Reviewer’s report

Title: Associations of Foot Ulceration with Quality of Life and Psychosocial Determinants among Patients with Diabetes; A Case-Control Study

Version: 1 Date: 06 Oct 2019

Reviewer: Byron Perrin

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this manuscript. The manuscript reports on a case-control study from two centres of one health organisation in Saudi Arabia. The study's objectives include investigating the quality of life of people with diabetes with and without diabetes-related foot disease. I have the following comments:

1. Abstract, Background (lines 6-12). Diabetic foot ulcers can't have a quality of life. Also, it is not explicit in this section was the objective relates too. Please edit section to indicate what quality of life relates to (i.e. people) and relate the objective to the study

2. Methods, Study design (lines 19-21). This also relates to the tables and other sections in the text. Please clarify if the "Diabetic foot ulcer group" were people with a known history of a diabetic foot ulcer, or had an active foot ulcer at time of recruitment (or both).

3. Methods, Instruments (lines 4-7, and lines 27-32). Presumably this also relates to Table 1 and 2. A newly developed questionnaire is described, including some initial face and content validity. However, this is not presented in full or, more importantly justification given for the variables in the questionnaire. This is particularly relevant as it perhaps look like a key discussion point relates to the data derived from the questionnaire (Discussion, lines 44-59). Is it possible to present the questionnaire or provide more detail in the methods about the variables measured?

4. Methods, Statistical analysis (lines 31-32). It is not clear what type of linear regression was used (e.g. stepwise or other) which variables were selected for the multiple regression (is it those in Table 5 only), and on what basis. Currently the terminology is a bit vague ("…such as...")

5. Discussion, 2nd and 3rd paragraphs (lines 29-34 and 51-56). I am not clear what these final paragraph sentences mean, and how this adds to the discussion. Please clarify.

6. Discussion, 4th paragraph (lines 9-14 and lines 19-21). It looks like glycaemic control is raised here as a possible key point, but due consideration on how glycaemic control may complicate matters is not provided. Nor is the impact the self-report nature of the SDCA elaborated on. Can these two points be further explored?
7. General

a. I don't think "Diabetic Foot Ulcers" is defined explicitly. Possible confusion with definition of diabetic foot disease (which isn't really mentioned after the first paragraph of the background). This is important as the term diabetic foot ulcer is used throughout the text.

b. Use of American English (e.g. recognize). Check journal requirements

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