effective revascularisation strategy for this patient group then future trials comparing different forms of BET will be able to address question 2.
2.2 BASIL-2 and the HTA

The proposed research also directly addresses the research recommendations contained in the BASIL-1 trial HTA monograph [2]:

1. Repeat the Delphi studies to determine whether there has been any convergence of views as to the relative merits of bypass surgery and balloon angioplasty in SLI
2. Confirm or refute the BASIL-1 findings and recommendations in further RCTs
3. Validate the BASIL-1 trial survival prediction model in a separate cohort of SLI patients
4. Examine the clinical and cost-effectiveness of new endovascular techniques and devices (such as stents and stent-grafts) in the management of SLI

2.3 Assessment and Management of Risk

All BASIL-2 patients would have been undergoing VB or BET in any event; and the proposed treatments are both current UK “standard of care”. As such, there is no anticipated additional risk for trial participants. However, the assessment and management of risk will, of course, be reviewed throughout the trial based on a formal risk assessment document. This risk assessment will be used to develop and amend the trial monitoring plan. On-going evaluation of risk will continue throughout the recruitment period.

3 Trial Design

BASIL-2 is an individually randomised, multi-centre, pragmatic, two-arm, open trial of two alternative revascularisation strategies (VB first vs. BET first) for the management of SLI due to IP +/- FP disease, incorporating an internal pilot phase and within-trial economic evaluation. BASIL-2 has been closely based on the successful HTA-funded BASIL-1 trial and the experience and expertise thereby gained by the CI and PIs).

SLI patients usually require frequent health care interventions in primary and secondary care after their primary revascularisation. To fully capture this activity, as well as the associated changes in QoL and health resource usage, patients will be closely followed up, especially during the first 12 months after randomisation.

In BASIL-1, the advantages of bypass over POBA were only observed after 1-2 years. For this reason, in BASIL-2, patients will be followed for an average of 39 months. The majority of follow-up visits will coincide with pre-existing, clinically necessary hospital visits.
3.1 Trial Objective
To determine whether a ‘VB first’ or a ‘BET first’ revascularisation strategy represents the most clinically and cost-effective treatment for SLI due to IP +/- FP arterial disease.

3.2 Primary Outcome Measure
AFS, defined as the time to major limb (above the ankle) amputation of the index (trial) limb or death from any cause.

3.3 Secondary Outcome Measures:
- OS
- In-hospital and 30-day morbidity and mortality
- MALE defined as amputation (transtibial or above) of, or any major vascular re-intervention (thrombectomy, thrombolysis, BA, stenting, or surgery) to, the trial leg
- MACE (SLI and amputation affecting the contralateral limb, ACS, stroke)
- Relief of ischaemic pain (VAS, medication usage)
- Psychological morbidity (HADS)
- QoL using generic (EQ-5D-5L, SF-12, ICECAP-O) and disease specific (VascuQoL) tools
- Re- and cross-over intervention rates
- Healing of tissue loss (ulcers, gangrene) of presumed arterial aetiology as assessed by the PEDIS [4] and the WiFi [5] scoring and classification systems
- Extent and healing of minor (toe and forefoot) amputations (also using PEDIS and WiFi)
- Haemodynamic changes; absolute ankle and toe pressures, ABPI, TBPI

4 Selection of Participants
A flowchart of the recruitment process is shown in the Trial Schema (Figure 1) together with the treatment and follow-up schedule. All patients entering the participating vascular service with a diagnosis of SLI will be approached for their consent to have their medical records and national data sets interrogated subsequently so that outcome data for randomised and non-randomised patients can be obtained. Where consent is given, baseline data and reasons for non-randomisation will be collected on the BASIL-2 Screening Form. Collecting these data on non-randomised patients is important so that judgements can be made
regarding the generalisability of the BASIL-2 results to the overall population of patients presenting with SLI.

Patients thought to be potentially suitable for randomisation on the basis of clinical assessment and appropriate imaging will be discussed in a formally constituted, minuted, multi-disciplinary team (MDT) meeting comprising at least one consultant VS and IR. Those considered suitable for randomisation will then be approached by a RN and be offered appropriate verbal and written information. If there is agreement in the MDT that the patient is suitable for BASIL-2 then the patient will be approached by the BASIL-2 RN to obtain fully informed consent. In those willing to be randomised, written informed consent will be obtained by a trained member of the research team (with GCP training, knowledge of the trial protocol, and delegated authority from the local PI) who will be recorded on the **BASIL-2 Delegation and Signature Log**. Please also refer to section 5.1.

Consent will comprise a dated signature from the patient and the signature of the person who obtained informed consent. After consent has been received, and baseline QoL data collected, the patient will be randomised (1-to-1) to either a ‘VB first’ or ‘BET first’ revascularisation strategy.

This study will include **optional consent** to allow linkage to patient data available in NHS routine clinical datasets, including primary care data (e.g. Clinical Practice Research Datalink; CPRD, The Health Improvement Network; THIN, QResearch), secondary care data (Hospital Episode Statistics; HES) and mortality data from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) through The Health and Social Care Information Centre and other central UK NHS bodies. The consent will also allow access to other new central UK NHS databases that will appear in the future. This will allow us to double check the main outcomes against routine data sources, and extend the follow-up of patients in the trial and collect long-term outcome and health resource usage data without needing further contact with the study participants. This is important as it will link a trial of treatments that may become a clinical standard of care to long-term outcomes that are routinely collected in clinical data but which will not be collected during the follow-up period of the trial.

