Reviewer's report

Title: Changes in the size and prevalence of calcaneal spurs in men & women: random population from trauma clinic

Version: 1 Date: 23 September 2013

Reviewer: Jill Halstead

Reviewer's report:

Dear Author

Well done in collating this large cohort of radiographic heel spurs, this would be the first study of its kind in the UK. As such, I would recommend this article for publication with some major compulsory revisions.

Abstract

Re-phrase sentence on line no. 33 - "There was no large plantar spurs in individuals <40 years of age and only 2% for the Achilles"

To something more positive for e.g..

The size of the spurs were more frequent with age, as large spurs were more prevalent in older individuals (40 to 79 years).

Line 66 reference - please check the referencing style in the publication guidelines which is numerical in the text.

Results

The structure of the results lacks cohesion - you have specified a section for plantar spurs (line 144) and referred to figures 2,3,4. You have not repeated this for Achilles spur. I would suggest you create a heading for Achilles spur and match the level of detail in the plantar spur.

Please move sentence (line 151 to 152) into the plantar spur heading.

Line 145 to 150 includes results describing spurs. I would suggest that this is an important and novel aspect to the research and to add in a table documenting the size and frequencies in different ages groups. I would suggest you can remove figure 2 to account for space as this graph does not add value to the results.

The discussion section discusses the pathology of spurs in depth - while this is informative, this research paper is primary an epidemiology study. The discussion section lacks adequate comparison to the previous epidemiology literature (specifically Riepert et. al. 1995). Especially considering you are reporting a larger prevalence than other countries.

Figures

Please remove figure 2 it adds no value to the results. Instead please report the
details in the text.

**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