Reviewer's report

Title: Virtual Reality Suturing Task as an Objective Test for Robotic Experience Assessment

Version: 2 Date: 8 August 2014

Reviewer: Willem Brinkman

Reviewer's report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors well defined?
   The research question is well defined.

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described?
   The methods is appropriate and well described.

3. Are the data sound?
   The data are sound.

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
   Yes.

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
   Yes.

6. Are limitations of the work clearly stated?
   No, I think that limitation of this study is the influence of training robotic skills on assessment score. This paper does add up to the already described construct validity of the DVSS trainer. More interesting, as mentioned in the paper, is the possibility to use the DVSS as assessment tool. Nevertheless we think that training on the simulator will mimic real operating experience. I think that an extra section on the effect of training on score would be interesting.

Another remark is that the study design did not give the participants the possibility to familiarize with the simulator. Therefore it can be doubted if the results are a reflection of real capabilities or largely influenced by the simulator related learning curve. The experts benefit because the simulator makes use of the real console (Major Compulsory Revisions).

7. Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
   Yes, appropriate references are given.

8. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
   Yes.

9. Is the writing acceptable?
Yes, but sentence 52-54 and sentence 60-61 needs revision. (Minor Essential Revisions)

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests