Author’s response to reviews

Title: Categorisation of foot complaints in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) from a New Zealand cohort

Authors:

Simon Otter (s.otter@brighton.ac.uk)
Maheswaran Rohan (mrohan@aut.ac.nz)
Nicola Dalbeth (n.dalbeth@auckland.ac.n)
Kevin Davies (k.a.davies@bsms.ac.uk)
Sunil Kumar (Sunil.Kumar@middlemore.co.nz)
Peter Gow (pgow@middlemore.co.nz)
Michael Corkill (Michael.Corkill@waitematadhb.govt.nz)
Sam Panthakalam (spanthakalam@nhs.net)
Keith Rome (keith.rome@aut.ac.nz)

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Sir/Madam

RE Categorisation of foot complaints in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) from a New Zealand cohort.

We thank the reviewers’ for their helpful and insightful comments. We have undertaken the changes requested, specifically:

Reviewer #1: This is an interesting and informative paper in an area, which as the author's state, does not have a vast amount of evidence.

The paper is well structured and clear with an extensive commentary to support the findings.

We thank the reviewer for their support.
Reviewer #2: Thank you for this very interesting paper. This is clearly an under researched area and podiatry services need this information in order to justify service development for people with SLE.

Over all the paper is well written and both the method and the results are clearly articulated. The discussion creates a good reflection on the work and aligns it with the work of others in the same field.

There are some corrections that I think would enhance the quality and impact of the paper.

Although it is clear in the methods that the work was carried out in New Zealand I recommend that this is added to the title.

We have added this to the title

Page 5 line 36 - 40 perhaps the questionnaire can be added as an additional file rather than the URL being in the text.

We are happy to include the original questionnaire as a supplementary file

Page 7 line 2 VSS requires a reference and/or an explanation as to what it is.

We have added a short explanation in the methods and referred to this technique in the results

Page 7 line 45 - add in what the three categories are.

We have added the list of 3 categories

Page 10 Line 14 -21 - The work adds to previous survey work so be clear here how it adds. Perhaps compare and contrast with the previously published work. I think the emphasis on problems associated with the condition itself are covered well. Perhaps some commentary/message about how common foot problems may be problematic given the autoimmune nature of the condition.

We have added a message to this effect

Planned future research is usually communicated as something that is needed rather than what the authors are planning to do. In this respect the last two sentences need revising to reflect that.

We have revised these sentences
Figures 1 and 2 need labelling and some explanation as to how the reader is to interpret them

We have added more detailed figure legends

We are hopeful this manuscript is now acceptable for publication.

Yours Sincerely

Simon J Otter

(for & on behalf of all authors)