

Limb Lengthening Surgery in Turkey

Due Diligence Report

Covering: Become Taller Clinic, Wanna Be Taller,
and the broader Istanbul market

March 2026

Research conducted via Gemini Deep Research, Perplexity,
and manual source verification

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Critical Safety Finding

A patient died at Wanna Be Taller. The Guardian (August 2025) confirmed a Saudi national died from a pulmonary embolism 16 days post-surgery. A second patient survived the same complication. The clinic acknowledged both incidents (2 out of approximately 700 patients).

Industry Structure

Every “clinic” in this market is a tourism agency, not a hospital. They contract surgeons and rent operating theater time at private hospitals. This is the universal model in Turkey for international patients seeking cosmetic limb lengthening.

Can You Bypass Agencies?

Yes. Major hospitals have International Patient Centers with translators and coordinators:

- **Acibadem** (Maslak, Altunizade) — JCI accredited
- **American Hospital** — Ultra-premium; home to Prof. Mehmet Kocaoğlu
- **Medical Park** — JCI accredited, large capacity
- **Liv Hospital** — Premium
- **BHT Clinic Istanbul Tema** — JCI accredited, 450 beds

Going direct skips the agency markup (\$5k–15k) but means arranging your own 3-month accommodation, physiotherapy, and transport.

Public / University Hospitals

Not available for cosmetic lengthening. State hospitals (Baltalimanı, Cerrahpaşa) handle pathological cases only (dwarfism, trauma, congenital deformity). Leading professors operate privately for cosmetic cases.

Clinic Comparison

Become Taller Clinic

Legal Entity

Company	New City Clinic Eğitim Sağlık Danışmanlık Turizm Ltd. Şti.
Trading as	New City Health Travel Agency
TÜRSAB License	#17666
Tax ID	6311911769 (Bakırköy Tax Office)
Classification	Health tourism intermediary (not a hospital)

Verified Addresses

Function	Address	District
Legal/Tax HQ	Nivo Ataköy B Blok, Çobançeşme E-5 Yan Yol Cad. No:12-2, Door 83	Bakırköy
Clinic (physio)	Batışehir complex	Bağcılar
Surgery (2025–)	Özel Avrupa Hospital, Eski Edirne Cd. No:1338	Arnavutköy
Surgery (2020–25)	Özel Rami Hastanesi, Cuma Mah. Talimhane Cad. No:13	Eyüpsultan

Debunked addresses:

- **Şişli** (website claim) — no evidence of operations there
- **Be Yaz Center, Avcılar** (Lyfboat listing) — belongs to Wanna Be Taller

Lead Surgeon: Op. Dr. İbrahim Mustafa Çimen

- Hacettepe University (2006), residency Ankara Dışkapı (2006–2011)
- Istanbul Medical Chamber + TOTBİD member
- “Doctor of the Year” 2013 (Ministry of Health)
- **No peer-reviewed publications found**
- 8 short stints (1–2 years) at private hospitals; no academic career
- Contracted surgeon, not a clinic employee

Team: 7 people (1 surgeon, 1 nurse, 2 physiotherapists, 3 admin/marketing)

Reputation

- No Trustpilot page; no independent reviews found
- Marketing via paid press releases only (MarketerMedia, StreetInsider)
- Domain registered 2024-03-22 (less than 2 years old, Cloudflare privacy-shielded)
- LLForum: neutral-to-positive on Dr. Çimen; some astroturfing suspected

Pricing (USD)

Method	Price
LON	\$31,000
Fitbone 20	\$51,000
Fitbone 3	\$56,000
Precice 2	\$62,000
Quad LON	\$83,000
Quad Precice	\$114,000

Wanna Be Taller

Legal Entity

Company	Bul Sağlık Danışmanlık ve Turizm Ltd. Şti.
Trading as	Medzonia Travel Agency
TÜRSAB License	#13226
Tax ID	1880965894 (Avcılar Tax Office)
Trade Registry	Istanbul Chamber of Commerce #190871-5
Incorporated	May 2, 2019

Founder: İbrahim Algan — former patient (161 cm → 173 cm via 2 surgeries). Studied Psychological Counseling. Not a medical professional.

