Author’s response to reviews

**Title:** The effectiveness of non-surgical interventions for common plantar digital compressive neuropathy (Morton’s neuroma): a systematic review and meta-analysis

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**Version: 3 Date: 24 Jan 2019**

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VERSION: 24th January 2019

Authors’ response to review:
We would like to thank Reviewer 3 for their time and efforts in reviewing our revised manuscript. We have addressed the comments in full and provided a point by-point response to each suggestion for revision below. Line numbers refer to the revised manuscript with highlighted changes. Text/sentence revisions in the manuscript are highlighted in red.

Reviewer report:

I thank the author's for responding to my previous suggestions. I believe the manuscript can be accepted for publication once some final minor revisions are made.

Minor Essential Revisions

COMMENT 1

There are some inconsistencies when reporting 95%CI. For example, in the Abstract it is reported as "95%CI: -xx, -xx" whereas later it is reported as "95%CI: -xx to -xx". I prefer the latter. Please make consistent throughout.

RESPONSE:

Thank you for your comment, manuscript edited, lines 43-47.

COMMENT 2

Line 186: "all 27 items in the original Quality Index was used". As the items are plural, I suggest changing 'was' to 'were'.

RESPONSE:

Thank you for your comment, manuscript edited, line 186.

COMMENT 3
Line 197: I can't see where VAS has been spelled out in full yet, so I think you need to do it here and then use the abbreviation moving forward.

RESPONSE:
Thank you for your comment, manuscript edited, line 197.

COMMENT 4
Line 374: you have used a capital 'O' in OnabotulinumtoxinA yet in table 2 you use a lower case 'o'. Please determine which is correct and use consistently.

RESPONSE:
Thank you for your comment. The Australian Medicines Handbook online (https://amhonline.amh.net.au) uses onabotulinumtoxinA without a capital so we have used the lower-case version of the word throughout the manuscript. Line 374.

COMMENT 5
Discussion: please reference sentences when referring to studies. For example, when stating "One RCT showed…." please provide a reference to the RCT that you are referring to.

RESPONSE:
Thank you for your comment. Referencing has been added to identify all studies mentioned in the discussion. Lines 405-408, 410-415, 419-420, 422, 425, 430, 453-454, 463, 483, 425-426

COMMENT 6
Line 418: Please clarify this sentence. I assume a word is missing somewhere. Is it meant to be 'Six of the seven included studies…'?

RESPONSE:
Thank you for your comment. The sentence has been rewritten as follows:

“Six of the studies [1, 3, 22, 40, 41, 54] had a six month or longer follow-up and only one study [39] had a three month follow-up (seven studies in total). It is not known whether combining a three month difference in follow-up periods affects the quality of the analysis.” Lines 419-422.

COMMENT 7

Line 494: As foot orthoses can increase stress in some tissues, I feel this sentence still needs some minor rewriting. I suggest at the end of the sentence it reads something like "alter plantar pressures, muscle activity and kinetics, which can be used to reduce stress on targeted tissues with the intention of……." 

RESPONSE:

Thank you for your comment. The sentence has been rewritten as follows:

“In addition to altering kinematics, foot orthoses also alter plantar pressures, muscle activity and kinetics, which can be used to reduce stress on targeted tissues with the intention of reducing the risk of tissue damage.” Lines 495-497.

COMMENT 8

Forest plots: At the bottom of Figure 7 can you please label 'favours pre-test' and 'favours post-post' on the appropriate side of the plots.

RESPONSE:

Thank you for your comment, labels added to Figure 7