Reviewer's report

Title: Night-time splinting after fasciectomy or dermo-fasciectomy for Dupuytren's contracture: a pragmatic, multi-centre, randomised controlled trial

Version: 1 Date: 5 April 2011

Reviewer: Tara Packham

Reviewer's report:

General comments:
Appreciated seeing a pragmatic RCT design applied to a common practice in rehabilitation in an adequately powered study.

Discretionary Revisions:
1. Background section, paragraph 5: Study purpose stated clearly, but would like to see a clear statement of what the primary focus is (and how that ties to the outcome measures chosen)

2. Methods section: Outcome assessment subsection 1st paragraph – suggest changing wording from “The questionnaire was posted to patients…” to “The questionnaire was mailed to patients…”

3. Discussion section: paragraph 2 - consider using "representative" instead of "proximate"

Minor Essential Revisions:
4. Discussion section: Results compared total active extension and total active flexion – need to address a) still unknown if differences in passive motion in splint vs. no splint group and b) composite measures do not allow examination of whether splints are more helpful for PIP contracture vs. MCP contracture vs. combined losses

Major Compulsory Revisions:
none

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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.