Reviewer's report

Title: The reliability of plantar pressure assessment during barefoot level walking in children aged 7-11 years

Version: 1 Date: 15 November 2011

Reviewer: Dieter Rosenbaum

Reviewer's report:

The authors present a well-defined study on the repeatability of plantar pressure measurements in children.

- The research question posed by the authors is well defined.
- The methods appear appropriate and well described, and are sufficient details provided to replicate the work.
- The data appear sound and well controlled.
- In general, the manuscript adheres to the relevant scientific standards and the writing is acceptable.

Major Compulsory Revisions

- The authors chose a sample of children in an age range between 7 and 11 years but did not provide a rationale for this decision. It remains unclear, how the data/conclusions might be extrapolated to younger as well as older children.

- If age is considered to be a potentially influential factor for the reliability of the data, it should be interesting to analyze the data with respect to any age effects, i.e. perform some correlation analyses or age-group comparisons in order to see whether reliability improves with age - within the age range of the selected sample.

Minor Essential Revisions

- You mention twice 'the re-test participants'. Does this imply that not all subjects were tested twice? If this is the case, this should be clearly stated, including the number of re-test subjects.

- Please define the borders for the various levels of reliability that are mentioned in the abstract as well as in the discussion. What did you consider as good, moderate and poor?

- In Reference #21 Gormley et al the title does not make sense to me. Is there something missing?

- In Reference #29 it should read 'Hautmann', not 'Hautman'

Discretionary Revisions
- In the Abstract, Results: Suggest to replace 'the system' by 'the measurements’ because the reliability does not only depend on the system but also on the subjects.

- Background, last paragraph: Replace 'planter' by 'plantar’

- Methods, Procedure: 'abbreviated gait protocol' appears twice in one sentence. Delete once.

- Results or Table 1: I would prefer to see also the ranges for values of the subject characteristics.

**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:**

No conflict of interest