Reviewer’s report

Title: Selection and Academic Success of Medical Students in Hamburg, Germany

Version: 0 Date: 02 Oct 2018

Reviewer: Marta Van Zanten

Reviewer's report:

This manuscript describes the results of an analysis of selection criteria and academic outcomes of medical students in Hamburg, Germany. Overall this is a well written paper that thoroughly analyzes and explains the nuances of medical school admissions outcomes at one medical school.

In Aims of Study section, the required versus option nature of the various admissions tests should be more clearly described. In addition, the exact research question(s) should be clearly stated at the end of this section.

Methods section, the authors state that 40% of students must be selected according to quotas, but it is not clear within this 40% how the various quota groups are allotted. Does each medical school decide how admissions are determined within each of the four quota groups described?

In the Results section, Table 4, it is not clear why 192 students are from a "Quota others, unknown" category. Which aspects of these students are "unknown"?

The Discussion section provides a very thought-provoking analysis of the impact of self-selection and how it likely influences the results of the 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.

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:

Acceptable

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