Reviewer’s report

Title: Gray-scale ultrasound volar and dorsal additive scores follow the trend of disease activity in rheumatoid arthritis

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Reviewer: Esperanza Naredo

Reviewer’s report:

The study by Vlad et al is interesting and well designed. It adds useful information to the ultrasound assessment of synovitis. However, the authors should address some relevant points to improve the quality of the article.

Major comments

1. Methods. Doppler settings should be mentioned.
2. Results and conclusion. Although the results showed that MCP volar aspect was more sensitive than dorsal aspect for detecting synovitis, it does not mean that volar examination can replace dorsal or both as the authors state. Please delete this statement. In fact, according to the results, if only volar examination is performed, 127 inflamed joints are lost. It would have been more interesting to reduce the number of examined joints demonstrating a similar sensitivity for detecting inflammation.
3. Results and conclusion. The correlation coefficients between the synovitis scores and clinical parameters that the authors obtained are not enough high to consider a strong correlation (usually r > 0.7) between them. Please eliminate strong from the conclusion. In addition, the referee does not see significant differences between dorsal and volar correlation as the authors state.

Minor comments

ES and EPj are not clearly explained in the text and table 5.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'