Reviewer’s report

Title: Classification of the midfoot; neutral, low arched or high arched

Version: 1 Date: 13 June 2011

Reviewer: Ian Mathieson

Reviewer’s report:

This submission constitutes a substantial revision of the original manuscript that addresses the issues expressed in the original review. The article is now appropriately focused and warrants publication.

I have no major compulsory revisions.

I have several minor essential revision:

1. The method should provide more information on the origin of the subjects. Specifically, information on the actual rather than general origin of the subjects should be provided. For example, were they accessed via a specific database, how were they contacted, and where were they brought for data collection?

2. Page 4 'procedure' paragraph: What is meant by 'definitive information'?

3. Discussion: There are several grammatical errors:
   - P.6. '...Brody reported normal amounts of ND to APPROXIMATE...' not '...to approximately...'
   - p.6. '...Previously Dahle...' line 3 of this paragraph '...from were...'. Needs revision.
   - p.6. Final paragraph line 4: '...rear foot angle measured BY experienced foot care specialists...'

It is clear that the authors intend using the measures for which they have presented normative values for prospectively investigating the association between arch height / arch movement and the development of injuries. Although the authors argue that for assessment of standing work situations measurement of arch height is sound, I have a conceptual issue with this that leads me to sound a warning: contemporary research (examples provided below) reveal the foot to be a complex multi-segmented unit, where motion does not just occur at certain sites that have classically been considered important. Therefore, focusing on the medial longitudinal arch in isolation may be flawed. As such I would urge the authors to seriously consider the inclusion of additional measures - such as the Foot Posture Index, that considers motion at additional segments - in such studies. We do not have the perfect 'foot-type' assessment tool yet, and therefore the issue of the validity of measures is one of the prime research considerations in research such as that proposed.


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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests