Reviewer’s report

Title: The effectiveness of extracorporeal shock wave therapy for the treatment of lower limb ulceration: a systematic review

Version: 3 Date: 24 October 2014

Reviewer: Peter Lazzarini

Reviewer’s report:

This systematic review paper investigates the effectiveness of extracorporeal shock wave therapy for the treatment of lower limb ulceration. The authors have made substantial revisions to address this reviewer’s original revision suggestions. I would like to thank the authors for their efforts in so clearly and extensively addressing these suggestions. The manuscript is now significantly improved.

I have only minor revision points I have to make at this stage are:

1. Abstract: Results: 1st Sentence. Do the authors mean "an improvement in healing time .... ", rather than what they have stated as "an increase in healing time"?

2. Abstract: Results: Last Sentence. This sentence seems like it isn't actually your results but rather part of your Conclusion. I'd suggest moving it into the first sentence of your Conclusion.

3. Discussion. The aim of the review was to investigate the effectiveness of ESWT, yet the discussion is predominately about the methodological quality of the studies. From my read really only the first sentence of the discussion touches on effectiveness. I can't help but think the Discussion needs at least a paragraph on discussing what the authors consider to be the effectiveness of the treatment itself using their findings.

Once the editors feel these points have been adequately addressed this paper should be of a standard ready for publication in JFAR. Again I congratulate the authors for the paper and look forward to it being published in JFAR once they address the above three points.

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:

Please refer to the same potential competing interests declared in my first
review.