Reviewer’s report

Title: Spaced education reduces the influence of learning styles on examination results in a basic radiological science course: a cohort study

Version: 2 Date: 13 February 2012

Reviewer: patricia sexton

Reviewer’s report:

This is an interesting concept of general interest to all educators. It seems to be a well performed study with only minor issues that need to be addressed prior to publication.

Minor Essential Revisions:

The question the authors propose is whether spaced education can influence the effect of learning style on student outcomes. Unfortunately they pronounce in the discussion that the groups had the same learning styles and, thus, finding a pedagogy that fits all learning styles is best and what they hope to have shown. This is inconsistent with the question. I would suggest re-stating the question and using the learning styles information as background (some literature is cited in the discussion) and remove the learning styles data from the paper (or keep it to show general demographics only).

No limitations are cited - Please write a limitations paragraph in the discussion

The writing is generally good but having an English speaker read the manuscript for small errors would be helpful (The abstract particularly has several issues).

General comments:

The methods seem sound and the project is well described with respect to the spaced education experiment. The spaced education data appear to be sound and show nice significance.

The discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data; the discussion should simply be reworked to state that spaced education may be a mode of encouraging more active learning – moving the learning styles information to the background.

The authors appropriately cite work that has come before.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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