Reviewer’s report

Title: Knowledge and skills required to perform Point-of-care ultrasonography in family practice – a modified Delphi study among family physicians in Slovenia

Version: 0 Date: 08 Oct 2019

Reviewer: David C. Mackenzie

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the manuscript. The authors report the findings of a Delphi study of Slovenian family physicians' beliefs regarding the indications, importance, and barriers to use of POCUS. Their findings support the experience of other specialties or user groups attempting to develop POCUS programs. The background, discussion, and limitations are sound and well located in the existing literature on this topic. Non-modifiable limitations include a lack of generalizability to family physicians in other national settings and a relatively high incomplete response rate. More detail on how the participants were selected would be valuable, as there may be bias towards selection of participants known to the organizers. The expertise of the participants is also not well established, though this does not necessarily reduce the value of the findings.

Other comments as detailed below:

- page 4, line 21: how were these FPs identified to participate? Given the relatively small number and apparent reliance on personal networks and knowledge, this is a potential source of bias.

- page 4, line 15: do the FPs provide any pre-hospital or home visit care?

- page 4, line 17: Provide more detail relating to the POCUS experience and training of participants. A single US course is insufficient to produce expertise in POCUS.

- page 5, line 1-8: did you ask the participants to distinguish between POCUS use in clinic vs in acute / emergency care? Given the varied practice setting of the participants, this might have an effect on how the question was answered.
- page 5, line 10: how were disagreements between reviewers interpreted? Were there pre-specified groupings?

- page 5, line 55: clarify what "valid" means in this context

**Are the methods appropriate and well described?**
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Does the work include the necessary controls?**
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

**Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?**
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

**Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?**
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

**Declaration of competing interests**
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?
3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

Yes - Medmastery GmbH. I receive royalties for an online POCUS CME course I developed.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal.