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: 1 Date: 09 Jan 2018

Reviewer: Jaap van Netten

Reviewer's report:

Happy with the changes, two minor comments:

- The authors state that the protocol is registered at www.clinicaltrials.gov. No matter what search words I use, I cannot find the trial on this website. The authors now give an Israeli number for trial registration, not a clinicaltrials.gov statement. I leave this to the discretion of the editor, but in my opinion it is essential that a verifiable trial registration is given with this protocol before it can be published. Can the authors please provide the web address of their registration?

- I disagree with reviewer 3’s suggestion to use ABI >0.8 as cut-off. That cut-off is not supported by any evidence. Please use a cut-off point that is given in an evidence-based guideline, such as the cut-off points used in the IWGDF Guidance on PAD (Hinchliffe et al).

I again congratulate the authors, and look forward to the study outcomes.

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

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?
3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal