Reviewer’s report

Title: Surgical offloading procedures for diabetic foot ulcers compared to best non-surgical treatment: A study protocol for a randomized controlled trial

Version: 0 Date: 08 Dec 2017

Reviewer: Matthew Cichero

Reviewer's report:

I think this is a much needed but brave study, I have some significant concerns.

Ulcers plantar to the inter-phalangeal joint of the hallux: There is some, but quite limited, studies for this being a procedure for hallux ulceration. The authors need to rethink whether this is condition and/or age appropriate. Fusion of the IP joint or a Kessel-Bonney osteotomy procedure can be more appropriate and accepted primary option, particularly in the presence of a normal 1st MPJ younger active patient.

Ulcers under metatarsal heads: does this include the 1st metatarsal head? If so, again this is not a standard procedure for the 1st Met head that is plantar flexed, nor should a 1st Met head be left to heal without fixation, especially with this type of osteotomy. This needs to be clarified.

An ABPI of >0.7 leaves open debate as to whether the wound has an ischaemic element to it due to the unreliability of this test. An ABPI of >0.9 will reduce such doubt that the wound is ischaemic at all. The authors may want to consider this further inclusion/exclusion criteria for vascular disease ie ABPI of >0.8 with palpable pulses or duplex scan that demonstrates bi/triphasic pulses to 2 or 3 vessels at the level of the ankle.

Pg 3 line 8 change 'that' to 'than'

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:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited
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