COMMENTARY

It is high time that some science was injected into studies on Achilles tendon pathology. This group is at the forefront of research and clinical practice, and the findings of this prospective study show that, even in the hands of surgeons who have a special interest in these injuries and work in a teaching centre, complications are to be expected. It is refreshing to see that the authors are critical towards their own work, and that, after all, most athletes do recover. Although many aspects of the physiopathology of Achilles tendinopathy are still to be clarified, at least good outcome

studies are being performed. A question remains on the length of follow up, which, in this particular instance, I believe is a bit too short. After all, most journals require at least a two year follow up for anterior cruciate reconstruction, a procedure that results in a recovery rate of above 90% in most centres. Unfortunately, most orthopaedic and sports surgeons do not reach these results in Achilles tendon surgery.

## N Maffulli

Professor of Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery, Keele University School of Medicine, Thornburrow Drive, Hartshill ST4 7QB, UK; osa14@keele.ac.uk