Reviewer's report

Title: How does the medical graduates' self-assessment of their clinical competency differ from experts' assessment? : A cross-sectional study

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Reviewer: Simon Watmough

Reviewer's report:

Overall this is an interesting paper which confirms some trends in medicine that there are differences between how junior and senior doctors view the competencies of junior doctors. This has a potential detrimental impact on patients so will be of interest to those involved in medical education.

I do have some queries, however.

Essential revision.

I feel readers will need to know more about the larger project that this work comes from to place it in context and an explanation of public and private hospitals in Aden is required.

It is not clear where the 105 graduates comes from - is this the total number available or did more not give their consent?

It is not clear what roles in the experts have in deciding the competencies of their junior doctors. In the UK for example junior doctors have designated supervisors, but in the paper how do we know that the experts are actually in a position to comment on the competencies of their juniors?

The readers also need to know was the curriculum the same for all 4 cohorts of medical graduates? Also, is there anything specific in the curriculum which might be speculated to have impacted on the results pertaining to the different questionnaire variables? For example on page 12 the authors say "the finding could be a credit to the current curriculum" but how could it be?

I would avoid using terms like "alarming observation" in the results - the results section should just illustrate the results.

Towards the end of the paper in the discussion/conclusion there should be a suggestion of how to improve and change the situation re differing levels of views of competencies between senior and junior doctors.

The statistics are good and easy to follow.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published
**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.