Reviewer’s report

Title: Professional approaches in clinical judgments: A qualitative interview study among senior and junior doctors.

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Reviewer: Johann Steurer

Reviewer's report:

For me the objective of the study is not formulated precisely enough. A lot of papers (Schmidt HG) have been published showing that experts and novices use different approaches to solve a clinical or medical problem. So far the differences can be described as a phenomenon but it is not well understood what these differences really are.

I miss in this paper a definition of professional experience and a discussion about the association of theoretical knowledge and experience. The authors, as I understand their writing, take them as two completely distinct entities.

There are some passages in the manuscript which I can not understand. (two examples)

p15 SDs also expressed a wider view of clinical judgments, which implies a goal-oriented approach...does this mean that junior doctors are not goal-oriented.

p 16 last sentence: Hose staff appears to reorganize the facts according to potentially clarifying testing procedures, while the experts reorganize facts into clusters corresponding to the causal relationships in the disease schemata. For me it is not clear what the authors want to say in this sentence.

It would be helpful for the reader to ask the authors to add a paragraph in which they describe what is new and not already known in their findings.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

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'