Author's response to reviews

Title: Testing the proficiency in distinguishing locations with elevated plantar pressure within professional groups of foot therapists.

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Dear Sir, Madame:

We are pleased to submit our manuscript ‘Testing the proficiency in distinguishing locations with elevated plantar pressure within foot therapists’ for publication in Musculoskeletal Disorders. We think this paper is a valuable addition to the ongoing discussion about screening of feet ‘at risk’ of ulceration and off–loading therapy. This report is complementary to the manuscript ‘Comparison of foot orthoses made by podiatrists, pedorthists and orthotists regarding plantar pressure reduction in The Netherlands’ which was recently published by Musculoskeletal Disorders: 2005, 6:61 (20 December 2005).

Most important study findings:

Exact identification of locations with elevated plantar pressure through clinical evaluation is difficult. Pressures in the big toe region tend to be underestimated and are likely to be overestimated in the metatarsal regions. Besides being neglected, inaccurate identification of elevated pressure could result in mistreatment. There appears to be no difference in the proficiency in distinguishing regions with elevated plantar pressure between podiatrists, pedorthists and orthotists. The process of clinical plantar pressure screening has to be re–evaluated. The results of this study suggest that there is merit in quantitative plantar pressure measurement for clinical practice.

Yours Sincerely,

[Signature]

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