Address: Cihangir Mah. E5 Karayolu üzeri Beyaz Center B Blok No:51, Avcılar, Istanbul

Surgery Hospital: BHT Clinic Istanbul Tema Hospital

- Atakent, 221. Sk. No:18 B, 34307 Küçükçekmece/Istanbul
- JCI accredited (7th edition), LEED Gold certified
- 450 beds, 18 operating rooms (2 hybrid)

Lead Surgeon: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yunus Öç

- Istanbul University (2008), residency Şişli Etfal (2009–2014)
- Associate Professor (Doçent) — academic title verified
- **Publications verified** — SCI-E indexed journals
- Google Scholar profile exists
- Istanbul Medical Chamber + TOTBİD member

Sub-brand: HeightReduction.com (limb shortening) — same team, same doctor

Team: 20–28 people

Reputation

- Trustpilot: 4.0/5 (6 reviews — low count)
- Real press: The Guardian (2022, 2025), Business Insider, iNews UK
- **Guardian coverage mentions the patient death**; clinic uses the logos anyway
- Reddit (r/limblengthening): mixed-to-skeptical
- Domain registered 2017-07-21 (8+ years, Turkish registrar)

Pricing (USD, 2026)

Method	Price
LON	\$26,400
Fitbone	\$54,000
Precice 2	\$58,000

Pricing trend: Precice nearly doubled from ~\$40k (2020) to \$58k (2025) due to NuVasive hardware costs.

Head-to-Head Comparison

	Become Taller	Wanna Be Taller
Legal entity	New City Clinic Ltd.	Bul Sağlık Ltd.
Incorporated	Unknown (domain 2024)	May 2019 (domain 2017)
TÜRSAB license	#17666	#13226
Founder transparency	Unknown owner	İbrahim Algan (public)
Surgeon rank	Op. Dr. (Specialist)	Doç. Dr. (Assoc. Prof.)
Publications	None	SCI-E indexed
Surgery hospital	Özel Avrupa (no JCI)	BHT Clinic Tema (JCI)
Team size	~7	20–28
Patient count	300+ (claimed)	700+ (claimed)
Trustpilot	No page	4.0/5 (6 reviews)
Independent press	None (paid only)	The Guardian, BI
Safety incidents	None reported	1 death (PE)
LON price	\$31,000	\$26,400
Precice 2 price	\$62,000	\$58,000

The Academic Tier (Bypass Agencies)

These surgeons can be contacted directly through their hospital's international patient department.

Surgeon	Hospital	Why Notable
Prof. Dr. Mehmet Ko-caoğlu	American Hospital	Former Maryland LLC, globally recognized
Prof. Dr. Yüksel Yurttaş	Esencan International	800+ cases
Prof. Dr. Muharrem Inan	Ortopediatri	Pediatric + adult pioneer
Prof. Dr. Metin Kucukkaya	Various	Cable-transport innovator

Market Pricing Overview (Turkey, 2025–2026)

Method	Agency Pkg	Hospital Direct	USA	Germany
LON	\$23k–36k	\$18k–25k	—	—
Precice 2	\$45k–65k	\$35k–48k	\$90k–150k	\$60k–90k
Fitbone	~\$54k	\$40k+	—	\$60k+
Ilizarov/Holyfix	\$15k–20k	\$10k–15k	—	—

Precice Stryde: Discontinued globally (corrosion issues). **Red flag** if any clinic offers it.

Precice Max: FDA approved (USA), not widely available in Turkey yet.

Direct Hospital Booking

Major Istanbul hospitals have **International Patient Departments (IPDs)** that function as internal agencies—providing end-to-end coordination, translation, and visa support at no additional cost beyond medical fees.

