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Differences in the mechanical characteristics of plantar soft tissue between ulcerated and non-ulcerated foot

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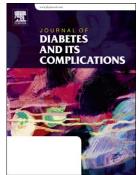
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ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Title: Differences in the mechanical characteristics of plantar soft tissue between

ulcerated and non-ulcerated foot

Running title: Ulceration and plantar soft tissue mechanics

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Abstract:

Aims: The purpose of this study was to investigate the differences in mechanical properties of the plantar soft tissue between the ulcerated and non-ulcerated feet in patients with diabetic neuropathy.

Methods: Thirty nine patients who met the inclusion criteria participated in this study. Ten out of 39 participants had an active ulcer at a site other than the plantar heel and the first metatarsal head. Real time ultrasound elastography was performed to measure the soft tissue thickness and stiffness of the heel pad and sub-metatarsal fat pad. To account for the qualitative nature of conventional real time elastography, relative tissue stiffness was assessed against that of a standardised ultrasound standoff material.

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