Reviewer's report

**Title:** Student tutors for hands-on training in focused emergency echocardiography - a randomized controlled trial

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 16 April 2012

**Reviewer:** Thomas Hughes

**Reviewer's report:**

overall this is a good study, but due to the small numbers involved does not have the power to make the statements it claims

Essential
1. no power calculation was carried out
2. confidence intervals not specified although ?SD was specified - did not say.
3. method of randomisation needs to specified
4. concealment (or lack thereof) needs to be specified further
5. how is inter-observer reliability rated ? should this be kappa ???
6. if you take the 3rd year students out of the analysis, does it still hold true?
7. with these numbers, would non-parametric statistics be more appropriate?

Discretionary
8. what does this tell us about the educational process going on, and why might this be different from the other ultrasound investigations that are taught by peers.?
9. are some activities better taught as peer-led than others? Why?

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests