Reviewer's report

Title: Practicing evidence based medicine at the bedside: Tablets & Co - assessment of usability in everyday clinical life

Version: 2 Date: 9 June 2014

Reviewer: Paul George

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Major compulsory comments:

While this study attempts to address the use of mobile applications versus using a computer in clinical settings, it's methodology and results are concerning. For example, I don't expect in an academic paper to read, "All groups equally thought that the practical course was fun."

In addition, I think a clearer delineation of what exactly students were using on their iPhones/tablets would be important. PubMed isn't particularly useful on a smartphone, although apps that answering clinical questions in real time like Up to Date or Dynamed are very useful.

Other comments include the lack of data on the statistics used - did the authors compare the groups with a paired t-test or an ANOVA or something different. What were the demographics of each group (meaning is the PC group more facile with technology in general than the other groups.

The writing in the article broke multiple grammatical rules (changing tenses in paragraphs; words incorrectly used; run on sentences, etc.

While I like the idea of randomizing students to different interventions (which is unfortunately done seldomly in medical education), this study has too many shortcomings to warrant publishing.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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