Reviewer’s report

Title: The added value of musculoskeletal ultrasound to clinical evaluation in the treatment decision of rheumatoid arthritis outpatients: Physician experience matters

Version: 0 Date: 08 Aug 2017

Reviewer: Adey Berhanu

Reviewer's report:

Comments:

1. Overall, a well conducted novel study that contributes valuable insight to an area that has not yet been investigated and adds useful information for the role of musculoskeletal ultrasound in clinical decision making in RA patients.

2. The strengths of this study include blinding of TR and SR and assessment of ultrasound usefulness from the perspective of both the clinician (TR and SR) as well as the patients.

3. The manuscript reports that in 20% of clinical scenarios the ultrasound findings modified the final treatment proposal, however, the characteristics of those patients was not provided. This would be pertinent information to identify patients in which ultrasound would be beneficial in clinical decision making.

4. Of the 20% of clinical scenarios in which ultrasound findings modified the final treatment proposal, what was the concurrence or consensus between the TR and SR in these instances?
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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