Reviewer’s report

Title: Experience of finding footwear and factors contributing to footwear choice in people with gout: a mixed methods study using a web-based survey

Version: 0 Date: 06 Dec 2018

Reviewer: Kate Carter

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this interesting mixed methods study into the footwear experiences of people with gout. This manuscript covers an important area where there is limited research. I have a few queries and comments for the authors to consider.

One of the important themes highlighted in the results and discussion is how footwear choice is influenced particularly during a gout flare. Therefore, it would be useful to understand more about the connections between the location of gout flare at the forefoot, midfoot or rearfoot and the particular footwear characteristics that were enabling or disabling.

Pg7 line 155 states that the qualitative data analysis was conducted by one researcher with no further verification. To improve the trustworthiness of the data it would be useful to outline the researchers previous experience of this type of analysis.

Pg15 line 346-347 advice to clinicians could be made clearer here by making reference to how we can determine, based on the study findings, what is the right/wrong shoe for individuals

Pg15-16 line 362-365 may be the type of data analysis is not a limitation, but it's the nature of responses having been elicited by survey that is the limitation

Pg15 line 355 is a bit repetitive of Pg16 line 370 in quick succession

Minor points and typographical errors:

Pg3 line 64 'intervention' is listed as a keyword but that was not the focus of the study, it's more the focus of future work

Pg4 line 71-74 is a long sentence and could be made clearer

Pg4 line 76 'influence of footwear to' should be 'influence of footwear on'

Pg5 line 106 'using a web-based survey was used' could be worded better
Page 16 line 372 change 'tow' to 'toe'. Also 'wide topline' needs to be defined, this feature is only mentioned for the first time in the study conclusion.

Page 16 line 379 full stop required after intervention.


Page 23 Table 1 (first line top of the page) Gout disease duration should be 11-15 years.

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