### 4.1 Inclusion Criteria

In order to be considered for randomisation in BASIL-2, patients must:

- Have SLI due to IP, +/- FP, disease
- Be judged by the responsible clinicians (consultant VS, IR, diabetologists) working as part of a MDT to require early IP +/- FP revascularisation in addition to BMT, foot and wound care
• Have AI ‘inflow’ adequate to support VB and BET (if not, then patients can be randomised after a successful AI procedure which can be either surgical or endovascular)

• Be judged suitable for both VB and BET following diagnostic imaging and a formal (documented) discussion by consultant VS and IR in a properly constituted MDT meeting

4.2 Exclusion Criteria

Patient will be excluded from BASIL-2 if they:

• Have an anticipated life expectancy <6 months

• Are unable to provide consent due to incapacity (as defined by Mental Capacity Act 2005 or Adults with Incapacity [Scotland] Act 2000)

• Are a non-English speaker where translation facilities are insufficient to guarantee informed consent

• Are judged unsuitable for either of the two revascularisation strategies by the responsible consultant VS and IR

• Tissue loss considered to be primarily of venous aetiology

5 Trial Procedures and Schedule of Assessments

Bilateral SLI

Some patients may present with SLI in both legs; in the BASIL-1 trial this was the case in approximately 25% of the recruited patients. In such patients it is usually clinically obvious which is the ‘worst’ leg and thus in need of intervention (first); bilateral, simultaneous, intervention is rarely, if ever, necessary or performed in this patient group. The presence of bilateral SLI will not, therefore, be a contra-indication to recruitment and the ‘worst’ leg (as judged by the responsible consultant VS and IR) will become the “trial” leg. If treatment is required for the other leg then the responsible consultant VS and IR will be permitted to use whatever treatment they believe is most appropriate. Treatment to the second leg will be outside trial; in other words, each patient can only have one “trial” leg

Previous amputation

Prior unilateral amputation (a not uncommon scenario) will not be a contra-indication to randomisation of the remaining contralateral “trial” leg.
5.1 Informed Consent Procedure

Eligibility must be assessed and documented by a formally constituted, minuted, MDT. Thereafter, the process of obtaining informed consent may be delegated to a suitably trained member of the local research team who is documented on the **BASIL-2 Delegation and Signature Log**. The person obtaining informed consent will provide the patient with the MREC approved PIS on NHS Trust headed paper. Adequate time (minimum 24 hours) will be given for consideration by the patient, and where appropriate their family, before taking part. It will be explained to patients that there is no obligation for them to enter the trial, and that they can withdraw from the trial at any time, without having to give a reason. A copy of the signed informed consent form will be given to the patient. The original signed form will be retained at the study site in the ISF and a copy placed in the medical notes. A copy will also be given to the patient and one will be sent to the BASIL-2 Trial Office. With the participant’s prior consent, their GP will also be informed using a standard letter.

Informed consent will be obtained before any trial-related procedures are undertaken.

5.1.1 Withdrawal

Patients may withdraw from the trial at any time if they choose not to continue or the responsible VS and IR feel that continued participation is inappropriate.

There are three different types of withdrawal:

- The patient would like to withdraw from the randomised treatment allocation, but is willing to be followed-up according to the trial protocol (i.e. has agreed that follow-up data can be collected)

- The patient does not want to complete the QoL and health economic forms but has agreed to be followed-up according to standard practice (i.e. has agreed that follow-up data can be collected at standard clinic visits)

- The patient is not willing to be followed up for trial purposes at any further visits (i.e. has agreed that any data collected prior to the withdrawal of consent can be used in the trial final analysis)

If healthcare professional-initiated, then the reason(s) for withdrawal will be recorded on the CRFs; otherwise, a simple statement reflecting patient preference will suffice. Patients who withdraw from trial treatment but continue with on-going follow-up and data collection will be followed-up in accordance with the protocol.
5.2 Baseline Assessments

All patients presenting to participating vascular units with SLI, and who are being considered for revascularisation (whether inside or outside trial), will already have undergone the following as part of their ‘standard of care’ prior to being approached about BASIL-2:

- History, enquiring into:
  - Risk factors: smoking, DM, hypertension hypercholesterolemia
  - Co-morbidity: previous stroke, angina, MI, and CKD
  - Previous PAD interventions to one or both legs
  - Previous amputations
  - Previous coronary intervention (CABG, PCI)

- Physical examination, including:
  - Assessment of functional status: independent, stick, walker, prosthesis, wheelchair, bed-bound
  - Recording of peripheral pulses
  - Measurement of ABPI and TBPI

- Imaging of their arteries by one or more of the following modalities: DUS, CTA, MRA or DSA

- Routine biochemistry (creatinine, estimated GFR, cholesterol, HBA1c)

- Routine haematology (haemoglobin, white cell count, platelet count, HbA1c)

- Wound assessment (in those patients with tissue loss)

- Assessment of ischaemic night/rest pain using a VAS

- Discussion by VS and IR in an MDT

In patients who have consented to take part in BASIL-2, these data will be transferred to the Baseline Assessment Form.

Prior to randomisation, and after giving consent, participating patients will be asked to complete the Baseline QoL Forms (EQ-5D-5L, SF-12, ICECAP-O, VascuQoL, HADS).

A copy of the diagnostic imaging study on which the decision to randomise was taken will be forwarded to the BASIL Trial Office for Bollinger Scoring [6].

Patients with wounds on their legs will be assessed and scored according to the PEDIS [4] and WiFi [5] classification systems.
5.3 Randomisation Procedures and Minimisation

BCTU will provide a third-party web-based randomisation service with a telephone option as back-up. Once eligibility criteria have been confirmed, consent has been obtained, minimisation variables have been determined and the baseline QoL instruments have been completed, randomisation will be performed.

