Reviewer's report

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

Version: 1 Date: 5 November 2013

Reviewer: Elisabeth Ball

Reviewer's report:

- Discretionary Revisions
  grammatical errors:

Introduction
 LINE 56/57 Remove either 'the' or change spurs to singular
 Line 60 Insert 'a' before 'belief'

Materials and Methods
 Line 108 Rewrite the English as it doesn't read well

Results
 Line 131 Remove the comma and insert 'and'
 Line 134 On this line and everywhere where male or female patients are refer to, either add the word 'patients' after male or female or talk about males or females, eg line 154, 155, 159 etc
 Line 150 became instead of become
 line 157 spearman's
 line 158 groups

Discussion
 Line 168 Insert 'an' after from and perspective not prospective
 Line 177/8 Rewrite the English as it does not read well
 Line 183 Correct the wording
 line 192 use 'as' instead of 'for'
 Line 212, remove 'and'
 Line 217 spur should be singular

- Discretionary Revisions
  It might be worth mentioning plantar fasciitis specifically in the introduction and the fact that spurs have traditionally been associated with this condition although there is no sound evidence hence re enforcing the need for this study
also it would be worth adding in the discussion that a future study which would correlate clinical findings/symptoms with the data collected in the current study would add greatly to the knowledge base in terms of establishing the significance of spurs

Otherwise I think a very interesting article and one of the major strengths is the large sample size and the randomisation procedure

**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