Reviewer's report

Title: The association between history of diabetic foot ulcer, perceived health and psychological distress: the Nord-Trondelag Health Study

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Reviewer: John Embil

Reviewer's report:

Iversen and colleagues have undertaken a very important study evaluating the levels of anxiety and depression, psychological well being and perceived health between persons with diabetes, with or without a history of foot ulcer, and persons without diabetes. This population based study evaluated 155 diabetic persons with a history of foot ulcer and 1339 diabetic persons without a history of foot ulcer and 63,632 non-diabetic persons. The authors confirmed that among persons with diabetes, perceived health was significantly worse among those with a history of a foot ulcer however, after multivariant adjustment, levels of anxiety and depression and psychological well being did not defer between the 2 diabetes groups. It is important to note, that among persons with diabetes, a history of foot ulcers had significant negative impact and perceived health but did not independently contribute to psychological distress. This study provides important data about the emotional and psychological well being of persons with diabetes with and without foot ulcers. This very large population based study is crisply written and has a very thorough background section which highlights psychological impact of diabetes and/or foot ulcerations. It is important to note that such published data is limited.

The authors must be commended as they have been able to perform a very large population based study providing valuable information. As submitted, the study report is crisply written, concise, but contains much valuable information. As submitted, the paper can be published without further revision.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.