Reviewer’s report

Title: Prevalence and microbiological characteristics of infected foot-ulcers in patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis.

Version: 2 Date: 3 June 2015

Reviewer: Robert Field

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Thank you to the authors for their responses to my initial comments. My view is that this paper is more clear to the reader.

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Discretionary Revisions

1) Page 10/11 para starting “the clinicians in this area may have high………..”
Given that two patients within the study group were being managed with biologic therapies, I suggest that reference beyond the broad association made between immunosuppression and medication is needed. My view is that discussion including the specific skin/soft tissue infection risk associated with the biologics group would be appropriate in this section. I note that this is highlighted in the supplementary material. However it is my opinion that it is better placed in the main body of the paper. This is an important message and not everyone will go to the supplementary section.

2) The Northwest standards for management of RA foot specifically make reference to infection in the context of biologic therapies p33, emphasising the need to liaise with the rheumatology team when infection suspected. Inclusion would complement the statement relating to DMARDs and infection (sentence 1, p 11).

Minor

1) Page 5/ para 2: punctuation needed after ‘….10%’

2) Page 9 / para 1: Sentence beginning “The culture results from…….” does not read well. Suggest review this to help the reader.

3) Page 11 / para 4: check punctuation for ‘….meet the clinicians rational …’

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:**

Since the original review I have become a clinical mentor to Heidi Siddle, 2nd author. I have not been involved in the paper and this has not been the subject of any discussions between us.

Beyond that, I declare that I have no competing interests.