Reviewer's report

**Title:** Determinants of foot pain severity in adults with hallux valgus: a cross-sectional study

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 23 May 2014

**Reviewer:** Karen Mickle

**Reviewer's report:**

**General comments:**
This paper examined potential explanatory factors associated with foot pain in people with hallux valgus. Hallux valgus is a substantial problem, and investigation into factors that may explain associated foot pain would be welcomed by health professionals and their patients. Rather surprisingly, patient characteristics were more likely to be associated with foot pain than foot structure or function.

The authors are commended on the comprehensive nature of the study, in particular the number of variables they collected. This was a well-written manuscript.

**Major Compulsory Revisions**
1. Was eligibility for the study based on radiographic classification of HV? It is interesting that one participant was scored a 0 on the Manchester Scale, when the rater would have known that the participant had HV. Can this be clarified?
2. Please provide a written summary of the results for the “Univariate associations with foot pain VAS” – what variables were significant (without replicating the values in the table).

**Minor Essential Revisions**
1. Is the SF-36 scored out of 100? Is so, please mention.
2. What instructions were given for hallux abduction strength, was everyone able to complete the task?

**Discretionary Revisions**
1. Is there a maximal force that can be applied with the algometer? Did everyone reach a pain threshold?

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**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