Reviewer’s report

Title: A prospective, randomized, blinded evaluation of a video-assisted '4-stage approach' during undergraduate student training

Version: 2 Date: 20 June 2013

Reviewer: Andrew Lockey

Reviewer’s report:

Major compulsory revisions:
1) There is no mention of any power calculations. Was there any calculation attempted? Did the authors consider running a non-inferiority trial?

2) One of the main conclusions is that the video 4-SA reduces faculty requirements. This is only relevant for topics that require more than one faculty member. It is not generalisable to all topics for teaching. For example, if the trauma station had not involved neck immobilisation, there would not have been a need for two faculty members to demonstrate the ABCDE approach. This needs to be made clear in the manuscript - this particular conclusion is not relevant to all situations.

3) A significant proportion of data was excluded due to the lack of a global scoring - why was this omitted in so many cases? this needs to be clarified in the manuscript. if this data had been included in the analysis for the checklist, would it have changed the outcome?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

i declare that i have no competing interests