Reviewer's report

Title: The Patella pro study - Effect of a knee brace for treatment of the patellofemoral pain syndrome (PFPS): Design of a randomized clinical trial [DRKS-ID: DRKS00003291]

Version: 1  Date: 3 October 2013

Reviewer: James Selfe

Reviewer's report:

Minor Essential Revisions

1. The incidence statistic of 22/1000 is specific to a military population – that different populations have differing incidences needs to be made clear - see Callaghan M & Selfe J (2007) Has the incidence or prevalence of patellofemoral pain in the general population in the United Kingdom been properly evaluated? Physical Therapy in Sport 8 (1) 37-43


3. Paragraph 7 focusses on patellar taping which does not seem particularly relevant to this paper. I would suggest replacing this with the proprioceptive perspective mentioned in my previous comment.

4. I would have some concern regarding the age range. At the upper end in the 40-50 years age there may well be a number of participants who have developed OA; these could form a distinct population in terms of a differential response. Most international studies on adult PFP have an upper age limit of 39 or 40. I would suggest that the authors review this and either provide justification for an upper age limit of 50 or provide more specific detail as to how they will ensure patients with early OA problems are not included in the study

5. The second paragraph of the discussion focuses on patellar taping which I feel should be removed and replaced with some discussion of the neuromotor or proprioceptive effects of braces.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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