Reviewer's report

Title: Development of a Computer Assisted Learning (CAL) package to raise awareness of autism

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Reviewer: David William Wall

Reviewer's report:

Review of paper entitled: Development of a computer assisted learning (CAL) package to raise awareness of autism

Thank you for asking me to review this paper. This is an important subject which deserves to be made more aware of in both undergraduate and postgraduate medical education.

Introduction
There is a good section on the prevalence of autism. However it does not state what autism really is, or gives a description of the main features of the condition. I think this is a serious omission here.

The paper is about the use of a computer assisted learning package on basic education in autism. How did the authors design the package? It does not really say here.

Method
Some of the written English needs attention e.g. “the study was ethical approved” is one example of such a sentence. The way the package was designed is stated here – but I think some of this should have been in the introduction. The sources of evidence here should have been referenced please.

The questions seemed fine.

The analysis seemed fine.

It needs to state here that this was a self-evaluation by candidates of the package. The level in the Kirkpatrick Hierarchy should be stated as well.

Results
It was strange that all the respondents were female. Was there any explanation for this? There was more enjoyment in the CAL group but no difference in ability to identify a child with confidence in autism, except in terms of co-morbidity and treatment.

Discussion
I did not think that the discussion fitted in with the results. Some of the discussion
was difficult to follow. At least the CAL package was not worse that the information leaflet.

Overall Opinion
I am sorry to say that this paper adds little. It is poorly written in poor English. The results obtained do not always seem to fit in with the discussion and the conclusions.

I am sorry to say that I do not think this paper should be accepted for publication in BMC Medical Education.

Professor David Wall
Deputy regional postgraduate dean
29th August 2008

**Level of interest:** An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**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