Reviewer’s report

**Title:** The predominant learning approaches of medical students

**Version:** 0  **Date:** 14 Mar 2017

**Reviewer:** Iain Keenan

**Reviewer's report:**

Many thanks to the authors for addressing some of the recommended changes. Some examples of questionnaire items have been included and the text has been modified slightly to address the issue of P = 0.06 not being significant. Unfortunately some major revisions required with respect to the original reviewer comments have not been addressed satisfactorily.

Background: It was recommended in the original reviewer comments that a more critical approach to describing the nature and categorization of learning approaches should be taken. Stating that this is a baseline study is not sufficient justification for failing to take a sufficiently critical approach to the work within the context of the published literature on the topics of learning styles and approaches.

Methods: In terms of determining the predominant learning approach of students, it was recommended that the difference between approaches should be at least statistically significant in order for a determination of predominant learning approach to be made, otherwise students could be characterized as having a particular approach even if they achieved similar scores for each approach category. Highest mean score is not a satisfactory measure, as mean scores for each approach could be similar for an individual student and may therefore be not significantly different. It would have then been important to have included the students who had more than one learning approach (which would now likely be a much higher percentage), which would in turn likely have important implications in terms of the impact upon the findings of the study.

Discussion and conclusion: Expanding the work to include further methods may be beyond the scope of this initial study, however suggestions for future work and limitations of the study in terms of design have not been sufficiently addressed in the revised manuscript. It is also important to emphasize that this is a baseline or pilot study from the outset if that is what was intended.
Are the methods appropriate and well described? If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

No

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.

I am able to assess the statistics

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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