Reviewer's report

Title: Reproducibility of and sex differences in common orthopaedic ankle and foot tests in runners

Version: 3 Date: 2 March 2014

Reviewer: Takashi Nagai

Reviewer's report:

I would like to thank the authors for their time and effort on revising the manuscript. My initial comments have been well addressed. I am very impressed with their responses and revised sentences. The manuscript is clear and easy to read. However, there are still some mistakes and inconsistency in their writing. I will point out as much as I can; but, the authors will ultimately be responsible for their writing. As moving forward toward publication, I will strongly encourage the authors to review their writing thoroughly.

Major Compulsory Revisions: (please check the values. - if it is just a typo (where to put a decimal, it is minor revision.)

Please check the values for NDT Stance and NDT Single Limb-Stance in the TABLE 2. Should they be in millimeter (mm)? If so, should NDT Stance be 6.0(sd2.7), 6.0(2.8), 6.0(2.8)? The same comment for NDT Single Limb-Stance.

SD values for AJD test and MTP 1 test should have one decimal. Please round them to the nearest 1/10 of a degree.

Minor Essential Revisions:

TABLE 1: Each table has different style. Please make all tables consistent. The TABLE 3 is probably the best table to follow. Total, males, females will be in the first row. The second row should contain "Mean +- SD" as seen in the TABLE 3. Then, each row should be the following:

Age (yr)
Weight (kg)
Height (cm) - please change from meters to centimeters
BMI (kg/m2) - "2" should be superscript
Running experience (yr) - please be sure to keep "mean+-SD" instead of "median; range".
Weekly training frequency (days) - the same comment on "mean+-SD" as above.
Weekly running distance (km) - the same comment on "mean+-SD" as above.

TABLE 2
"Total (n = 42)" instead of "Total population (n = 42)"
Headings should match TABLE 3. For example.
NDT Stance (mm)
NDT SL-S (mm)
AJD-test (degree symbol)
MTP1-test (degree symbol)

As stated in the major essential revisions, please check the units on NDT Stance and NDT SL-S. AJD-test and MTP1-test should contain only one decimal.

TABLE 3
Headings:
Males (n = 22), Females (n = 20)

You do not need to include mean difference and 95% CI. However, if you would like to keep them, please check for errors. For NDT Stance and NDT SL-S, the mean difference between males and females should be 1.8 and 1.9, respectively?

P-Value contains two decimals on the first three variables while the MTP1-test has three decimals. It is the authors' reference. But, please be consistent.

Footnote: please change to "between males and females" instead of "between men and women"

FIGURE 1:
Step2: please change to "height" instead of "length".

REFERENCE: please be consistent on the format. One obvious inconsistency is journal names. Please keep their journal abbreviation. If you are not too certain, you can check on the PubMed website.

24. J Clin Epidemiol
29. Phys Ther

**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.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.