Reviewer's report


Version: 2 Date: 19 August 2014

Reviewer: Giovanni Maccioni

Reviewer's report:

Report

Thank you very much for the chance to review an interesting article.

The objectives of this study were to develop a low-cost NIR spectroscopy prototype from a standard mobile device, to evaluate its efficacy and acceptance as an educational tool for nursing/medical students learning venipuncture, and to evaluate its efficacy in a clinical setting to improve the success rate of vein location.

The paper is very interesting, it is well structured, the design of the methodology sounds well, the results are complete, figures, tables and flow-charts are useful; furthermore it is well focused in the field of the journal.

The paper needs the following revision:

1. (general comment) The paper must be reduced. This reviewer understand that every information is necessary to describe the study, however the opinion of this reviewer is that for the scientific dissemination in this specific journal you should reduce the paper (see the next comments).

2. The abstract is well organized; however it is 1 page and half long and thus should be reduced.

3. The Biblio (57 articles) is very interesting and as it is it could be useful for a general review on the field, however for the research paper you could reduce it of about 50 %. Introductive and final consideration could be thus reduced.

4. If possible, avoid the use of “we” and “our”.

5. Check the organization of sections in the pg. results. Are subsections all necessary?

6. Check the resolution of the images.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests