Reviewer’s report

Title: Lower limb vascular assessment techniques of podiatrists in the United Kingdom: a national survey

Version: 0 Date: 29 Apr 2019

Reviewer: Nicoletta Frescos

Reviewer’s report:

Overall, an interesting and useful paper highlighting the practices of UK podiatrist in the assessment methods for detection of PAD. I have the following comments and recommendations for revisions:

Page 5, line 56: can you please provide specific description on what you mean or are referring to with the wording "pressure testing" as it can relate to several types: i.e. brachial, toe, systolic, diastolic etc

Page 6, line 1: This is incorrect, there is some existing literature on the UK podiatrist practices. One recent publication is: Pasha Normahani, Chira Mustafa, Nigel J. Standfield, Claire Duguid, Martin Fox, & Usman Jaffer. (2018). Management of peripheral arterial disease in diabetes: A national survey of podiatry practice in the United Kingdom. Journal of Foot and Ankle Research, 11(1), 1-12. One of the authors in this current manuscript under review is also an author in the above cited publication, the methodology also has similarities.

Page 8. the vascular assessment characteristics refers to "Comprehensive vascular assessments (defined in the survey as more than pulse palpation, to avoid leading participants)" and the findings were "most common estimated time taken to perform a vascular assessment takes 5minutes". Did your data provide detail on what diagnostic tests were conducted in the 5minute time frame. This is a short amount of time to undertake a vascular assessment when assessing patients with signs and symptoms of possible PAD.

Page 9. The first paragraph details the different diagnostic tests, the term "pressure" is used. As per my first comment, can you clarify what pressure tests are you referring to?

Page 11. As per comment for Page 6. This is not the first study to describe current practices of UK podiatrists in performing lower limb vascular assessments.

Minor comment: I would recommend the use of ankle-brachial pressure index (ABPI) as to not to confuse with Acquired Brain Injury (ABI). Also adding the Pressure to TBPI.

Finally, comparison of results to the Normahani (2018) study would add to your findings.

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