Author's response to reviews

Title: Geriatric assessment in undergraduate geriatric education - a structured interpretation guide improves the quantity and accuracy of the results: a cohort comparison

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Author's response to reviews: see over
June 28th 2013

Dear Prof. Azer, dear editors,

We would like to submit the revised version of our manuscript “Geriatric assessment in undergraduate geriatric education – a structured interpretation guide improves the quantity and accuracy of the results: a cohort comparison” for your consideration for publication as a research article in your much valued journal. We hope that we were able to meet all the remaining concerns expressed by reviewer and editor.

We confirm that the manuscript is exclusively submitted to BMC Medical Education. It is not under consideration by any other journal and has not been published elsewhere. The submitted manuscript does not include any material that infringes existing copyrights, or the rights of a third party.

We are looking forward to your feedback.

Yours sincerely,

Tobias Deutsch, Elisabeth Igenbergs, Dr. med. Thomas Frese, Prof. Dr. med. Hagen Sandholzer

1 Attachment: - Responses to the reviewers’ comments

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Responses to the reviewers’ comments

Reviewer: Masami Tagawa

Reviewer's report:
In this revised manuscript, authors respond to the previous questions appropriately, and they clearly described that the positive effect of the guide for assessment of elder patients by the comparison of the two cohort groups.

Minor Essential Revisions

Grades
Authors should clarify that ‘grades’ do not indicate student’s evaluation of behaviors in 2 weeks clerkship, but assessment of the documentation and interpretation of the CGA. Abstract and title of table 3 may be reconsidered.

We are thankful for this helpful note. We reconsidered the abstract, the title of table 3, and all text passages of the manuscript referring to the grades achieved by the students. We decided to make respective changes/ additions to the results section, the abstract, and the title of table 3. We believe that the background of the grades is clearly depicted now.

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

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.
Reviewer: Professor Samy Azer

Several sentences are confusing such as, page 5: "Therefore, we compared the students towards age and gender."

Thank you. We modified the respective sentence.

Discussion: page 8: "The students' age and gender distribution in our sample was in line with the German average" not clear. There is no link given for reference 19. The authors may need to refer to the distribution of age and gender in their institute and that this ratio in the study reflects the overall gender distribution of the students.

We decided to follow your helpful advice and refer now to the total of medical students who completed the mandatory clerkship at the Leipzig Medical School in the respective years. Furthermore we decided to leave out the former reference 19.

Discussion page 8: "both the student and the patient cohorts were comparable regarding the respectively considered variables" again not clear, you need to be specific.

Thank you for this important note. We concretized the respective text passage accordingly.

Page 8: change "with on average one diagnosis." change to "with an average of one diagnosis."

The sentence has been modified accordingly.

Page 8: bottom 3 lines: "Deering et al could show that the use" change to "Deering et al showed that ."

The sentence has been modified accordingly.

Page 9: "For instance, Medina-Walpole et al could demonstrate that" change to "For instance, Medina-Walpole et al found that"

The sentence has been modified accordingly.

Page 10: line 6: ".could be discussed critically" change to ".may be argued"

The sentence has been modified accordingly.