Reviewer’s report

Title: Medical Students' Perception on Fecal Microbiota Transplantation

Version: 0 Date: 07 Apr 2019

Reviewer: Phillippa Poole

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this well-written paper. As a physician, I found it a really good scientific review of Faecal Microbiota Transplantation (FMT), although it was interesting that the authors did not mention the issue of production and a quality supply of FMT material as a barrier i.e to whom do you turn if you are requesting this for your patient. Maybe that is better sorted out in Romania than in my country.

However, this paper has been submitted to a medical education journal. As such there needs to be a much better balance between the scientific/clinical and the educational aspects.

The paper would benefit from more in the introduction and discussion of how this study adds to the medical education literature, particularly the rationale for doing the survey and what would be done with the results in an educational sense.

Some of the thoughts that came to mind were:

- A FMT is a specialist procedure - what is reasonable for medical students to know compared with interns and specialist trainees?

- It was very surprising to me just how much the students actually knew about such a new and specialised procedure. It was stated this was in the absence of formal teaching yet students reported they had learned from courses. Is this a case of curriculum overlap of which the authors are unaware? It may also represent an example of how new and exciting treatments are incorporated into programmes.

- This is an example of a new medical technology, so one message might be how medical students learn about new technologies.

What was the time period between students being invited to do the survey and actually doing it? Might they have gone and looked up information on FMT?
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.
No

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.
No

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