Reviewer's report

Title: Limited Ankle Dorsiflexion Increases the Risk for Achilles Tendinopathy in Infantry Recruits - A Prospective Cohort Study

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Reviewer: nele mahieu

Reviewer's report:

General comments
I find the article very valuable, well designed and it also includes a good discussion. A prospective study design is Always interesting and enables us to understand the mechanism of the injury better.
the statistics are good, and the methods are well chosen.

Specific comments
Line 35: can you please explain why you measured the ankle DF with the knee bent? Or did you measure them both and then decided which one to include in the article?
Line 99 – 100 you use the LSD test to get an idea of the dynamic knee valgus and therefore a possible excessive foot pronation. Are there studies that confirm that the foot pronates when the LSD test is badly performed?
Line 157: the scoring of the LSD test was real time, would it be better to capture the test on video and look at the video images afterwards? Kinovea software could then be used to measure the valgus angle more correctly.
Line 204: which imaging technique was performed?
Line 209: crepitation: isn't this a sign of peritendon involvement? How are you sure that it is a real Achilles tendinopathy and no insertional complaints of more tenosynovitis related complaints?
Line 236: could there be a reason that all the injuries occurred at the right leg?
Table 2: when I look at the WB measurements: the right ankle is less mobile than the left. However, in the non WB measurement, the right ankle is a little bit more mobile. How can you explain this?
Line 250: what about reference 11?
Line 290: maybe with video analysis in the future, the results of the LSD test would be more precise and sensitive?
Line 313, is in contradiction with line 2041 where you state that imaging is the case?

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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.