Reviewer’s report

Title: Ankle Injury Rehabilitation (AIR): A feasibility randomised controlled trial comparing functional bracing to plaster cast in the treatment of adult ankle fractures

Version: 0 Date: 18 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Nancy E. Mayo

Reviewer’s report:

This is a very well written pilot study with rich information. I have only a few suggestions for clarity and to make the findings more interpretable for others.

The patient reported outcome measures collected were The MOXFQ (16), 177 the Olerud and Molander Ankle Score (OMAS) (17) and EuroQol EQ-5D-5L (18).

Could you please indicate for these measures the content they evaluate, number of items, scoring range etc and if higher is better or worse. For context, could you provide normative data for British population on EQ-5D-5L. It would help with interpreting Table 2. Also Table 2 might be better cast with the groups as columns and the measures (over time) as rows. The contrast would be to see how mean scores and variance changes over time. A vertical view of these data would be easier to read.

The data on the feasibility of recruitment and retention etc would best be shown in a Figure like a CONSORT figure then the material would be crystal clear for others to appreciate.

The presentation of the decisions made based on the data was appreciated and could serve as a model for how to present and teach pilot studies.

Level of interest
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An exceptional article

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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