Reviewer’s report

Title: Are Austrian practitioners ready to use medical apps? Results of a validation study

Version: 0  Date: 30 Jan 2019

Reviewer: Didi Surian

Reviewer's report:

The authors present their work in assessing the readiness of Austrian practitioners to use medical apps in day-to-day clinical practice. A survey among 151 Austrian doctors was done using a questionnaire via online survey. The use of apps, especially for medical purposes, has been widely studied.

1. "The most popular types of mobile phones are smartphones such as iPhones and Android phones". Please add reference.

2. "Nevertheless, mobile technology can facilitate decision-making in clinical contexts, improve workflows, and reduce medical error rates, ..."). Please add reference.

3. It is not clear why the twelve people without medical background were invited to evaluate the questionnaire for comprehensibility, what are their backgrounds, why not people with medical background instead, and how they were chosen.

4. It is mentioned that "Participation was anonymous". As the link to the online survey was sent via e-newsletter with targeted registered recipients, how the authors made sure that the system didn't track the email of the targeted participant? Was there a process to make the participant anonymous?

5. The online survey was done using SoSci survey, which means there is a participation of third party. While the authors stated that "Collected data were stored securely and protected from unauthorized access", as the data was stored in third party's database, there is a concern about the security. Moreover, a quick search on Internet suggests that SoSci is prone to security vulnerabilities (this is only an indication, but may raise a concern). This should be considered carefully to protect the data.

6. Tables could be improved so they won't take much space.

7. The participants mentioned that "...the use of medical apps during the medical consultation disturbs the relationship with the patient (59.6)", and, "...in public Austrian hospitals, use of private smartphones is often generally banned...", "...led to an extension of the ban ...". The
reviewer thinks that all of these may be the potential factors of low technology adoption in clinical environments (the authors also mentioned this in the Conclusion). Having said that, the title doesn't represent the study really well as the practitioner is not the focus why the low adoption, but the system also contributes.

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?
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.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
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