Reviewer’s report

Title: The progression rate of peripheral arterial disease in patients with intermittent claudication. A systematic review

Version: 0 Date: 23 May 2019

Reviewer: Alfred Gatt

Reviewer's report:

This is a very interesting article that clearly shows deficits in research reporting progression of peripheral arterial disease. I agree with the authors that this is possibly being under reported.

A few points that the authors may wish to elaborate further on, in order to substantiate their findings:

An annual change of 0.01 according to ABPI translates into a period of 10 years for perfusion to degrade by 0.1 - is this a reasonable amount of time, or do we perhaps see much faster rate of disease progression? Especially keeping in mind the authors' own statement that "TASC review indicate a more aggressive progression of PAD resulting in an amputation rate of 27% in those with IC." (lines 362-365).

How reliable are the results of the quoted studies, given that they are based on ABI? It is well known that this test has inherent difficulties in reporting perfusion in the presence of calcification, which are not always immediately apparent

Since ABI testing is performed by different operators in the various studies quoted, can they be relied upon?

Highlighting the above points would make a more emphatic conclusion to the review

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