

Reviewer's report

Title: A questionnaire for diabetes related foot disease (Q-DFD) - construction and validation.

Version: 3 **Date:** 12 October 2009

Reviewer: Vanessa Nube

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RE: A questionnaire for diabetes related foot disease (Q-DFD)- A construction and validation by Shan M Bergin et al

I found this article very interesting. It has broad implications for the podiatry profession and public health given the increasing prevalence of diabetes and the likelihood of greater numbers of patients with diabetic foot disease. However it is mainly of interest those working within the field. The question posed was new, well defined and indeed justified. The methods are sound and adequately described. The discussion is balanced and very well written.

The abstract reflects the content of the paper however the author might consider a title that states that the questionnaire is designed to collect prevalence data.

Discretionary Revisions

I am left wondering how peripheral neuropathy was detected using the short questionnaire. Given that we accept clinical screening is necessary to detect sensory loss (the critical deficit associated with ulceration) I am keen to know what questions were used in the survey. The author mentions on page 9 that components of the NSS were used to construct the questions but this is a more comprehensive tool with 17 items. They also reference a paper that reports on a similar tool, the DNS. Other readers may be as interested in knowing what questions were asked in the survey particularly as this may explain the poor agreement between PN and clinical assessment.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.