

## PEER-REVIEW REPORT

**Name of journal:** *World Journal of Orthopedics*

**Manuscript NO:** 78687

**Title:** Inflammatory Response in Confirmed Non-Diabetic Foot and Ankle Infections: A Case Series with Normal Inflammatory Markers

**Provenance and peer review:** Unsolicited Manuscript; Externally peer reviewed

**Peer-review model:** Single blind

**Reviewer's code:** 05710751

**Position:** Peer Reviewer

**Academic degree:** MDCM

**Professional title:** Academic Research, Doctor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Italy

**Author's Country/Territory:** United Kingdom

**Manuscript submission date:** 2022-07-09

**Reviewer chosen by:** AI Technique

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-07-21 14:10

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-07-29 17:14

**Review time:** 8 Days and 3 Hours

Scientific quality	[ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] Grade A: Excellent [ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade B: Very good [ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade C: Good [ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade D: Fair [ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	[ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] Grade A: Priority publishing [ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade B: Minor language polishing [ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade C: A great deal of language polishing [ <input type="radio"/> ] Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	[ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] Accept (High priority) [ <input type="radio"/> ] Accept (General priority) [ <input type="radio"/> ] Minor revision [ <input type="radio"/> ] Major revision [ <input type="radio"/> ] Rejection
Re-review	[ <input checked="" type="radio"/> ] Yes [ <input type="radio"/> ] No



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<b>Peer-reviewer statements</b>	Peer-Review: [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ] Anonymous [ <input type="checkbox"/> ] Onymous
	Conflicts-of-Interest: [ <input type="checkbox"/> ] Yes [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ] No

#### **SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS**

I think the manuscript is very interesting for the scientific community. the topic is described in detail. very clear title, clear materials and methods demonstrate the efficacy of the study. conclusions and discussion analyzes the study and reports the results in a good manner

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**Reviewer's code:** 05089997

**Position:** Editorial Board

**Academic degree:** Doctor, MD, PhD

**Professional title:** Consultant Physician-Scientist, Professor

**Reviewer's Country/Territory:** Romania

**Author's Country/Territory:** United Kingdom

**Manuscript submission date:** 2022-07-09

**Reviewer chosen by:** Dong-Mei Wang

**Reviewer accepted review:** 2022-08-30 11:04

**Reviewer performed review:** 2022-09-10 15:28

**Review time:** 11 Days and 4 Hours

Scientific quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Do not publish
Language quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing <input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejection
Conclusion	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept (High priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Accept (General priority) <input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rejection
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## SPECIFIC COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Authors In the study: "Inflammatory Response in Confirmed Non-Diabetic Foot and Ankle Infections: A Case Series with Normal Inflammatory Markers", the authors aimed to assess the diagnostic accuracy of inflammatory markers such as white cell count and C-reactive protein as a diagnostic tool in suspected foot and ankle infections in the non-diabetic population. The hypothesis of the study is interesting, but, unfortunately, in this form it cannot be published, but I really recommend to the authors to take into consideration some remarks, and then resubmitted it, because has a good potential to become an interesting article.

1. The introduction is too short. You should reconsider it and add at more paragraphs about the state of the art of non-Diabetic Foot and Ankle Infections.
  - o Page 3, lines 19-20: "Most of the literature addressing osteomyelitis (OM) of the foot and ankle focuses on patients with diabetes mellitus (DM)." - add more paragraphs after this sentence, related with some representative studies.
  - o Page 4, lines 8-10: "Another consideration is that CRP levels might not be elevated in a subset of patients with low virulent pathogens specifically coagulase negative Staphylococcus as well as fungal infections." - more data is also needed here.
2. The discussion section is confusing and the data is simply listed but not correlated with each other. It should be completely re-organized.
3. Page 7, lines 22-23: "Most of the literature addressing OM of the foot and ankle focuses on patients with DM" - this sentence is the same as in introduction.
4. Even if Conclusions section is not mandatory, I recommend the authors to include it, in order to summarize their main results and also to mention their perspectives.
5. The references were superficially chosen and are too few for a study. Try to have at least 40 references, most of them from the last 5 years



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