Hospital Contact Directory

Hospital	Surgeon	Contact
American Hospital	Prof. Kocaoğlu	international@vkfah.org, +90 444 3 777
Acibadem	Various	acibademinternational.com (form)
Esencan Hospital	Prof. Yurttas	info@dryukselyurttas.com, WA: +90 533 973 5289
Medical Park	Various	international@medicalpark.com.tr
Liv Hospital	Orthopedic Dept.	int.livhospital.com (form)

Prof. Kocaoğlu also has a private office at Unimed Center, Fulya/Şişli (drmehmetkocaoglu@gmail.com). Online booking often shows “no slots”—direct email/phone required.

Prof. Yurttas has a personal website (dryukselyurttas.com) and WhatsApp. His team handles packages (accommodation, transport) directly.

What’s Included (and What’s Not)

Included in hospital quote: Surgical fees, operating room, implant hardware, hospital stay (5–7 days + companion), pre-op tests, airport transfers, in-hospital translation.

Excluded:

- Extended accommodation (3-month distraction phase)—must rent apartment
- Outpatient physiotherapy (months of daily rehab)
- Complications—requires mandatory insurance (see below)
- Post-discharge medications
- Nail removal surgery (1–2 years later)

Direct booking cost estimates: LON \$18k–30k, Precice 2 \$38k–55k, Fitbone \$50k+.

Visa and Residence

- **Tourist visa:** 90 days within 180-day period. EU/UK visa-exempt; US/CA/AU need e-Visa.
- **Beyond 90 days:** Must obtain a **Short-Term Residence Permit** for medical treatment. Cannot do a “visa run.”
- **Permit requirements:** Hospital letter (signed by head physician), admission proof, bank statements, valid health insurance, notarized rental contract.
- **Timing:** Apply within first 30 days of arrival, before visa expires.

Mandatory Complication Insurance (Jan 2026)

Effective January 1, 2026, all international surgical patients in Turkey must hold **Complication Insurance**. Covers revision surgeries, infection treatment, and complication-related costs (up to €2,000–30,000 depending on plan). Valid 6 months post-operation. Agencies bundle this automatically; direct patients must verify the hospital IPD arranges it. **Ensure policy covers “Intervention in Native Country”** if planning to leave early.

Direct vs. Agency Comparison

	Direct Booking	Agency Booking
Cost	Lower medical, but à la carte extras add up	Higher upfront, “all-inclusive”
Control	Full (surgeon choice, accommodation)	Limited to agency partners
Support	High medical (IPD), low logistical	High logistical (shuttles, handlers)
Risk	“On your own” for non-medical issues	Agency acts as buffer/fixer
Best for	Savvy travelers wanting specific surgeons	Patients nervous about navigating Istanbul alone

Independent Physiotherapy

Rehabilitation Protocol

Distraction phase (first 2–3 months): Physio required **daily** (5–7 days/week). Focus on aggressive stretching (hamstrings, quads, Achilles), range of motion, and controlled weight-bearing. Risk of contractures if physio is insufficient.

Consolidation phase (3–6 months after lengthening stops): Reduces to 2–3 days/week. Focus on gait training, muscle strengthening, and balance.

Equipment

- Walking aids (Zimmer frame → crutches)
- CPM machine rental: ~500 TL/day (~\$15)
- Stretching bands/straps
- Wheelchair for longer distances

Finding a Physiotherapist

Platforms:

- **DoktorTakvimi** (dokortakvimi.com)—leading medical directory. Filter by district, English-speaking, read reviews.
- **Armut.com**—service marketplace. Post specific request (“Post-op limb lengthening rehab, English speaking, home visit in Beşiktaş”), receive quotes from verified physios.

Credentials: Look for **Fzt.** (Fizyoterapist) or **Uzm. Fzt.** (specialist with master’s). Avoid “masseur” listings. Ask about “boy uzatma rehabilitasyonu” (limb lengthening rehab) experience. A 2024 regulation now allows independent physio clinics.

