Reviewer's report

Title: The effect of concentrated bone marrow aspirate in operative treatment of fifth metatarsal stress fractures; a double-blind randomized controlled trial

Version: 4 Date: 28 April 2015

Reviewer: Luisa Trombi

Reviewer's report:

Version: 4 Date: 16 April 2015

In my opinion, this protocol could be almost ready, however there are still some details which should be furthermore clarified:

Line 27 - in the abstract the authors write “concentrated blood” but in line 133 they write “untreated blood”. I suggest to explain if peripheral blood will be centrifuged or untreated.

Line 32 - “cB+cBMA, harvested from the iliac crest” : I suggest “cB and cBMA “, because cB isn’t harvest from the iliac crest

Line 37 - “composition of osteoprogenitors in cB + cBMA” is not a secondary outcome measure

Lines 95-97- Please check the verbs: current tense or future tense?

Line 99 - I suggest to add the age (with range) of the patients

Line 102 - “Skeletally mature”. Minors are not enrolled? If yes, I suggest the authors to add a phrase like :“informed consent obtained by parents”

Line 133 - “will receive the cBMA”: I suggest to add: (4ml)

Line 135 - “2 ml will be used” instead of “2 ml is used”

Line 153 - “intramedullary” instead of “intamedullairy”

Line 192 - “inpatient’s hospitalization”: the term “Inpatient” means patients in hospital, so you could write only “prolongation of hospitalization”

Line 238 - “will be performed” instead of “was performed”

Line 239 - “will be set” instead of “was set”

Line 240 - please check the phrase:” We argue that reducing this with 2 weeks would be clinically relevant”

Line 258 - “Fisher” instead of “Fischer”

Line 262 - “depending on” instead of “depending of”

I hope these suggestions will be useful for the authors

Kind regards

Luisa Trombi
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 i have not competing interests regarding this manuscript