Reviewer's report

**Title:** The ANKLE TRIAL (ANKLE TReatment after Injuries of the Ankle Ligaments): what is the benefit of external support devices in the functional treatment of acute ankle sprain? : a randomised controlled trial

**Version:** 4  **Date:** 19 December 2011

**Reviewer:** Carl J Lombard

**Reviewer's report:**

The authors now provide more detail on the statistical analysis. The description still reads as if it will be analysed as a superiority trial. I would like to see the following detail:

The treatment groups will be compared using an ANOVA test with post hoc pairwise comparisons (with Bonferrini correction). The adjusted confidence intervals from these contrasts will be used to test for non-inferiority using the prespecified non-inferiority margin.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

'I declare that I have no competing interests'