Reviewer’s report

Title: The predominant learning approaches of medical students

Version: 1 Date: 15 Jun 2017

Reviewer: Iain Keenan

Reviewer's report:

Many thanks to the authors for making changes based on the previous reviewer comments.

A critical approach in the context of the literature was advised. Many thanks to the authors for critically considering the nature of learning approaches with respect to the student population. However, it is also important to consider the possibility that, similar to the concept of learning styles, that while appealing, learning approaches could be an artificial construct that may depend entirely on the context, environment and topic being learned and could therefore be flexible and always changing, rather than being innate and fixed traits that students possess. The authors state that learning approaches may change over the course of a medical degree. Is it not likely that they actually change over the course of a day or even change moment to moment between different learning activities? This could mean that labelling students with one particular strategy is not helpful. I would therefore suggest that this possibility is considered by the authors, and that they refer to the following papers on learning styles as a guide:


Many thanks to the authors for updating the methods section. The procedure used to calculate scores is now clearer. It is also very helpful and effective to have calculated significant differences between approaches as outlined in the limitations section and I thank the authors for taking the time to do this. The other issues raised in the limitations section were also important to consider including the statement that this was a pilot study.

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.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
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Yes

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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

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