Reviewer’s report

Title: The impact of shoe flexibility on gait, pressure and muscle activity of young children. A systematic review

Version: 0 Date: 02 Nov 2019

Reviewer: Julie Stebbins

Reviewer's report:

This review paper presents the current evidence on the effect of shoes on gait in young children. The review is robustly conducted and the findings clearly presented.

I have only fairly minor comments to make. It would be helpful to provide more evidence/better justification as to why this question needs answering. It it stated multiple times in the paper that health professionals advice barefoot walking/soft-soled shoes, but only one reference is given for this, from 1991. It would be useful to provide further evidence to justify this statement.

It is stated that two studies had the same cohort of participants (line 184). Could you please clarify how this was dealt with in the statistics and meta-analysis?

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