The following 'minimisation' variables will be used:

- Age (≤60, 61-70, 71-80, >80 years)
- Gender (male, female)
- DM and CKD (DM, CKD*, DM and CKD or neither)
- Severity of clinical disease (rest / night pain only, tissue loss only, or both, of arterial aetiology)

*CKD will be defined as stage 3 or worse based on estimated GFR of < 60 (ml/min/1.73 m2) ([http://www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/live/12069/42117/42117.pdf](http://www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/live/12069/42117/42117.pdf))

Telephone and online randomisation

Patients can be randomised into BASIL-2 via a secure 24/7 internet-based randomisation service ([https://www.trials.bham.ac.uk/basil2](https://www.trials.bham.ac.uk/basil2)) or by telephone (number 0800 9530274). Telephone randomisation is available Monday-Friday, 09:00-17:00. For the secure internet randomisation, each site and each researcher will be provided with a unique log-in username and password.

Randomisation Forms will be provided to investigators and should be completed and used to collate the necessary information prior to randomisation.

The inclusion, exclusion and minimisation criteria included on the Randomisation Form must be answered before a Trial Number can be given.

Once a Trial Number has been allocated, a confirmatory e-mail will be sent to the local PI and the named RN. With the participant’s permission, the GP should be notified using the standard Letter to GP provided for this purpose.

Back-up randomisation

If the internet-based randomisation service is unavailable for an extended period of time, a back-up paper randomisation service will be available from BCTU. In this instance, investigators should ring the BCTU randomisation service (0800 9530274). The randomisation list will be produced using a random length block design.
5.4 Baseline Assessment

Once a Trial Number has been allocated, the Baseline Assessment Form will be completed from the medical records and capture information on:

- History, enquiring into
  - Risk factors: smoking, hypertension hypercholesterolemia
  - Co-morbidity: previous stroke, angina, MI, and CKD
  - Previous PAD interventions to one or both legs
  - Previous amputations
  - Previous coronary intervention (CABG, PCI)
- Physical examination, including:
  - Assessment of functional status: independent, stick, walker, prosthesis, wheelchair, bed-bound
  - Recording of peripheral pulses
  - Measurement of ABPI and TBPI
- Imaging (DUS, CTA, MRA or DSA)
- Routine biochemistry (creatinine, estimated GFR, cholesterol, HBA1c)
- Routine haematology (haemoglobin, white cell count, platelet count, HbA1c)
- Wound assessment (in those patients with tissue loss)
- Assessment of ischaemic night/rest pain using a VAS

5.4.1 Timing of Intervention

The allocated intervention (VB or BET) should be performed within two weeks of the date of randomisation where possible and clinically appropriate.

5.5 Best Endovascular Treatment

Patients randomised to BET will undergo the procedure that the responsible consultant VS or IR believes is the most appropriate given the individual patient’s clinical and disease pattern characteristics. The options are POBA +/- ‘bail-out’ BMS, POBA +/- ‘bail-out’ DES, DEB +/- ‘bail-out’ BMS, DEB +/- ‘bail-out’ DES, primary BMS and primary DES. In the great majority of cases, regardless of the exact technique / devices being used, the procedure will be performed under LA via an US-guided puncture of the CFA; occasionally intravenous
sedation may be given and, rarely, a GA may be required. BET success will be established by post-intervention completion angiography, palpation of foot pulses and measurement of ABPI and TBPI. Copies of imaging will be sent to the BASIL Trial Office for Bollinger scoring and independent, blinded adjudication of technical success and run-off.

The BET Intervention Form captures:

- If this is the primary (allocated) or a further (secondary, tertiary etc.) intervention
- Site of each intervention by arterial segment
- Nature of the intervention in each treated arterial segment
- Number and type of devices used
- Success of the intervention

5.6 Vein Bypass

VB will be performed using standard anaesthetic and surgical techniques and equipment. Pre-operative DUS-based vein mapping is UK ‘standard of care’ and will be performed in all cases to determine the presence of a suitable (optimal) venous conduit for VB. This conduit will normally be the ipsilateral or contralateral GSV but the use of SSV and arm vein will be permitted as they are recognised techniques forming part of current UK ‘standard of care’. In the unlikely event that the surgeon discovers intra-operatively that prosthetic material will be required then this will, of course, be permitted (rather than abandon the surgery) and noted. VB success will be established by completion angiography, palpation of foot pulses and measurement of ankle / toe pressures and indices. Copies of intra-operative imaging will be sent to the BASIL-2 Trial Office for Bollinger scoring and independent, blinded adjudication of technical success and run-off. Pre-and post-operative investigations and management will be what is ‘standard of care’ in the participating unit and follow local and national (NICE CG 147) guidelines.

The VB Intervention Form captures:

- If this is the primary (allocated) or a further (secondary, tertiary etc.) intervention
- Type of graft: reversed vein, non-reversed vein, composite, prosthetic only
- Type of vein: GSV, other leg, arm
- Location of proximal anastomosis
- Location of distal anastomosis
- Success of the intervention
5.7 Amputation

In patients who require amputation, the Amputation Form will capture data on the level and type of amputation (digits, forefoot, BKA, and AKA) as well as complications.

5.8 In-patient Follow-up

The hospitalisations for each patient will be tracked for both trial and non-trial related causes. An In-patient Form will be completed every time a patient is admitted to the hospital for any reason. The In-patient Form will capture a summary of the hospital admissions details, verify if any complications occurred, and confirm or deny if a trial intervention occurred. The In-patient Form will also be completed at each intervention, if applicable, along with the Intervention Form.

5.9 Follow-up Visit

After randomisation patients will be seen at 1, 3, 6, 9, 12, 18, 24, 30 and 36 months.

The first follow-up assessment will be one month after the allocated intervention / surgery; subsequent assessment will be timed from the date of randomisation.

