Reviewer's report

**Title:** Importance and Challenges of Measuring Intrinsic Foot Muscle Strength: Review of the literature

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 20 April 2012

**Reviewer:** Karen J Mickle

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Minor issues not for publication
1. P10L3: References need to be formatted.
2. P11L6: Correct spelling for dynamometry
3. References need to be checked for consistency.
4. The year/page is incorrect for ref 45 (Spink), it should be 2010; 56:525-32.
5. The ICC values for the Mickle (2006) in Table 2 are incorrect. They should be 0.93 for the hallux and 0.92 for the lesser toes. No CI was reported.

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. P18: Include the following studies that have assessed the reliability of measuring intrinsic foot muscle size - (Cameron et al. 2008; Mickle et al. 2012)

Minor Essential Revisions
1. Very little of the text under the heading of “Diabetic Neuropathy” (p7) does not actually relate to the diabetic foot and rather discusses lesser toe deformities. I suggest combining the information relating to the toe deformities with that under hallux valgus under the heading of Toe Deformities, or, Hallux Valgus and Lesser Toe Deformities. There are several other papers that could be mentioned under the diabetic neuropathy section (van Schie et al. 2004; Greenman et al. 2005; Andreassen et al. 2009)

2. Insert appropriate reference numbers into the tables.

Discretionary Revisions
1. P19: The opening paragraph describing EMG, is not related to the review and adds unnecessary text. I suggest adding the recent paper by Kelly et al.(2012) who conducted indwelling EMG on 3 of the intrinsic muscles to the discussion.

Suggested References

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

**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