Reviewer's report

Title: Educational Games in Geriatric Medicine Education: A Systematic Review

Version: 1 Date: 1 February 2010

Reviewer: Hajime Iwasa

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Reviewer's comments

I have checked the manuscript entitled "Educational Games in Geriatric Medicine: A Systematic Review". The manuscript was a systematic review exploring the effectiveness of educational games in geriatric medicine.

As a part of geriatric education, "aging games" have been carried out to sensitize learners to the experience of aging with disability and improve attitudes toward caring for older people. During the games, learners join a simulation exercise and undergo simulated experiences, including physical, sensory, and cognitive deficit ("role playing intervention"). The positive conclusions about the effectiveness of the intervention have been produced so far (e.g., Pacala et al., 2006; Varkey et al., 2006).

The present systematic review, however, did not find that the use of role playing interventions in geriatric medical education was effective to improve attitudes towards the elderly.

Furthermore, the authors also point out that medical educators should propose alternative ways to the role playing game interventions in geriatric educations. For example, direct interactions between students and real-life older adults for shaping positive attitudes towards older people, should be considered.

I believe that the article is impressive and useful to develop future geriatric educations, and that have possibilities to contribute to steady progress in the research area.

<Major Compulsory Revisions>

None.

<Minor Essential Revisions>

None.

<Discretionary Revisions>

The authors should check the sentence (page 8 line 3 from the bottom), "~in
attitude from before to after the was statistically significant [11].” Need correction? "before to after THE"

<References>
Pacala JT, et al. (2006), JAGS; 54: 144-149.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.