Reviewer's report

Title: Let me Google that for you: a time series analysis of seasonality in internet search trends for terms related to foot and ankle pain

Version: 1 Date: 16 February 2015

Reviewer: Ivan Bristow

Reviewer's report:

This paper offers an interesting insight into how the internet may be harnessed as a tool for foot and ankle research. Interestingly, from a user (patient) perspective in seeking health information.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. In the introduction the authors state they hypothesized that there maybe seasonal variations. On what basis was this made?

2. Following on from the above, can the authors declare that this data was collected and reviewed prospectively, after the formulation of the hypotheses?

3. In applying search terms, can the authors clarify how mis-spelt search terms by users would have appeared / been handled by the Google tool?

4. Can the authors expand / clarify the limitations of the Google Trends tool in health research?

For example, the bias in terms of google search users only, only internet users would access this information. Also, if any changes or upgrades to the Google tool itself have been made over the years which may have affected how the data set was collected over the period of time?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.