Reviewer's report

Title: Optimal Sampling Of MRI Slices For The Assessment Of Knee Cartilage Volume For Cross-Sectional And Longitudinal Studies

Version: 2 Date: 19 January 2005

Reviewer: Stephen Gandy

Reviewer's report:

General
The authors have carefully reviewed the questions posed in the initial review and have submitted an improved manuscript, together with appropriate responses to the original issues raised.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
Page 4, line 7 – should this read ‘…were selected’ rather than ‘…are selected’?
Page 8, first sentence. Grammatical improvement suggested.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

General comment about lack of femoral cartilage assessment

My initial concern about the lack of femoral cartilage assessment in this paper is, in some sense, reiterated by the authors in their response letter. One of the main problems of femoral cartilage segmentation is that it does take a long time to complete, which implies that this particular cartilage compartment could actually benefit most from their analysis. However, this paper does present a new method that may interest other closely related research groups, and I acknowledge that other reasons are stated for exclusion of femoral cartilage assessments.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests