Reviewer’s report

Title: The impact of multimorbidity on foot health outcomes in podiatry patients with musculoskeletal foot pain: a prospective observational study

Version: 2 Date: 23 Jun 2019

Reviewer: Tom Walsh

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this revised manuscript, and thank you to the authors for providing comprehensive responses to the queries.

1. Regarding response rate. I appreciate the detailed answer to this query. My initial confusion revolved around line 144-146. 'potentially eligible participants were identified by screening NHS GG&C Podiatric Biomechanics clinic lists'. I figured that the potential participants would have been screened for factors such as whether they had been seen before or whether they were referred knee/hip/lower back pain. I think the response has covered this well.

2. I'll need to refer Table 5 and 6 data to the Editor for their opinion to be fair to the authors, as this is one point we continue to disagree on. Given the authors consider these Tables to be necessary and will stay, and given they are reporting repeated measures, I would recommend the authors reconsider the analyses used. It looks like they have used tests traditionally used for cross-sectional analyses, and my understanding is that this is their main indication. I would recommend selecting analyses designed to analyse repeated measures.

Thank you for clarifying the use of baseline foot scores in the regression models. Given these were indeed significantly associated with 3 and 6 month pain, I would suggest this feature somewhere in the results section. This will reconfirm to the reader that both multi-morbidity and baseline foot health are associated with follow-up foot health.

3. Thank you for this response.

4. Thank you for this response.
Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English
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Acceptable

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