Reviewer's report

Title: An Analysis of Lecture Video Utilization in Undergraduate Medical Education: Associations with Performance in the Courses.

Version: 1 Date: 3 October 2008

Reviewer: Tim Wilkinson

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Minor essential revisions
The authors provide a brief summary in the background on the existing literature relating to lecture videos and include around 10 references in relation to this. I appreciate that brevity is important, but I think that this area could be expanded a little to set the scene a little more clearly and to justify the gaps that the current study is trying to fill.

In the Results, I would be interested to know whether some students looked at a particular lecture several times, or was each lecture really only looked at once by a particular student?

The authors claim that there “was generally good agreement between the student responses and the server log files”, but I do not see any data to support that finding and I think it would be useful to back up this claim with some actual results.

I thought the Discussion was clear and covered the main points. My only suggested addition is that the authors might consider commenting that the availability of videoed lectures may suit some learning styles and learning needs. We know, of course, that students’ styles are quite variable and therefore the patchy use of video lectures may not be meeting needs of all students, but may instead be proving to be very helpful for a select few.

The final graph, looking at the number of lectures viewed over time, is incomplete as the X-axis is unlabelled.