Reviewer’s report

Title: Management of first metatarsophalangeal joint osteoarthritis by physical therapists and podiatrists in Australia and the United Kingdom: a cross-sectional survey of current clinical practice

Version: 0 Date: 03 Dec 2019

Reviewer: Jill Halstead

Reviewer's report:

Dear Authors

This is an important and well written article, which for the first time captures current management of 1st MTPJ OA amongst podiatrists and physiotherapists from the UK and Australia.
I think this will be of interest to health professionals, service users and commissioners who are interested in understanding current practice and evidence based care.

I have a few minor comments.

Discussion

Line 281 reference 12 (NICE guidelines CG117) is a UK national guideline- please reference this in the national guideline reference rather than international guidelines group.
Line 284, Is it worth considering that physical activity does not cause harm Wilder et al.2005 study but may lead to higher forefoot pressure, Rao et al. 2016

Limitations

The proportion of UK Podiatrists was low, did this skew the representation and does this require a comment? I wonder if it related to recruitment strategy ? For example, where was the electronic survey advertised to the UK podiatry community? could this be why there was so little uptake?

References

Please check presentation of DOI in reference no 13 ad 17
Tables

Table 1 title: Is (OA) supposed to be in in the title?, please review and correct.

Table 1 most UK podiatrists have Prescription only medicines (pharmacology training) at undergrad. This question, if rephrased to pharmacology training undergrad and post grad, the results would be much higher. By phrasing as post grad, this would be taken to mean supplementary or independent prescribing which can only be undertaken in NHS practice and there is limited access.

I would say the same is true of orthoses prescription, the training is mainly undergrad rather than post grad.

This is partly addressed in the discussion but it might be worth mentioning as a limitation due to phrasing of the question.

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:

Acceptable

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