Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 2 Date: 20 June 2012

Reviewer: Meredith Wilkinson

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Screening for foot problems in children – is this practice justifiable?

This rewritten manuscript is much clearer and easier to read. The paper is still lengthy however; the development of the discussion is logical and the case presented for unnecessary screening is identified and well supported. The author has also addressed many of the suggestions and queries from the reviewers and in my view has suitably justified the focus and intent of the article.

I have made a couple of further minor suggestions regarding areas of clarification although most of my remaining comments are largely formatting. There is a significant problem with the formatting of the Tables and figures.

Minor essential revisions

Pg. 5 second last line word missing ‘be’ it should read, early identification found to be beneficial.

Pg. 6 last line change the wording to: the benefits of screening justify the financial expense of undertaking the screening.

Page 8. 3rd Paragraph. It is not clear how screening reduced the incidence of cervical cancer, saving 1200 women? This needs to be clarified. Are those women who are screened found to have some form of precursor, which is removed, and therefore they do not develop cervical cancer as such?

As the article states and from memory one of the other reviewers pointed out that screening doesn’t prevent occurrence

Page 9. 1st Paragraph. Should this paragraph be rewritten and serve as an introduction under the subheading of the section on Application of Screening Principles to the Paediatric foot? It is not relevant to its current location which is in the section on Health screening in Australia.

Suggestion to commence the paragraph: The WHO principles of screening were developed in 1968 by Wilson and Junger……

Page 9. The heading Condition at the bottom of the page should be on the next page.

Page 12. The heading Test at the bottom of the page needs to be on the next page.
Page 13. Reference to Figure 3, 4 and 5. It is not clear in the text why figure 4 and 5 are cited here. Please provide a sentence outlining the purpose of what they are illustrating relevant to the context of the section on Testing.

Page 18. The heading Conclusions at the bottom of the page needs to be on the next page.

FIGURE 4. Is the inclusion of this figure necessary? Related to a comment previously made under pg. 13.

TABLE 2. 7th Row, 3rd column. Can the word improved at the end be reformatted to fit in this column on this page?

Table and Figure formatting. In the first manuscript and with this one there is a significant formatting issue with the Tables and Figures. Table 1 is located correctly. The captions for the figures come before the reference list and the figures themselves come after the reference list. I did not initially comment on this as I thought it was possibly a problem from this end, this needs rectifying.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare I have no competing interests.