On each occasion a Follow-up Form will be completed that captures:

- Interventions since last visit
- Hospitalisations since last visit
- Other health problems requiring medical intervention in primary and secondary care
- Clinical status of trial leg
- Haemodynamic status of trial leg
- Functional status
- Patient HRQL and resource use forms
5.10  Assessment Schedule (Table 1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Completed From</th>
<th>Screen</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>Randomization</th>
<th>Intervention (Initial within 2 Weeks)</th>
<th>Follow-up months 1, 3, 6, 9, 12, 18, 24, 30, 36</th>
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</table>

5.10.1  Trial Duration

The interventional phase of the trial will end when the last patient has completed the allocated trial intervention. The follow-up phase of the trial will cease when the last participant recruited has undergone 24 months of follow-up.

6  Recording and Reporting of Adverse Events

The collection and reporting of AEs and SAEs will be in accordance with GCP and the Research Governance Framework 2005.
Safety will be assessed continuously throughout the trial. Safety monitoring has been delegated by the Sponsor (University of Birmingham) to the BCTU. There are no Investigational Medicinal Products being used as part of BASIL-2 and all of the surgical techniques being tested in this trial are part of current UK ‘standard of care’; therefore few (S)AEs are anticipated as a unique consequence of participation in BASIL-2.

6.1 Safety Reporting Procedures

The cohort of trial patients are likely to have significant co-morbidities and are therefore the frequency of AEs is likely to be high, but not directly relevant to the clinical question being addressed by the BASIL-2 trial. Most of the AEs occurring in BASIL-2, whether serious or not, will therefore be ‘expected’ in the sense that they are recognised and accepted complications / consequences of SLI, VB and BET that do not represent ‘sub-standard’ care. Further, since both interventional arms are standards of care, the safety profiles of the interventions are established.

In the context of this trial events occurring more than 30 days after the trial intervention, for any given patient, do NOT require routine notification, since they will be disease related morbidities, pre-existing conditions and new conditions unrelated to the interventions used in this trial. A PI can still choose to notify the BASIL-2 Trial Office of events occurring out of this 30 day period should they believe that they are due to the trial procedures, but this is not a requirement and should be for exceptional circumstances rather than routine conditions.

6.2 AE Definition and Reporting

AE are defined below:

AE: Any untoward medical occurrence in a trial patient to whom a research treatment or procedure has been administered, including occurrences which are not necessarily caused by or related to that treatment or procedure.

Whilst all AEs should be routinely recorded in the clinical notes as per standard clinical care, given that the trial uses established techniques, BASIL-2 does not require formal notification of these events.

6.3 SAE Definition and Reporting

SAE: Any adverse event which:

- results in death;
- is life-threatening*;
• requires hospitalisation** or prolongation of existing hospitalisation;
• results in persistent or significant disability or incapacity; or
• or, is otherwise considered medically significant by the Investigator

*The term “life-threatening” refers to an event in which the patient was at risk of death at the time of the event; it does not refer to an event which hypothetically might have caused death if it were more severe.

** Patients must be formally admitted – waiting in outpatients or A&E does not constitute an SAE (even though this can sometimes be overnight). Similarly, planned hospitalisations that clearly are not related to the condition under investigation or hospitalisations/prolongation of hospitalisation due to social reasons should not be considered as SAEs.

• Hospitalisations that are brought forward due to worsening symptoms of SLI or in which patients are admitted for clinical observation of their SLI DO constitute SAEs. Hospitalisations for routine treatment or monitoring of the studied indication, not associated with any deterioration in condition are not considered SAEs.

Events identified as SAEs require completion of an SAE form.

6.4 Summary of Safety Reporting Procedure for BASIL-2
6.5 Expected SAE

The following SAEs are recognised and accepted complications / consequences of SLI, VB and BET and therefore can be excluded from expedited notification during the course of the trial:

Admission to a hospital or other institution for general care, not associated with any deterioration in trial intervention-related symptoms

Expected complications" of BET / VB that do not require expedited notification are

1. Wound / puncture site: bleeding, infection, non-healing, debridement, haematoma, seroma, re-suturing, injection or repair of false aneurysm, requirement for further intervention
2. Graft / endovascular device: occlusion, infection
3. Cardiac: myocardial infarction, acute coronary syndrome, arrhythmia,
4. Neurological: stroke, transient ischaemic attack (TIA), amaurosis fugax
5. Lung: infection, pneumonia, pulmonary embolism, pneumothorax, requirement for ventilation, tracheostomy
6. Leg: deep vein thrombosis
7. Urological: urinary retention, urine infection, requirement for catheterisation
8. Bowel: bleeding, obstruction, ischaemia, formation of stoma

Events that meet the above trial definition of Expected SAEs only require the first page of the SAE form to be completed. These should be sent to the BASIL-2 Trial Office as per any other CRF. ie within 2 weeks of completion.

These events should continue to be recorded in the medical records according to local practice and will still be collated by the BASIL-2 Trial Office but will not require evaluation by the CI. All SAEs will be followed up until the final outcome is determined (even if that continues after the end of the planned follow-up period).

Site Investigators should also notify their own institutions of any SAEs in accordance with their institutional policies

Note: the primary endpoint is amputation-free survival and, as such, both amputation and surgery-related deaths do not require reporting as expected SAEs, the data will be collected via the appropriate CRFs.
6.5.1 SAEs for Expedited Notification to the Trial Office

SAEs that occur within 30 days of the trial intervention and which do not meet the criteria of 'expected', as above, will be notifiable to the BASIL-2 Trial Office via SAE forms within 24 hours of becoming aware of the event. Unlike expected SAEs, the assessment of relatedness and expectedness to the trial intervention requires a clinical decision based on all available information at the time and therefore requires the additional SAE pages to be completed.

