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Håberg Ø, Foss OA, Lian ØB, Holen KJ. Is foot deformity associated with developmental dysplasia of the hip? *Bone Joint J*. 2020;102-B(11):1582-1586.

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Authors' reply:

Sir,

We thank Mr Morley et al for their interest in our paper.[1]

They raise the important and relevant question of how many cases of late-detected developmental dysplasia of the hip (DDH) presented after the age of one year. Unfortunately, we cannot answer this question yet, but we are about to investigate the incidence of DDH detected after the age of three months. We can, however, say that between 2002 and 2009 the incidence of late cases was 0.47/1,000 births (unpublished results). We define late-detected DDH when diagnosed for the first time when the child is older than three months.

Children with a foot deformity were first diagnosed by a paediatrician, and the diagnosis was confirmed by an orthopaedic surgeon in our department within three days of birth. We are therefore quite sure that the diagnosis of the different conditions is trustworthy. As a general recommendation, we agree that it is safer to screen the hips of all neonates with a foot deformity with ultrasound.

We thank Mr Morley et al for discovering the error in the references. As they note, it is not the paper of Paton from 2014[2] which describes the relative risk of different foot deformities, but his paper from 2009.[3] This is further described in the previous paragraph in our paper.

The study infers that we will continue to examine children with a foot deformity for DDH with ultrasound. In Norway, we are about to outline new national guidelines for DDH. On the basis of our findings, foot deformity will be regarded as a true risk factor for DDH in the Norwegian national guidelines, and infants will therefore be offered an ultrasound hip examination in addition to the clinical screening.

Once again, we thank Morley et al for their feedback.

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1. **Håberg Ø, Foss OA, Lian ØB, Holen KJ.** Is foot deformity associated with developmental dysplasia of the hip? *Bone Joint J*. 2020;102-B(11):1582-1586.
2. **Paton RW, Choudry QA, Jugdey R, Hughes S.** Is congenital talipes equinovarus a risk factor for pathological dysplasia of the hip? A 21-year prospective, longitudinal observational study. *Bone Joint J*. 2014;96-B(11):1553-1555.
3. **Paton RW, Choudry Q.** Neonatal foot deformities and their relationship to developmental dysplasia of the hip: an 11-year prospective, longitudinal observational study. *J Bone Joint Surg Br*. 2009;91-B(5):655-658.

Conflict of interest: None