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# Foot and Ankle Surgery

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## Letter to the Editor

### Fractures of the Anterior Process of the Calcaneum; a review and proposed treatment algorithm



Dear Editor,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond.

I read with interest the letter to the Editors from Dr Polzer. With regards to the use of the PRISMA statement in our paper, whilst this study was not a systematic review or meta-analysis, the authors do believe that the technique described by the PRISMA statement can be used for any type of literature review. It is merely a standardised, robust way of defining search criteria and provides a template for the paper to be constructed. In our paper, no attempt has been made to misinterpret the study as a meta-analysis or systematic review.

On the second point, the authors readily commented on the lack of evidence for any specific treatment strategy to date, as well as variability of outcome measures used. For this reason we attempted to group the outcome measures to make analysis more feasible, and this was fully explained in the paper. In the discussion section the author further state 'There is a lack of long-term studies evaluating the outcomes following operative intervention, with only a few small series and case reports in literature, with all configurations of fractures and mechanisms grouped together.' With regards to the algorithm the authors stated 'A treatment algorithm based on the evidence in literature and the authors experience is suggested to aid emergency medicine and orthopaedic practitioners. Whilst the authors do attempt to draw conclusions from the literature available to formulate a treatment

algorithm, it is acknowledged case reports or case series were included in the literature review. Also, it is important to highlight that the outcomes of the papers were combined in a subjective manner that may lead to misinterpretation. The authors attempted to group the outcomes in a transparent manner to allow analysis, however without the use of standardised outcome measures in the papers reviewed, there is a risk of misrepresentation.'

Whilst Dr Polzer has made some valid comments, the authors believe these have been addressed within the paper and were fully acknowledged.

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