Reviewer's report

Title: A Randomized Controlled Pilot Trial Comparing the Impact of Access to Clinical Endocrinology Video Demonstrations with Access to Usual Revision Resources on Medical Student Performance of Clinical Endocrinology Tasks

Version: 1 Date: 16 May 2013

Reviewer: Fiona Lake

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting paper that helps understand factors which improve performance. The major drawback of the study is the very small sample size.

Major Compulsory Revisions

- Nil

Minor Essential Revisions

- reduce the discussion on importance of clinical examination in diabetes as that is peripheral to the context of the paper and could be summarised in a sentence

- the introduction seems to emphasise being taught without a patient present (video) is possible and beneficial. This study however does not "remove" the patient as bedside tutorials still occur - more the videos are an adjunct.

- Page 9, Para 2, line 7 = remove (???)

- page 12, para 2, line 4 - I think the wording "performed borderline significantly better" when a p is 0.053 is not the best wording - statistically no significant difference

- more thought and analysis of the difference between DM history, lower legs exam results and thyroid results should occur - as noted more thyroid exam resources/videos are out there, perhaps it is more standardised around the world, and DM and lower limb have few relevant resources, great diversity of instruction from clinicians and these videos were set up to mimic exactly what was expected in the exam - when you look at the marking sheets, was the OSCE marking exactly as demonstrated in the video? The outcome of this is therefore make videos where there are less resources around or where confusion may occur for students between the varying approaches of clinicals and their text books.

Discretionary Revisions

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 I have no competing interests