Completed expedited SAE forms should be faxed to the BASIL-2 Trial Office on

0121 415 9135

The PI at each site will be required to respond to any related queries raised by the BASIL-2 Trial Office as soon as possible.

Expedited SAEs will immediately be referred to the CI or delegated deputy on receipt by the BASIL-2 Trial Office.

6.6 Expedited reporting to the Main Research Ethics Committee

6.6.1 Related and Unexpected SAEs

SAEs categorised by a PI or the CI as both suspected to be related to trial participation and "unexpected" will be subject to expedited reporting to the MREC. The CI (or delegated deputy) will undertake urgent review of all such SAEs and may request further information immediately from the clinical team at site. The CI will not overrule the causality, expectedness or seriousness assessment given by the site PI but may add additional comment on these. Related and Unexpected SAEs will be reported to the MREC by the BASIL-2 Trial Office within 15 days after the Trial Office has been notified. The BASIL-2 Trial Office (on behalf of the CI) will inform all PIs of relevant information about SAEs that could adversely affect the safety of participants.

In addition, at regular time points, the TSC and DMC will be provided with details of all SAEs.
6.7 Annual Progress Reports

An annual progress report will be submitted to the MREC within 30 days of the anniversary date on which the favourable opinion was given, and annually until the trial is declared ended.

6.8 Reporting Urgent Safety Measures

If any urgent safety measures are taken, the CI / BCTU shall immediately, and in any event no later than 3 days from the date the measures are taken, give written notice to the MREC of the measures taken and the circumstances giving rise to those measures.

6.9 Notification of Serious Breaches of GCP and/or the Protocol

A “serious breach” is a breach which is likely to effect to a significant degree:

- the safety or physical or mental integrity of the participants of the trial; or
- the scientific value of the trial.

The BCTU on behalf of the Co-Sponsors shall notify the MREC in writing of any serious breach of:

- the conditions and principles of GCP in connection with the trial; or
- the protocol relating to the trial, as amended from time to time, within 7 days of becoming aware of that breach.

The Sponsor will be notified immediately of any case where the above definition applies during the trial conduct phase.

7 Data Management and Quality Assurance

7.1 Confidentiality

All data will be handled in accordance with the UK Data Protection Act 1998. CRFs, other than the SAE Form, will not bear the participant’s name. The participant’s initials, date of birth and trial number, will be used for identification.

7.2 Data Collection

The BASIL-2 patient population is likely, in the main, to be both elderly and infirm. Thus, all outcome assessments will be completed with assistance from the RN and, as far as possible at pre-arranged, clinically indicated, hospital visits. Outcomes will be assessed at baseline, 1 after allocated intervention / surgery, and 3, 6, 9, 12, 18, 24, 30 and 36 months after randomisation as outlined in Tables 1& 2.
The primary outcome will be collected at the end of the trial where this is beyond 36 months. Where possible, outcome data will be extracted from patient case notes and care records.

The CRFs will comprise, but will not necessarily be limited to, the following forms:

**Table 2: Form Table**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form Name</th>
<th>Schedule for Submission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Screening Form</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randomisation Form</td>
<td>Collected at randomisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient Contact Details</td>
<td>Collected at randomisation</td>
</tr>
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<td>Baseline Medical Status Form</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline Clinical Assessment Form</td>
<td>Collected at randomisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-patient/daycase Form</td>
<td>Where applicable, as soon as possible after each hospitalisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surgical Bypass Form</td>
<td>Where applicable, as soon as possible after each intervention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-bypass Vascular Surgery Form</td>
<td>Where applicable, as soon as possible after each intervention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Endovascular Treatment Summary</td>
<td>For every segment identified in the above form, as soon as possible after the intervention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best Endovascular Segmental Treatment Form</td>
<td>As soon as possible after each intervention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amputation Form</td>
<td>Where applicable, as soon as possible after each intervention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exit Form</td>
<td>Where applicable, as soon as possible after exit event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow-up CRFs</td>
<td>As soon as possible after each follow-up assessment point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient Completed Booklets</td>
<td>As soon as possible after each assessment point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unexpected Serious Adverse Event Form</td>
<td>Faxed within 24hrs of research staff becoming aware of event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expected Serious Adverse Event Form</td>
<td>As soon as possible after each follow-up assessment point</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Outcomes will be collected by RNs and entered either onto paper CRFs, or directly into the online trial database via [http://www.bctu.bham.ac.uk/basil2](http://www.bctu.bham.ac.uk/basil2). Authorised staff at participating sites will require an individual secure login username and password to access this online data entry system.

If data are being collected on paper CRFs, these must be completed, signed/dated and returned to the BASIL-2 Trial Office by the PI or an authorised member of the site research team (as delegated on the [BASIL-2 Trial Signature & Delegation Log](http://www.bctu.bham.ac.uk/basil2)) within the
timeframe listed in the table above. Entries on paper CRFs should be made in ballpoint pen, in black ink, and must be legible. Any errors should be crossed out with a single stroke, the correction inserted and the change initialed and dated. If it is not obvious why a change has been made, an explanation should be written next to the change. Data reported on each CRF should be consistent with the source data or the discrepancies should be explained. If information is not known, this must be clearly indicated on the CRF. All sections should be completed; all missing and ambiguous data will be queried. In all cases it remains the responsibility of the PI to ensure that the CRF has been completed correctly and that the data are accurate.

CRFs may be amended by the BASIL-2 Trial Office, as appropriate, throughout the duration of the trial. Whilst this will not constitute a protocol amendment, new versions of the CRFs must be implemented by participating sites immediately on receipt.

