Reviewer’s report

Title: A comparison of ultrasound and clinical examination in the detection of flexor tenosynovitis in early rheumatoid arthritis

Version: 1 Date: 29 September 2010

Reviewer: ingrid moller

Reviewer’s report:

There is a very important area of investigation. Congratulations on your efforts. I have some questions and comments:

1- Did the patients have RA as stated in your title?, what is your definition of poliartritis? (Laboratory test?, constitutional symptoms?)

2- The study is looking at patients with early RA but you have patients that exceed 54 months, please clarify "early RA"

3- There seems to be a confusion regarding the number of patients and flexor tendons scanned. eg. 33 patients were included in the study but only 160 flexor tendons were scanned of a potential 264 flexor tendons. Why?

4- How many of the 33 patients included actually have RA?

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: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests