Reviewer’s report

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

**Version:** 2  
**Date:** 4 March 2015

**Reviewer:** Josien van den Noort

**Reviewer’s report:**

This review paper is well-written and shows a lot of relevant information. I am not an expert in review studies or IA (I am in gait analysis), but to my impression, this study is performed in a sound way and may add to the existing literature. I do have a few comments, shown below:

**Major Compulsory Revisions**
- Since 31 of the 36 included studies concerns RA, I was wondering to what extend this study adds to the review by Baan et al (2012). How many new studies (after 2012) have been included? What were the inclusion criteria for publication year?
- In the introduction section, the authors state that the study provides information about the relationship between joint diseases, impairments and compensatory strategies. In the discussion section it is shown that RA adopt an antalgic gait resulting from pain avoidance. I would expect a bit more detail on how this exactly works from a biomechanical point of view (e.g. why less ankle power? Is this related to peak plantar pressure? etc).

**Minor Essential Revisions**
- in the introduction section the pathology of different types of IA could be further explained. To a novice reader it is not very clear what differences are between RA, AS, PsA and the other diseases
- The review includes many figures as well as supplementary material. I am not sure what number of figures is allowed in the Journal. Otherwise, the authors need to limit

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

**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 that I have no competing interests