



# The Bone & Joint Journal

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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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Sir,

We read with interest the article by Håberg et al<sup>1</sup> and would like to make the following points:

We agree with the authors that screening for developmental dysplasia of the hip (DDH) needs to improve. We note their reference to the article by Broadhurst et al<sup>2</sup> which shows that the incidence of missed cases of DDH presenting in infants over the age of one year has not changed in the 35 years since the current guidelines were implemented. We would be interested to know how many cases of DDH in the cohort described were missed and presented after the age of one year.

It is unfortunate that the authors were unable to provide the significance levels for the associations between the different types of foot deformity and DDH. Many of the referrals to our congenital talipes equinovarus (CTEV) clinic are, in fact, for children with other foot deformities: differentiating between them may be difficult for the referring clinician. In practice, we believe it is safer to screen all patients with a foot deformity.

The authors' discussion refers to several of Paton's papers: we note that one paper may have been described incorrectly. The 2014 *BJJ* paper<sup>3</sup> specifically excludes all foot deformities other than CTEV rather than assessing the relative risk of different types of foot deformity in association with DDH, as the authors have described.

The authors find that there is a higher risk of DDH associated with a foot deformity than with family history (4.3 vs 3.1). We agree that foot deformity should be included in the screening criteria for DDH as it is easy to detect in the neonate. In our region, babies with foot deformities (including CTEV) are screened with ultrasound of the hips, with a comparable pick-up rate. We suggest that this should be included in the national guidelines.

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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. **Broadhurst C, Rhodes AML, Harper P, Perry DC, Clarke NMP, Aarvold A.** What is the incidence of late detection of developmental dysplasia of the hip in England? A 26-year national study of children diagnosed after the age of one. *Bone Joint J.* 2019;101-B(3):281-287.
3. **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.

Conflict of Interest: None