Author's response to reviews

Title: Gait characteristics associated with the foot and ankle in inflammatory arthritis: a systematic review and meta-analysis

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Dr Catia Cornacchia  
Executive Editor  
BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders  

RE: Submission of Systematic Review  

Dear Dr Cornacchia  

We wish to submit a manuscript entitled “Gait characteristics associated with the foot and ankle in inflammatory arthritis: a systematic review and meta-analysis” for consideration for publication in BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders.  

This is the first systematic review with meta-analysis to be undertaken that describes specific gait characteristics in different forms of inflammatory arthritis. The findings of this review demonstrate significant reductions in walking velocity, cadence, stride length and ankle power and significant increases to forefoot plantar pressures in people with inflammatory arthritis compared to healthy controls.  

We believe that this manuscript is appropriate for publication by the BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders as it emphasises to clinicians the specific gait characteristics that increase the burden of musculoskeletal disability associated with inflammatory conditions. The manuscript has not been published elsewhere and is currently not under consideration by another journal. As the manuscript is a systematic review ethical approval and informed consent were not required.  

Thank you for considering the manuscript for publication.  

Yours sincerely,  

Matthew Carroll  
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