



19 December 2019

### Position statement of BOFAS on the FAME study

The fractured ankle management evaluation (FAME) study is a NIHR sponsored study comparing the treatment of operative fixation with total contact cast for the management of unstable ankle fractures in patients under the age of 60 years.

Following discussions at the recent Nottingham conference and AGM, it was decided that members of the Society should be anonymously surveyed in order to aid the Society's stance on whether or not it should endorse the FAME study. A total of 253 members responded to the survey, 71% recommending that BOFAS do not endorse the FAME trial with only 20% of members planning to recruit.

Although BOFAS is committed to promotion of high quality research through the Society, the Society fully understands the importance of concerns raised by its members. Therefore, BOFAS is unable to endorse the FAME study in its current form.

However, the Society does not actively discourage its members from participating in the study. BOFAS recommends that it is up to the discretion of each unit and individual surgeon as to whether or not they take part in this study. BOFAS would advise on very close monitoring of the patients recruited in FAME study in order to avoid any potential adverse consequences in line with General Medical Council's guidance.

The Council of The British Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society