Reviewer's report

Title: Substitutes of structural and non-structural autologous bone grafts in hindfoot arthrodeses and osteotomies: A systematic review

Version: 2 Date: 19 December 2012

Reviewer: Gabrielle Tuijthof

Reviewer's report:

• Major Compulsory Revisions
  • Page 6: Line 1: The authors state that the scale was ‘adopted and modified’ please explain why this was absolutely necessary and what was modified. Else use the quality assessment scale as presented in literature should be used, since modified scales are difficult to compare.
  • Page 8, Line 18: Please check I the word ‘allograft’ should be ‘autograft’ in this sentences, as now two times odds for non-structural allografts are presented in this paragraph.
  • Tables 1 and 2: The tables are difficult to read please redesign them such that most important items can be directly seen, not all data presented are relevant for your study goal.

• Minor Essential Revisions
  • Page 4, Line 13: ‘tantatalum’ should be ‘tantalum’
  • Page 6, Line 11 & 13: Please add references to the DerSimonian-Laird random effects model and Egger’s regression test.
  • Throughout the text please use one term for autograft / autologous graft and one term for allograft / substitute

• Discretionary Revisions
  • Page 6, Line 17: consider to start new section ‘Results’ at this point

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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