8 Archiving

Archiving will be authorised by the BCTU on behalf of the Sponsor following submission of the end of trial report. PIs are responsible for the secure archiving of essential trial documents (for their site) as per their NHS Trust policy. All essential documents will be archived for a minimum of 5 years after completion of trial. Destruction of essential documents will require authorisation from the BCTU on behalf of the Sponsor.

9 Statistical Considerations

9.1 Outcome Measures

These have been described above at Sections 3.2 and 3.3.

9.2 Sample Size and Recruitment

The sample size calculation for this trial is for a time-to-event analysis undertaken two-years after completion of recruitment. Recruitment will take place over 3 years with 20% recruited in Year 1, and 40% in each of Years 2 and 3, giving a mean follow-up of 3.3 years per patient.

Non-event rates for the primary outcome (AFS) are assumed to be 0.72, 0.62, 0.53, 0.47 and 0.35 at the end of Years 1-5 based on the original BASIL-1 trial.

Conservatively, allowing for 10% drop-out for the primary outcome (the lost of follow-up rate in BASIL-1 was around 1%) a trial of 600 patients will have 90% power to detect a reduction in AFS of one-third (HR=0.66 equivalent to a 12% absolute difference in AFS at Year 3) at the 5% significance level.
9.3 Statistical Analysis

A separate Statistical Analysis Plan for the BASIL-2 trial provides a detailed description of the planned statistical analyses. A brief outline of these analyses is given below.

9.3.1 Primary Outcome Analysis

Differences in the primary outcome (AFS) will be assessed by comparing time from randomisation to major limb amputation or death from any cause between randomised groups, assessed up until the end of the follow-up period, which will be between 24 and 60 months.

The primary, unadjusted, analysis will use Kaplan-Meier plots and test the difference between groups using the log-rank test. Data will be censored when individuals reach the end of follow-up or are lost to follow-up before incurring the primary outcome. Further analysis of the primary outcome will involve fitting flexible parametric survival models to estimate both the relative and absolute differences in the hazard of the primary outcome, to model the underlying differences in hazard, and to allow for non-proportional hazards. Addition of covariates to this model will allow adjustment for any baseline differences, and the addition of their interactions with the treatment allocation variable will test for subgroup effects. These models will allow examination of differences in effect for short, medium and longer term follow-up. The primary analysis of AFS will be undertaken on an ITT basis according to allocated first intervention, regardless of whether the intervention was delivered and whether repeat and cross-over interventions were subsequently undertaken.

9.3.2 Secondary Outcome Analysis

Secondary outcome measures that are based on a continuous scale (pain VAS, EQ-5D-5L, etc.) will be analysed using a repeated measure, multilevel model to examine any differential effect over time. Where necessary, data transformations will be made to fulfil modelling assumptions. Treatment effects from the repeated measures model will be reported at the 30 day, 12 month, and ‘end of follow-up’ time-points.

Other outcome measures will be explored using standard methods (Fisher’s Exact Test for dichotomous outcomes, log-rank test for time to event data) and will also be reported at 30 days, 12 months, and at the end of follow-up.

All analyses will be performed using the ITT principle in the first instance with effect sizes presented as point estimates, 95% confidence intervals and associated p-values. A sensitivity analysis will explore whether effectiveness estimates vary when analysed according to treatment received rather than treatment allocated.
9.3.3  Repeat and Cross-over Interventions

Further intervention is possible in both arms of the trial, even when the initial intervention has been successful. This may be either with the same (re-intervention) or the alternative (cross-over intervention) technique, and may be repeated more than once.

Based on clinical experience, and data from the original BASIL trial, we anticipate that further intervention:

- will be required in up to 20% of participants
- is most likely to be required within 12 months of randomisation
- is more likely after randomisation to BET

The decision to undertake further interventions, and nature of those interventions, depends upon the individual patient’s clinical and disease pattern characteristics and will be left to the discretion of the responsible consultant VS and IR. During the trial we will collect data on all further repeat and crossover interventions and as in BASIL-1, we will specifically examine whether failed BET appears to impact negatively upon the success of subsequent VB (and vice-versa).

The trial addresses the question of the choice of the first revascularisation strategy. This is answered by the planned ITT analysis for the primary outcome, where participants are analysed according to the first intervention they were allocated to, regardless of subsequent interventions received, or whether they actually receive the allocated intervention (a small proportion may not receive their allocated intervention).

Like BASIL-1, BASIL-2 focuses on addressing the important pragmatic question faced by VS and IR in selecting which revascularisation strategy to recommend to patients and their families first. In a secondary analysis we will compare re-intervention rates between groups (the trial is powered at 90% to detect a two-fold difference of 10% vs. 20%), measure resource usage associated with re-intervention, and assess QoL throughout the patient journey.

All of these metrics will capture the impact of failure of the first procedure and the need for subsequent re- and cross-over intervention(s). In this way, we will be able to assess how any substantial difference in re- and cross-over intervention rates between the groups adversely or beneficially impacts on AFS and QoL.

9.3.4  Planned Sub-group and Additional Analysis

Variation in the treatment effect between subgroups will be limited to pre-specified variables
and investigated using appropriate tests for interaction in survival and repeated measures models. Variables likely to be considered will include, but will not necessarily be restricted to, rest / night pain only vs. tissue loss only vs. both; presence of DM, CKD, and haemodynamic measurements (ABPI, TBPI) (some of which will also be contained within the minimisation algorithm). We will also investigate differences in resource usage and outcome between the alternative endovascular options (POBA, DEB, BMS, DES). Specifically, we will consider whether there are predictors for the usage of each option, and whether there is any evidence of differences in outcome. As such comparisons will not be non-randomised; any conclusions drawn will bear in mind the possibility of confounding by indication.