Costs (2025–2026)

Type	Per Session	Monthly (20 sessions)
Independent / home visit	1,200–3,000 TL (\$35–90)	\$700–1,750
Hospital outpatient	\$50–100	\$1,000–2,000
Luxury / sports rehab	\$150+	\$3,000+

3-month program estimate: \$2,100–5,250 total (tapering frequency). Bulk discount: 10–20% off for monthly upfront payment.

Recommended Clinics

1. **Fizyonet** (Ataşehir, Asian side)—manual therapy specialist, English-speaking staff
2. **Acıbadem Sports** (Fulya, European side)—FIFA Medical Centre, AlterG anti-gravity treadmill
3. **Romatem** (Fulya, Nişantaşı, Bostancı)—dedicated PT chain, JCI accredited, robotic rehab
4. **Pain Free Nişantaşı** (European side)—specialist manual therapy, one-on-one
5. **Ortospor** (European side)—sports injuries + orthopedic rehab

Home-Visit Physiotherapy

Common in Istanbul due to heavy traffic. Cost: 1,500–3,000 TL/session (travel fee included). Highly recommended for first 4–6 weeks when mobility is severely limited.

Platforms: MedicalFizyo (medicalfizyo.com), Viaziz (viafiz.com), Armut.com.

Hydrotherapy

Excellent for limb lengthening—buoyancy reduces weight-bearing stress.

- **Istanbul Medikal Termal** (Tuzla, Asian side)—thermal rehabilitation center
 - **Acıbadem Fulya Sports Center** (European side)—underwater treadmills, resistance jets
 - **HidroFiz** (European side)—dedicated hydrotherapy facility
- Avoid public swimming pools**—hygiene risk at pin sites, no accessibility features.

Strategic Recommendation

1. Choose accommodation near a major rehab center (Fulya/Beşiktaş or Ataşehir)
2. Interview 3–4 physios via DoktorTakvimi/Armut *before* surgery
3. Month 1: home-visit physio (~45,000 TL total)
4. Months 2–3: transition to clinic (Acıbadem Sports or Romatem) for hydrotherapy + gait training
5. Pre-arrange CPM machine rental and walker before hospital discharge

Known Red Flags in the Turkish Market

1. **Ghost surgeons** — agency promises a professor, substitutes a junior on surgery day
2. **Hardware fraud** — knock-off nails instead of genuine NuVasive Precice (demand serial number from the implant box)
3. **Patient abandonment** — clinic ceases communication when complications arise post-return
4. **Malpractice is near-impossible** to pursue as a foreigner in Turkey
5. **Fly-in-fly-out risk** — patients who leave Turkey early have significantly higher complication rates

Patient Due Diligence Checklist

1. Verify surgeon's TOTBID or LLRS (Limb Lengthening and Reconstruction Society) membership

2. Check agency's International Health Tourism Authorization Certificate on the HealthTürkiye platform
3. Confirm surgery at a **JCI-accredited hospital** with a full ICU
4. Demand to see the **implant box and serial number** before surgery to verify genuine NuVasive hardware
5. Ensure the contract explicitly states who covers costs in case of complications (infection, non-union, revision surgery)
6. Plan to stay **2–3 months minimum** in Turkey (distraction phase + early consolidation)
7. Do not book based on social media presence — verify the surgeon independently through medical registries and academic databases

Open Questions

- What is the exact address within the Batışehir complex (Become Taller operational clinic)?
- Does Become Taller hold Ministry of Health authorization beyond its TÜRSAB tourism license?
- What would Acıbadem or American Hospital quote directly for Precice 2 (bypassing all agencies)?
- Can Prof. Kocaoğlu's track record be independently verified through his Maryland LLC tenure?
- Are there published complication rate studies specific to Turkish limb lengthening clinics?