Reviewer’s report

Title: Custom-made foot orthoses: an analysis of prescription characteristics from an Australian commercial orthotic laboratory

Version: 0 Date: 15 May 2017

Reviewer: Keith Rome

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the manuscript. The aim of the study was to describe characteristics of custom-made foot orthosis prescriptions from an Australian podiatric orthotic laboratory. The manuscripts was very well-written and would be suitable for publication in the Journal of Foot and Ankle Research.

Overall, the manuscript is clearly written with very little commentary to add. The added value of the manuscript relates to the current understanding of practitioner's prescription patterns in Australia. The novelty of the manuscript is the use of cluster analysis to identify three prescription trends.

I agree with the authors that a limitation of this procedure does not account for other paradigms such as a cushioning and comfort. However, with an accuracy of 70% together with a very good section on its limitation, the readership will grasp the fundamental issues using this statistical approach.

Minor Discretionary Comments

1. I would like to see the authors add further comments about future directions both for the clinician and the researcher.

2. Remove any information relating to the company from Figure 1 and from the methods section.
Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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