The significance of the squeeze test to identify arthritis was underestimated or not?

We read with deep interest the article by van den Bosch et al related to the diagnostic accuracy of the squeeze test to identify arthritis. This cross-sectional cohort study suggested that a positive squeeze test is associated with local joint inflammation with a very low sensitivity, indicating a high percentage of swollen joints with a negative squeeze test. Doctors should ‘keep in mind’ the characteristics of this test when performing in daily practice. We really appreciate the work that has been done by the authors. The findings help clinicians understand the effect of the squeeze test to identify arthritis. However, there are some worthwhile issues that need to be explored.

The squeeze test is an easy, rapid and cheap method to identify arthritis in metacarpophalangeal (MCP) and metatarsophalangeal joints for general practitioners (GPs) as promoted by rheumatological experts. The diagnostic accuracy of the squeeze test to identify arthritis: a cross-sectional cohort study. Ann Rheum Dis 2015.

We respect the great contributions of the authors and we would also be very much interested in the authors’ response to these issues.

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