Reviewer's report

Title: Cross-cultural adaptation of the VISA-A questionnaire, an index of clinical severity for patients with Achilles tendinopathy, with reliability, validity and structure evaluations

Version: 1 Date: 2 December 2004

Reviewer: Tero Jarvinen

Reviewer's report:

General

This is interesting and well-performed and -written study on an important topic. The only true shortcoming of the study is that the authors have not tested VISA questionnaire with the functional, performance tests for ankle joint/Achilles tendon (please see Kaikkonen et al. 1994, Leppilahti et al. 1998) to see whether the score reflects the clinical outcome.

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

1. The manuscript should be shortened on introduction- and discussion-parts by deleting parts describing the treatment, symptoms etc. (Introduction; the end of the paragraph 1 and paragraph 2 completely. Discussion; pages 11-12 final/first paragraph completely. Conclusion everything until ref. # 24, please see the conclusion in the abstract). Short descriptions of the high prevalence of the Achilles tendinopathy as well as lack of scientific research on these injuries, in turn, are warranted.
2. There is no need to publish the Swedish version of the VISA-A questionnaire in paper-format. However, it should be posted in internet and the www-address should be provided in the text for those Swedish clinicians who want to take advantage of the questionnaire.
3. The references should be written in a single format throughout the text. Throughout the text, the references are sometimes given as a number in brackets [7] and then the authors might refer to the same study as (Paavola et al 2002). Please correct the references to one format.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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