Author's response to reviews

Title: Clinical Attributes for the Conservative Gait Pattern in Diabetes

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Dr. Menz:

Thank you for forwarding the reviewers’ third round of critques and amendments. We have addressed all of them with the exception of #17. I emailed you previously on a separate cover to ask for clarification.

1. Change title to: Clinical factors associated with a conservative gait pattern in older male veterans with diabetes
2. Abstract, sentence 3 of ?Background?: change ?is? to ?was? (i.e. ?The purpose of this study was to??)
3. Abstract: ?Methods? needs to state mean, SD and range of participants? age
4. Abstract: remove capital V from veterans
5. Abstract: ?Results? ? change p=0.00 to p<0.001.
6. Abstract: ?Results?, second sentence ? remove walking speed as this is mentioned in the previous sentence
10. Main text: Place all references before punctuation.
11. Page 3: remove colon after the heading ?Background? and place 1st paragraph on line below the heading
13. Page 4: remove sentence ?Patients with diabetes presenting to podiatry clinic were?? as it is not needed given the next sentence essentially states the same thing although in a more pertinent way
15. Page 5: replace ?g? with ?gram? (i.e. ?10 gram?)
17. Page 6, paragraph 2, line 8: add full stop after use of reference [23]
20. Page 7, paragraph 1, line 11: replace ?A Priori? with ?a priori?
21. Page 7, ?Results?: remove colon after heading
22. Page 7, ?Results?: change both p=0.00 to p<0.001
23. Page 8, ?Discussion?: remove colon after heading
24. Page 8, ?Discussion?, line 3: add ?with?, i.e.: ?? compares favourably with the results??
25. Page 8, ?Discussion?, line 7 of 2nd paragraph: change ??had no conception?? to ??were unaware that??
26. Page 8, ?Discussion?, lines 5 and 6: please remove the three sentences discussing post hoc power analysis as well as Table 3 presenting post hoc power calculations. Post

27. Page 8 and 9: swap order of paragraphs 2 and 3 in the ?Discussion?
28. Page 9, line 8: change ?didn’t to ?did not?
29. Page 9, ?Conclusions?: remove colon after heading and place first paragraph on line below heading
31. Reference 18: remove ?American diabetes association? from the title of this article.
32. Table 1: change ?HgbA1c? to ?HbA1c? 
33. Table 1: rather than continually stating ?mean?, state that ?values are mean *plus/minus sign* SD unless otherwise stated? in the title. [Please note that this platform does not allow us to type the abbreviated *plus/minus sign*.] That is; ?Table 1: Descriptive characteristics (values are means *plus/minus sign* SD unless otherwise stated)?. The brackets after the name of each characteristic (e.g. ?Age?) would then just include the measurement unit, e.g. ?years? for those characteristics where a mean is reported. In addition, try to reposition the columns in the table so that the SDs are alongside the means rather than on the line below them.
34. Table 2: change all hyphens between the lower and upper confidence limits to the word ?to? (e.g. ?1.04 to 1.15?). The reason for this is that if the upper confidence limit is a negative number then you have to write a ?hyphen? followed by a ?negative? sign, which is awkward to read

We appreciate the thorough reviews from reviewers and the editorial office. Addressing these concerns has improved the quality and clarity of the paper. Thank you again for your consideration.

Best regards,
Jim