Reviewer’s report

Title: The foot posture index, ankle lunge test, Beighton scale and the lower limb assessment score in healthy children: a reliability study

Version: 1 Date: 1 November 2011

Reviewer: Anthony Redmond

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MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISIONS
1. Page 9, Para 2 and 3. I could not get the results summary here to tally at all with Tables 3 and 4. Please can you recheck and ensure that either the numbers match or, if there are differing interpretations, that in an explanation is given for any differences.

MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS
Abstract
2. Results section refers to ‘mid range disability’. It is not clear what this means to the context of the paper. This just needs clarification
3. Results line 4. Should read “Inter-rater reliability”
4. Conclusion. I recommend being more specific e.g.
   “The four measures demonstrated adequate inter and inter-rater reliability in this paediatric sample to justify their use in clinical practice.”
5. Paragraph 2.Line 6-7. I am not sure that the statement made holds true. Specificity and responsiveness can be a problem with generic QoL instruments but this is not necessarily because they have too many items e.g the EQ5D. Either rework or delete this sentence.
7. Page 6, Para 3, Delete “for assessment from a population of convenience.” As it repeats the previous sentence re the convenience sample.
8. Page 6, Para 3, Can you be explicit that ethical approval was given.

Results
10. Page 9, Para 2, Portney reference [21], needs to be reformatted – also on p10.
11. Page 9, Para 2, should read Inter-rater reliability.
12. Page 10, Para 2. You state that these were year old children but they were not all 10. Did they not range from 7-15?. Needs clarification/amendment
13. Page 11. Delete first sentence it is a repeat of p10, para 2.
DISCRETIONARY REVISIONS

14. Line 2. Suggest slight reword to read “A Cochrane review published by the...

15. Para 3, Line 3. Suggest slight reword to read “.. when and if a flatfoot is defined as pathological”

16. Para 4, Line 5. Suggest slight reword to read “This patient reported questionnaire takes in account the perceptions of both...”


18. Page 5, Para 3, Line 2. Suggest reword to read “The reliability of measures of ankle range has been...”.

19. Page 5, Para 3, Line 5. Suggest slight reword to read “…used the same to examine ankle motion in ballet dancers....”.

20. Page 6, Para 1, Line 2. Suggest slight reword to read “..have demonstrated good inter-rater reliability in adults...”.

21. Page 6, Para 2, Final sentence. Suggest deleting the final sentence. It does not relate to the data reported in this paper.

Methods

22. Page 9, Para 2, Suggest slight reword to read “The SEM was found to be low across both raters, ranging between 0.4 and 2.7. These results are detailed in Table 2.”

Conclusions.

23. Page 11. Suggest amend final sentence to read: ... “These findings indicate that all of these measures are useful...

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests