Reviewer's report

Title: Patient perceptions of foot disability in Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis: a comparison of the Juvenile Arthritis Foot Disability Index and the Oxford Ankle Foot Questionnaire for Children.

Version: 1  Date: 20 June 2015

Reviewer: Alicia M James

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for this opportunity to review this paper. The author should be congratulated on completing a well-designed study comparing two commonly used paediatric assessment tools. I believe this manuscript will add further literature to the area of paediatric assessment and will be utilized by many professionals working in the field.

I believe this manuscript is appropriate for publication I have only a few minor revisions most grammatical required.

Minor Revision:

Abstract

Background

1. Line 3: measure the impact on well-being in child. Correction: measure the impact of well-being in children

2. Final line: JIA. Correction please spell out Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA) as it is the first time the condition has been identified in the paper.

Methods

1. The first and last line of the method is repetitive. Could I suggest final sentence becomes: The web-linked questionnaire on completion was return via email.

Full Article

Background

1. Page 3 line 8: This sentence is very long, could I suggest:

With the development of outcome measures that have been shown to be valid, reliable and sensitive to change, an objective measurement of the impact of the disease on the patient’s well-being is now possible. Validated patient reported outcome measures (PROM’s) provide quantifiable data as well as the potential to identify a meaningful change in the condition of the patient.

2. Page 3 line 12: If the above suggestion is utilised please change patient reported
outcome measure to PROM’s.

3. Page 3 line 12: This sentence is also very long addressing many issues. I would suggest the following change:

PROM’s determine the patient’s perception of their foot disease across various aspects of their life. Understanding the patient’s perspective allows treatment to be patient centred ensuring that the patient drives a goal orientated management strategy. Utilising such validated PROM’s also allows for ethical and methodological rigorous clinical governance and or research.

4. Page 4 line 8: As the methodology does not provide the validity, sensitivity and specificity and methodology of the JAFI please include here.

5. Page 5: As request above please include the validity and reliability etc. for the Oxford ankle foot questionnaire.

Method
Nil Concerns

Data Analysis
Nil Concerns

Results
1. Please note if any questionnaires were not adequately completed and therefore not utilised within the study.

2. Please note if any participants were excluded and the reason for exclusion.

Discussion
1. Please note within the manuscript the limitations of completing a survey these include selective memory; telescoping; attributing the pain experienced. It was also noted by the author that the parent assists the child with the completion of the survey. The Oxford ankle and foot questionnaire was designed for completion without the parent’s assistance. Should it be noted that the parent does have the opportunity to influence the response.

Conclusion
Nil concerns

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 declare that I have no competing interests