Reviewer’s report

Title: A novel approach to mapping load transfer from the plantar surface of the foot to the walls of the total contact cast

Version: 2 Date: 3 December 2012

Reviewer: Shan Bergin

Reviewer’s report:

Thank-you to the authors for re-submitting this paper. The paper is a lot more clear and more factually reports what has been undertaken. It is well written and a concise summary of the study.

Whilst I would be pleased to see this paper published in JFAR would the authours please consider the points below?

Minor Essential Revisions:
1. Italic font still appears throughout the paper. Can the authors replace with standard font?

Discretionary Revisions:
1. I note the authors response to my query regarding the impact bi-valving the cast may have had on the data collected. I am not convinced that bi-valving and re-taping has no effect at all on the ability of the cast to deal with tranferred load. I feel that any breach in the cast wall would have to influence the integrity of the cast in some way - and clinically we often see patients with bi-valved casts come in with the cast in poorer condition compared to those with a complete TCC. However given there is no data available that supports or refutes this one way or the other I don't feel I can insist the authors address this. The main reason for raising this as a potential issue is that my feeling is that an even greater load is potentially transfered to a cast that has not been breached and so the authors findings are perhaps an underestimate of the actual load transferred. The authors may wish to consider raising this in their discussion however it is certainly not necessity.

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 I have no competing interests.