Reviewer’s report

Title: An evaluation of seasonal variations in footwear worn by adults with inflammatory arthritis: a cross-sectional observational study using a web-based survey

Version: 1 Date: 25 June 2014

Reviewer: Annette Davis

Reviewer’s report:

Well done on a nice survey-based study with the seasonal approach. I think this is a good concept and there should be more research in this area.

Minor Essential Revisions

1. In the abstract, the sentence “Accessing appropriate footwear has been identified as a major barrier relating to adherence”. The term adherence needs contextualising. Adherence to what exactly?
2. At the end of the abstract, “non-adherence” to what please? (see point 1.)
3. Background, Paragraph 2 Podiatrists are “extended” members of the team. Not sure what this means. Could you please re-word?
4. Background, Paragraph 2 adherence (see point 1)
5. Background, Last paragraph. “The aim was to survey seasonal variations in footwear habits of people with inflammatory arthritis conditions in New Zealand.” This sentence is confusing and requires re-writing please, particularly surveying seasonal variations rather than participants
6. Demographics & Clinical characteristics – The survey respondents were predominantly European females. Do you mean “of European decent”? The term European could be interpreted as European born.
7. Discussion – adherence and non-adherence without context (see point 1)
8. Table 2: Type of footwear worn by respondents - Please describe what a “Jandal” is?

Discretionary Revisions

9. In the abstract there is reference to the Summer months. As NZ is in the southern hemisphere it may be prudent to say “southern hemisphere summer” or reference the summer months.
10. Background, Paragraph 2 Please add “and” between skin/nail. They are different entities and the use of the forward slash is not appropriate.
11. Conclusion – sentence 3 “We found” Re-word please. Best not to use pronouns.
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'