

Visit 1

**Screening:**  
patients planned for elective median or  
transverse laparotomy  
n = 800

n = 100 fulfilling exclusion criteria  
n = 50 not compliant  
n = 50 no informed consent

to be allocated to trial  
n = 600

Visit 2

**Randomization:**  
between or at visit 1 - day of operation

R

sterile surgical dressings  
n = 300

circular plastic wound protector  
n = 300

Visit 3

**Surgery:**  
intervention and measurement  
of core body temperature

**Surgery:**  
intervention and measurement  
of core body temperature

Visit 4 - 8

**blinded SSI assessment:**  
at postOP day  
2, 4, 6, 8, 10-14

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at postOP day  
2, 4, 6, 8, 10-14

n = 42 lost to F/U

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Visit 9

**blinded SSI assessment:**  
at postOP day  
30-45

**blinded SSI assessment:**  
at postOP day  
30-45

to be analysed  
n = 258

to be analysed  
n = 258