Reviewer's report

Title: Teaching percutaneous renal biopsy using unfixed human cadavers

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Reviewer: Jeremy Levy

Reviewer's report:

1. This brief paper describes a novel technique for teaching renal biopsy skills. The paper is clear and well written. The report is interesting, but represents really a technical note rather than full "paper". It does however lack any data about the true efficacy of the training using this method (other than one sentence commenting that trainees evaluated favourably) which is a shame, although this was tried on a small cohort only of trainees.

2. In the conclusion in advocating the potential cost efficacy of this technique the authors only compare to trial and error in patients, which is less of a reality now since many centres would use some form of simulated training prior to exposure to patients, and multiple simulation techniques are available.

3. There is no proper comparison of alternatives such as frozen kidneys, synthetic torsos, or kidneys encased in turkey breasts all of which have been published previously. I think it would be worth a table comparing these different potential simulation techniques inc their costs.

4. I am not sure why the authors did not use a blended learning approach with participants undertaking on line or e-learning in advance of the course with perhaps a pre-course test of learned knowledge prior to the hands-on experiential learning.

5. This is not the first report of this technique since a publication in Jan 2015 describes the identical procedure

6. Major revisions: addition of table comparing pros- and cons- of simulated biopsy tools in use

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