Reviewer’s report

Title: 'Fast Cast' and 'Needle Tenotomy' protocols with the Ponseti method to improve clubfoot management in Bangladesh.

Version: 0 Date: 03 Oct 2017

Reviewer: Stephanie Messner

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this manuscript and thank you to the authors for submitting this interesting piece of work. I found it to be a pertinent topic within the podopaediatric specialty. This paper is well written and organized. I would recommend that authors address the following points prior to publication.

Overall comments

Page 3 Lines 48-50
Could the authors provide a reference for the statement made "it has been repeatedly shown....."

Page 4 Lines 1-2
Could the authors provide references for the "level 4 evidence....."

Page 4 Lines 36-38
Could the authors add a reference for the statement made in terms of "…….found to reduce bleeding"

Page 5 Lines 36-41
Could the authors comment whether any analysis was carried out using the collated proxy indicators of affluence. There seems to be no reference made in terms of this in the discussion.

Page 6 Lines 28-34
With regards to parents' preference, was there any formal qualitative methodology employed to collect this data?

Could the authors elaborate on the French method principles?

Table 1

* Could the authors either spell out the word average or use a valid abbreviation. Either avg. or av.

* Column - Average age at start

  o Could the authors either use only days or weeks for consistency.

* For consistency within the table could the authors add SD for all RCTs?

* Morecuende (2005) - average age "?" unknown? Could the authors comment on this

  o Cast changed "5 days": is that 1/week? For consistency.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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

Acceptable

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