Reviewer’s report

Title: Plantar calcaneal spurs in older people: longitudinal traction or vertical compression?

Version: 1 Date: 1 July 2008

Reviewer: Ravindra Puttaswamaiah

Reviewer’s report:

Dear Editor

Thank you for asking me to comment on the paper: Plantar Calcaneal Spurs in Older People: Longitudinal Traction or Vertical Compression?

The article includes the current concepts and recent data relevant to the subject. The design is scientifically sound. Although the information is not new and similar studies have been previously published, the paper looks into a specific population group which is not been previously exclusively studies.

The opening sentence in the abstract “Plantar calcaneal spurs are common, however their pathophysiology is poorly understood. Therefore, the objective of this study was to evaluate the prevalence and correlates of plantar calcaneal spurs in a large sample of older people” implies that the study is aimed at addressing the pathophysiology of the spur. Better would be “Plantar calcaneal spurs are common, and their pathophysiology is poorly understood. This study aims to evaluate the prevalence and correlates of plantar calcaneal spurs in a large sample of older people.

Study design and Methods are correctly presented.

Results: well presented.

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

Discussion: Variation of results from other studies has been appropriately discussed.

Bibliography is appropriate and according to international standards.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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