Reviewer’s report

Title: Is consumer behaviour towards footwear predisposing for lower extremity injuries in runners and walkers? A prospective study

Version: 1 Date: 07 May 2019

Reviewer: Sarah Curran

Reviewer's report:

Is consumer behavior towards footwear predisposing for lower extremity injuries in runners and walkers? A prospective study (JFAR-D-19-00036R1).

This is an interesting paper that explores an interesting and important topic. Overall, the paper is well written and the abstract is informative and provides the key message for the reader. The introduction section sets the scene well by providing the relevant background making reference to the 'running boom', however it may be worth the authors adding a sentence or two on the increase of participation of walking - albeit not a 'walking boom' but there is now evidence which suggests a range of benefits from this less impactful activity, and given that the authors have explored both running and walking in this paper, this should be acknowledged.

On page 5, lines 33 - 35 - spelling, wording and sentence structure (i.e. advise, 'that' and 'a') needs to be reviewed. Information on the methods section was appropriate, along with the presentation of the findings. The discussion section highlights some salient facts, the authors mention about the increased risk of injury - what about the awareness of injury from the baseline questionnaire to follow-up (after 24 weeks)? The authors also stated the role of 'gait analysis' and it would have been useful to have explored and discussed the variability of this information such analysis offers, given that it appears to have an increased risk of lower extremity injury. Previous injuries does exposes a risk rather than a gait analysis - or does the analysis assist understanding of injury and awareness? Articulation of the impact of gait analysis and how it contributes to the surmised reduction in risk (when it is not) of injury needs to be explored further. Should this be perceived as a key message from the paper? The conclusion section is useful but an absolute key message is needed - for example the final sentence in the conclusion needs to have added content.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field
Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal.