

Reviewer's report

Title: Computer-based teaching is as good as face to face lecture-based teaching of evidence based medicine: A randomised controlled trial.

Version: 1 Date: 11 September 2006

Reviewer: Reinhard Friedl

Reviewer's report:

General

This work has a strong study design and a sound control of frequent confounders.

This gives additional and independent evidence to the hypothesis that CBT is at least equally effective than traditional learning methods when factual knowledge has to be acquired. However, this has been shown in previous studies as well.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

In the introduction the authors outline possible advantages of computer based teaching (CBT) as interactivity and hyperlinks. It remains unclear to the reviewer to what extent their CBT program employs such type of functionality or whether it is more comparable to a self-running digital video or power point presentation. A screenshot of the program would be helpful.

The authors should make explicit whether they use the same pedagogical concept in both learning formats: e.g passive watching in the lecture based scenario and of the CBT program as well

The authors should make explicit whether the CBT course was delivered online or off-line via e.g.CD-ROM

Fig. 1 demonstrates the process of inclusion, exclusion and randomisation of participants. This is not a result but belongs to the methods section.

The interpretation of the meaning of the "confidence intervals" in the results section (2nd paragraph) should be transferred to the discussion section.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Part of the authors hypothesis is repeated in the methods section which is redundant.

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No