Reviewer’s report

Title: Cardiac health knowledge and misconceptions among nursing students: Implications for nursing curriculum design

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Reviewer: Stephen J Leslie

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for asking me to review this interesting manuscript.

General points

Generally it was well written and interesting. My major concern is that the conclusions do not reflect what the paper was about nor the new data presented in this paper and need to be re-written to reflect the study in hand.

Furthermore, I'm not sure the title reflects the study aims. This study looked at cardiac knowledge and misconceptions in nurses - these were found to be variable and the title and conclusions need to reflect this.

Defined 'research questions' would help focus this paper

Were there differences between institutions?

Specific points

In the abstract introduction the sentence 'nursing students are the nurses of tomorrow' does not add anything and should be removed.

In the abstract results I would suggest that instead of maximum and minimum score - this is simply reported as (range 2 - 17) and (range 0-14). I would remove the term 'fair' it is vague. The knowledge is reported at fairly satisfactory yet some nurses scored 2 / 18 - this is a concern.

The abstract conclusion is true BUT does not reflect any of the data collected in this study nor reflect the aims of this study.
Introduction

Are nurses expected to provide an 'essential role in educating the …… the general public?

How was sample size calculated?

Data collection - the response rate is very high - how were students recruited to get this so high?

The response rate should actually be reported in the results section.

Table 1 - the 'yes' and 'no' responses need verified - look transposed to me.

Discussion

'Without doubt the curriculum adequately prepares junior nurses ….' where is the evidence for this statement?

The discussion contained several vague statements that are not supported by evidence. E.g. although benefit of exercise are unquestionable, to ensure a safe practice……physical activity' There are several elements to this sentence that could be challenged. Generally the discussion needs re-written to make it more defensible.

The terms 'fair and significant' should be defined or changed.

Conclusion doesn't reflect the aims or data presented in this paper.
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?
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No

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