Reviewer's report

Title: Screening for foot problems in children - is this practice justifiable?

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Reviewer: Edwin J Harris

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Comments on the review of the following article:
Screening for foot problems in children - is this practice justifiable?

I have read with interest the revised manuscript, and I am happy to say that the changes made in the article by the author are quite satisfactory. I do have several comments.

My first comment starts with information contained in the last paragraph on page 7 of the revised manuscript. The author is discussing the use of BCG vaccine for the management of tuberculosis. This reviewer resides in the United States. Currently, recommendations for the use of BCG vaccine are limited to infants and children dwelling in a constant state of exposure for which there is no means of protection and for healthcare workers who are at extremely high risk for exposure and subsequent development of pulmonary tuberculosis. The author should be certain that the information contained in this paragraph is consistent with medical management in Australia, otherwise there may be letters to the editor regarding this.

The second concern is on page 8 in the paragraph dealing with cervical cancer. The author states that since 1991 when cervical cancer screening commenced in Australia the incidence of cervical cancer in women aged 20-69 years has almost halved. Does the author maintained that cancer was decreased in this patient population by screening alone, or did early detection by such things as Pap smears to detect cervical dysplasia, screening for HPV virus and early management of cervical cancer in situ result in the decrease of advanced cervical cancer? This needs to be addressed.

With regard to the word "nett": as I mentioned above, I reside in the United States. It is fully acknowledge that the Queen’s English has not been spoken here for well over 200 years. The word may be found in the Oxford dictionary, but it is not in the Webster dictionary. I fear that most people reading this article will chuckle over an apparent spelling mistake that escaped the editor.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment additionally on this article.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable
Declaration of competing interests:

I have no financial or on-financial disclosures to make regarding this topic.