9.3.5 Pilot Phase

After the first year we aim to assess recruitment, retention, patient burden and completeness of QoL data. If QoL data completeness is low, and the portfolio of QoL instruments appears to be a burden to patients, then use of the ICECAP-O and HADS instruments will be discontinued.

To achieve the calculated sample size of 600 patients over 3 years, each of the 11 regional centres will be expected to recruit on average 2 patients per month, and all 11 centres would need to be recruiting by the end of the first year. We would expect recruitment rates to increase during the period of the trial. We propose the following criteria for questioning the continuation of the study after one year:

- less than 2/3rds of centres are recruiting
- less than 60 patients have been randomised
- less than 2/3rds of centres are recruiting 2 per month from month 4 onwards
- less than 80% of patients have received their allocated treatment

9.3.6 Interim Analysis

Interim analyses of efficacy and safety are planned annually. The Haybittle-Peto approach will be used whereby all interim analyses use a difference of 3 standard errors (approximately p=0.002) as a stopping guideline. These interim analyses will be reviewed by the independent DMC on an annual basis or more frequently if required by the DMC or TMG.

9.3.7 Final Analysis

The final analysis for the BASIL-2 trial will occur once the last randomised patient reaches the 24 months follow-up assessment.
10 Health Economic Analysis

There is considerable uncertainty around the cost-effectiveness of VB and BET in this patient group. Determining the most cost-effective revascularisation strategy (VB first vs. BET first) will enable the NHS to ensure that care provided to patients represents the most appropriate use of the available public resources.

The economic analysis will comprise two components: a ‘within-study’ analysis, which will be based on data obtained within the study end points, and, conditionally on the availability of relevant data, a ‘model-based’ analysis, which will capture long-term costs and effects likely to accrue beyond the study follow-up period.

Results of the analysis will be presented in terms of cost per year of AFS and cost per additional QALY gained. In line with existing recommendations, the base-case analysis will adopt a health care system (payer’s) perspective by considering costs incurred by the NHS and personal social services [7]. If plausible, additional analyses will be undertaken from a wider societal perspective, by considering private (patient-incurred) and productivity costs. Costs and benefits accruing in the future will be discounted to reflect the impact of positive time preference.

10.1 Within Study Analysis

The ‘within-study’ analysis will be carried out with a view to determining the cost-effectiveness of VB and BET on the basis of the patient-level data obtained during the study period.

10.1.1 Resource Use and Costs

Data collection will be carried out prospectively for all trial participants so that a stochastic cost analysis can be undertaken. Data will be collected on:

(a) procedure-related resource use for the primary interventions and any secondary procedures, including amputations;
(b) hospital stay associated with each procedure;
(c) resource use and hospital stay due to readmissions and serious adverse events
(d) any day-case admissions, out-patient visits and appointments with general practitioners and nurses

In order to consider the wider cost implications of the interventions to patients, a tailored resource use questionnaire will be administered to all trial patients at the suggested time-points. The questionnaire will contain questions to determine out of pocket expenses incurred (e.g. transport costs) when attending for treatment, as well as private costs
including time lost from work. To obtain a total per-patient cost, resource use will be weighted by unit cost values taken from up-to-date national sources and tariffs, including the Unit Cost of Health and Social Care report [8], the British National Formulary [9] and the NHS Reference Cost Schedules [10]. Variations in the unit cost of items and services across settings will be explored in sensitivity analyses.

10.1.2 Outcomes

QoL will be derived from the latest, EQ-5D-5L instrument as well as by means of the EQ-5D VAS which records the patient’s self-rated QoL on a range from 0 to 100. Each patient’s health status descriptions obtained from the EQ-5D-5L will be translated into a single, preference-based (utility) index using a UK specific value set [11]. QALYs will be calculated as the area under the curve connecting utility scores reported at different time points from baseline to month 36 after randomisation. Deceased patients will be allocated a utility of zero from the date of death. In addition to EQ-5D-5L, patients’ QoL will be measured through the Short Form 12 (SF-12) and ICECAP-O instrument. The SF-12 is a shorter and more practical version of the widely used Short Form 36 (SF-36) generic health status measure [12]. Responses to SF-12 can be converted into single preference-based index values, and subsequently into QALYs, by using the SF-6D classification system [13]. The ICECAP-O is developed with a view to measuring wellbeing and capabilities in older people, and comprises five attributes (attachment, security, role, enjoyment and control) [14,15]. As explained above, the assessment of patient burden and completeness planned for year 1 of the study will determine whether the ICECAP-O should continue to be administered (see 9.3.5. Interim analysis). The time points at which quality of life instruments will be collected are: baseline, months 1, 3, 6, 12, 18, 24, 30 and month 36 after randomisation.

10.1.3 Analysis

The analysis will be conducted on an ITT basis. Missing data will be accounted for by using appropriate techniques, such as multiple imputation, depending on the extent and type of missing items [16]. As the distribution of costs is usually skewed by the existence of patients with very high costs, mean per-patient cost will be given alongside confidence intervals obtained through non-parametric bootstrap methods [17]. Incremental analysis will be undertaken to calculate the difference in costs and the difference in benefits between the two revascularisation strategies. Results will be presented in the form of incremental cost-effectiveness ratios (ICER), reflecting the extra cost for an additional unit of outcome. To account for the inherent uncertainty due to sampling variation, the joint distribution of differences in cost and effect (QALYs) will be derived by carrying out a large number of non-
parametric bootstrap simulations (Willan, 2006) [18]. The simulated cost and effect pairs will be depicted on a cost-effectiveness plane and will be plotted as cost-effectiveness acceptability curves (CEACs). CEACs show the probability of the ‘VB first’ and ‘BET first’ revascularisation strategies being cost-effective across a range of possible values of ‘willingness to pay’ for an additional QALY [19].

10.2 Model Based Analysis

In addition to the ‘within-trial’ evaluation, a ‘model-based’ analysis will be conducted to consider costs and benefits likely to accrue over a lifetime time horizon. A decision analytic model, possibly in the form of a Markov model, will be built to serve as a framework for quantifying long-term costs and outcomes.

The model will be populated with data from various sources, including patient-level data obtained from the trial, evidence from the preceding BASIL trial and information from a pragmatic literature review.

Relevant data required for the model will include:

- the probability of a patient requiring a limb amputation
- the cost and resource use associated with post-treatment care
- the cost and resources use associated with care received after amputation
- estimates of the quality of life after amputation

Given the long-time horizons being considered, much of the data on costs (and benefits) will be incurred (and experienced) in future years. Using discounting, adjustments will be made to reflect this differential timing. Both deterministic and probabilistic sensitivity analyses will be undertaken to explore the robustness of the obtained results to sample variability and plausible variations in key assumptions and employed analytical methods [20]. The broader issue of the generalizability of the results will also be considered.

If appropriate, value of information analysis (expected value of perfect and parameter information [21] will be also conducted to infer the benefits from obtaining further information for all or a subset of the parameters affecting the choice of treatments.

11 End of Trial

For the purposes of MREC approval, the study end date is deemed to be the date of last data capture.
12 Direct Access to Source Data

The investigator(s)/institution(s) will permit trial-related monitoring, audits and MREC review, providing direct access to source data/documents.

Trial participants will be informed of this during the informed consent discussion and will consent to provide access to their medical notes.

13 Ethics

The Sponsor will ensure that the trial protocol, PIS, consent form, GP letter and submitted supporting documents have been approved by the MREC, prior to any participant recruitment. The protocol, and all substantial amendments, will be documented and submitted for ethical approval prior to implementation. Before a site can enrol participants into the trial, the PI or designee must apply for and be granted NHS permission from their Trust (R&D). It is the responsibility of the PI (or designee) at each site to ensure that all subsequent amendments gain the necessary approval. This does not affect the individual clinician’s responsibility to take immediate action if thought necessary to protect the health and interest of individual participants. Within 90 days after the end of the trial, the CI/Sponsor will ensure that the MREC is notified that the trial has finished. If the trial is terminated prematurely, those reports will be made within 15 days after the end of the trial. The CI will supply the Sponsor with a summary report of the clinical trial, which will then be submitted to the MREC within one year after the end of the trial.

14 Monitoring Requirement for the Trial

Monitoring of BASIL-2 will ensure compliance with GCP. A risk proportionate approach to the initiation, management and monitoring of BASIL-2 will be adopted and outlined in the trial-specific risk assessment.

15 Oversight Committees

15.1 TMG

The TMG will comprise the CI, other lead investigators (clinical and nonclinical) and members of the BCTU. The TMG will be responsible for the day-to-day running and management of BASIL-2. It will convene at least once a month, and more frequently when required.
15.2 TSC

An independent TSC will provide overall supervision for the BASIL-2 and advice to the CI. The ultimate decision regarding the feasibility of the trial lies with the TSC. Further details of TSC functioning are presented in the TSC Charter.

DMC

An independent DMC will meet approximately 6 months after the trial opens; the frequency of further meetings will be dictated in the DMC charter. The DMC will consider data using the statistical analysis plan and will advise the TSC.

16 Finance

The NIHR HTA Programme is funding this trial.

17 Indemnity

This is a clinician-initiated study. The Sponsor (University of Birmingham) holds Public Liability (negligent harm) and Clinical Trial (negligent harm) insurance policies, which apply to this trial. Participants may be able to claim compensation, if they can prove that the University of Birmingham has been negligent. However, as this clinical trial is being carried out in a hospital setting, NHS Trust and Non-Trust Hospitals have a duty of care to the patients being treated. Compensation is only available via NHS indemnity in the event of clinical negligence being proven. University of Birmingham does not accept liability for any breach in the hospital’s duty of care, or any negligence on the part of hospital employees. Participants may also be able to claim compensation for injury caused by participation in this clinical trial without the need to prove negligence on the part of University of Birmingham or another party. Participants who sustain injury and wish to make a claim for compensation should do so in writing in the first instance to the CI, who will pass the claim to the Sponsor’s Insurers, via the Sponsor’s office. There are no specific arrangements for compensation made in respect of any SAE occurring though participation in the trial, whether from the side effects listed, or others yet unforeseen.

Hospitals selected to participate in this trial shall provide clinical negligence insurance cover for harm caused by their employees and a copy of the relevant insurance policy or summary should be provided to University of Birmingham, upon request.
18 Dissemination and Publication

The CI will coordinate dissemination of data from BASIL-2. All publications and presentations, including abstracts, relating to the main trial will be authorised by the BASIL-2 TMG. The results of the analysis will be published in the name of the BASIL-2 Collaborative Group in a peer reviewed journal (provided that this does not conflict with the journal’s policy). All contributors to the trial will be listed, with their contribution identified. Trial participants will be sent a summary of the final results of the trial, which will contain a reference to the full paper. All applications from groups wanting to use BASIL-2 data to undertake original analyses will be submitted to the TMG for consideration before release. To safeguard the scientific integrity of BASIL-2, trial data will not be presented in public before the main results are published without the prior consent of the TMG.

19 Statement of Compliance

The trial will be conducted in compliance with the approved protocol, the principles of Good Clinical Practice (GCP), the UK Data Protection Act and the National Health Service (NHS) Research Governance Framework for Health and Social Care (RGF).
20 References


