Author’s response to reviews

Title: Prognostic Factors for Recovery Following Acute Lateral Ankle Ligament Sprain: A Systematic Review

Authors:

Jacqueline Thompson (jacqueline.thompson@ndorms.ox.ac.uk)

Christopher Byrne (chris.byrne@plymouth.ac.uk)

Mark Williams (williams.m@brookes.ac.uk)

David Keene (david.keene@ndorms.ox.ac.uk)

Michael Schlussel (michael.schlussel@ndorms.ox.ac.uk)

Sallie Lamb (sarah.lamb@ndorms.ox.ac.uk)

Version: 4 Date: 13 Sep 2017

Author’s response to reviews:

The Editor in Chief,

BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders

13th September 2017

Dear Editor,

The revised report:

‘Prognostic factors for outcome following acute lateral ankle ligament sprain: A systematic review’

We are delighted that our manuscript has been potentially accepted for publication in your journal and have revised the manuscript in line with the journal requirements for submission.
We confirm that all authors were fully involved in the preparation of the manuscript, have read and approved the material within this manuscript, which has not been submitted for publication elsewhere.

We would also like to notify the Editor that this systematic review was produced as part of a larger study – SPRAINED (Synthesising a clinical Prognostic Rule for Ankle Injuries in the Emergency Department). In this regard, we will be submitting a more comprehensive report of this manuscript as part of a study report in the NIHR Journals Library. That account however, focused on how the evidence fed into the design of the study’s prognostic rule. We are currently in correspondence with Rix Andersen from Springer and the Grant funder – NIHR HTA to finalise the process required to sign a non-exclusive agreement.

Thank you for potentially accepting our systematic review topic for publication in BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Jacqueline Y. Thompson
On behalf of my co-authors: Dr Chris Byrne, Dr Mark A. Williams, Dr Michael Schlussel, Dr David Keene, Dr Gary Collins, Professor Sarah E. Lamb and the SPRAINED Study Group

Prognostic Factors for Outcome Following Acute Lateral Ankle Ligament Sprain: A Systematic Review

Response to the Editor

Editor Comments:

1. Please revise your manuscript to adhere to the journal submission requirements, and only include the following subheadings:

   - Background
   - Methods
   - Results
- Discussion
- Conclusions

Response:

We thank the editor for this suggestion. We have removed most section sub-headings to ensure that the subheadings in the manuscript are those put forward by the journal. However, we have left some in the results section only. This is because we think it may be difficult for readers to orientate themselves within results section of the manuscript. We would be grateful if the manuscript can accepted in this format. Background - Page 1, line 1; Methods - Page 2, line 43; Results – Page 6, line 128; Discussion - Page 16, line 275; Conclusion - Page 23, line 421.

2. Please include the email addresses of all authors on the title page of your manuscript.

Response:

We have included the email addresses of all the authors of the manuscript on the title page.

3. Thank you for provided an Authors’ contribution section. Please clarify in this section that all authors have read and approved the final manuscript.

Response:

We have included a sentence in the response letter and main manuscript, confirming that each author has read and approved the final manuscript. Page 29, line 679.

4. Please do not include the figure captions within the figure files, but instead place them at the end of the main manuscript in a section titled “Figure legends”.

Response:

We have removed the figure captions within files and placed them in the main manuscript. Page 24, line 449-453.

5. Please delete the response letter at the end of your manuscript. It is no longer needed at this stage of production.

Response:
We have included a response letter because a request was made for one in the email sent by the Editor. This can be located just after the last comment by the Editor.