Reviewer's report

Title: Effect of Anterior Translation of the Talus on Outcomes of Three-Component Total Ankle Arthroplasty

Version: 3 Date: 7 May 2013

Reviewer: Ákos Kynsburg

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Major Compulsory Revisions (which the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached):

LINES 110-111: A question on postoperative management: did all patients follow the same postoperative regime? Did this include proprioceptive training? If yes, when did they start with it? How intense (sessions per week and minutes per session) and for how many weeks? Were patients instructed to continue proprioceptive training on themselves after finishing the postoperative physiotherapy? Considering the role of active stabilizers around the ankle, this may have a significance in the restoration of anterior translation.

LINES 123: Please state, whether radiographs were weightbearing or not! (At some figures it is well stated, although not all of the radiographic pictures are conclusive on this question.)

LINES 179-180: The occurrence of 3 Broström procedures in Group B (ankles without preoperative anterior translation) sounds surprising – I would not await the necessity of any ligamentous stabilizing procedures in this group.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

FIGURES 5, 6 & 7: It would be more appropriate to indicate months at later follow-ups as well – the term “final follow-up” on a time-scale is not acceptable. Even with less data available for longer follow-ups (which can lead to a widening of the confidence interval), I recommend to indicate a detailed time-scale with 12, 24, 36 and 48 months follow-ups.

Discretionary Revisions (which are recommendations for improvement but which the author can choose to ignore)

TABLE 1: It may be interesting to give a comment on why - in the authors’ opinion – the operation time is significantly higher in Group A than in Group B.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable
Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.