Reviewer's report

Title: The effectiveness of salicylic acid plasters compared with 'usual' scalpel debridement of corns: a randomised controlled trial

Version: 2 Date: 10 June 2013

Reviewer: David J Torgerson

Reviewer's report:

This is a well written paper and addresses a common problem for podiatrists. Contrary to received wisdom this study has shown that the routine use of corn plasters can be safe as well as effective for the treatment of corns. The study used a secure allocation approach and blinded follow-up. Loss to follow-up for the main outcome was equivalent and at about 10% is OK.

Minor essential revisions.

There is a mismatch between the p value in the results in the main body of the paper and the abstract - I think an extra zero has been put into the abstract results.

The paper states you use simple randomisation - is this true? With exact numbers in each group this suggests you may have used blocking if so this needs to be stated with the block size.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I was chair of the independent trial steering committee for this study and this may be perceived as a conflict of interest.