Reviewer's report

Title: Joint space width of the tibiotalar joint in the normal foot

Version: Date: 26 February 2015

Reviewer: Robert Kidd

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of reviewing this report for the Journal of Foot and Ankle Research.

This is a simple but, in my opinion, well worthwhile contribution to the body of knowledge with regard to pedal anthropometry.

There is the odd, frankly quite minor point of English which should be addressed at an editorial level, but beyond that, I am happy for publication as it stands.

The small sample size would suggest that this is really a pilot study; ten specimens is a small sample and may well not represent the normal biological variation of these parameters. Making the assumption that this is a “work in progress”, and as such further works will be forthcoming, I would suggest that the issue of sexual dimorphism is addressed in a further study, together with a substantially increased sample size.

A further issue the authors may like to consider is that “shape analysis” in the broadest context of the expression is a very highly complex area and that there may be more effective methods in which to examine joint space; one is immediately drawn towards geometric morphometrics, by manner of example.

Notwithstanding, I recommend publication with minor editorial corrections of English and grammar.

Kind regards

Dr Robert Kidd DPodM BA(Hons) PhD

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 have no competing interests of any variety