Reviewer’s report

Title: Passive Hallux Adduction Decreases Lateral Plantar Artery Blood Flow: a Preliminary Study of the Potential Influence of Narrow Toe Box Shoes

Version: 0 Date: 12 Aug 2019

Reviewer: Martin Fox

Reviewer's report:

As a practising Vascular Podiatrist, I find the article of interest and worthy of publication. Well written, method described clearly. Discussion thought-provoking.

I cannot comment on the methodology of how the blood flow measurements were obtained, as I am not familiar with the equipment used, but the use of a sonographer with experience appears reasonable.

I would have liked to have seen a more varied discussion about the potential for wound / tissue healing implications, with this initial work. The focus on plantar fasciitis is of course of interest, but the potential for discussion on the possible impact around forefoot healing with the other commonly presenting issues in podiatry (eg nail surgery, ulcer healing) has not been mentioned or explored. Discussing how the findings may link to high risk foot conditions such as the insensate or ischaemic foot, particularly in relation to footwear choices may also be important.

Could at least a paragraph on these themes be included in the final version?

Overall, thought-provoking and of interest to the podiatry & foot health community, in view of footwear influences & choices and the range of common foot conditions that these findings may have implications with - from delayed healing & associated pain & QOL issues, through to amputation risk.

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