

# CONSORT-EHEALTH (V 1.6.1) - Submission/Publication Form

The CONSORT-EHEALTH checklist is intended for authors of randomized trials evaluating web-based and Internet-based applications/interventions, including mobile interventions, electronic games (incl multiplayer games), social media, certain telehealth applications, and other interactive and/or networked electronic applications. Some of the items (e.g. all subitems under item 5 - description of the intervention) may also be applicable for other study designs.

The goal of the CONSORT EHEALTH checklist and guideline is to be

- a) a guide for reporting for authors of RCTs,
- b) to form a basis for appraisal of an ehealth trial (in terms of validity)

CONSORT-EHEALTH items/subitems are MANDATORY reporting items for studies published in the Journal of Medical Internet Research and other journals / scientific societies endorsing the checklist.

Items numbered 1., 2., 3., 4a., 4b etc are original CONSORT or CONSORT-NPT (non-pharmacologic treatment) items.

Items with Roman numerals (i., ii, iii, iv etc.) are CONSORT-EHEALTH extensions/clarifications.

As the CONSORT-EHEALTH checklist is still considered in a formative stage, we would ask that you also RATE ON A SCALE OF 1-5 how important/useful you feel each item is FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE CHECKLIST and reporting guideline (optional).

Mandatory reporting items are marked with a red \*.

In the textboxes, either copy & paste the relevant sections from your manuscript into this form - please include any quotes from your manuscript in QUOTATION MARKS, or answer directly by providing additional information not in the manuscript, or elaborating on why the item was not relevant for this study.

YOUR ANSWERS WILL BE PUBLISHED AS A SUPPLEMENTARY FILE TO YOUR PUBLICATION IN JMIR AND ARE CONSIDERED PART OF YOUR PUBLICATION (IF ACCEPTED).

Please fill in these questions diligently. Information will not be copyedited, so please use proper spelling and grammar, use correct capitalization, and avoid abbreviations.

DO NOT FORGET TO SAVE AS PDF \_AND\_ CLICK THE SUBMIT BUTTON SO YOUR ANSWERS ARE IN OUR DATABASE !!!

Citation Suggestion (if you append the pdf as Appendix we suggest to cite this paper in the caption):

Eysenbach G, CONSORT-EHEALTH Group

CONSORT-EHEALTH: Improving and Standardizing Evaluation Reports of Web-based and Mobile Health Interventions

J Med Internet Res 2011;13(4):e126

URL: <http://www.jmir.org/2011/4/e126/>



doi: 10.2196/jmir.1923

PMID: 22209829

\* Required

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Title of your manuscript \*

Provide the (draft) title of your manuscript.

Distance Learning of the National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale during the COVID-19 Pandemic, E-learning versus Video: a Randomized Trial

Name of your App/Software/Intervention \*

If there is a short and a long/alternate name, write the short name first and add the long name in brackets.

NIH Stroke Scale e-learning module



### Evaluated Version (if any)

e.g. "V1", "Release 2017-03-01", "Version 2.0.27913"

v21

### Language(s) \*

What language is the intervention/app in? If multiple languages are available, separate by comma (e.g. "English, French")

French

### URL of your Intervention Website or App

e.g. a direct link to the mobile app on app in appstore (itunes, Google Play), or URL of the website. If the intervention is a DVD or hardware, you can also link to an Amazon page.

<https://nihss-study.ch/>

### URL of an image/screenshot (optional)

Your answer

### Accessibility \*

Can an enduser access the intervention presently?

- access is free and open
- access only for special usergroups, not open
- access is open to everyone, but requires payment/subscription/in-app purchases
- app/intervention no longer accessible
- Other:



### Primary Medical Indication/Disease/Condition \*

e.g. "Stress", "Diabetes", or define the target group in brackets after the condition, e.g. "Autism (Parents of children with)", "Alzheimers (Informal Caregivers of)"

Stroke

### Primary Outcomes measured in trial \*

comma-separated list of primary outcomes reported in the trial

Knowledge acquisition (score on a 50-question)

### Secondary/other outcomes

Are there any other outcomes the intervention is expected to affect?

Yes - the difference in the proportion of correct answers for each specific NIHSS item, user satisfaction, and the probability of peer-recommendation

### Recommended "Dose" \*

What do the instructions for users say on how often the app should be used?

- Approximately Daily
- Approximately Weekly
- Approximately Monthly
- Approximately Yearly
- "as needed"
- Other: Not applicable



Approx. Percentage of Users (starters) still using the app as recommended after 3 months \*

- unknown / not evaluated
- 0-10%
- 11-20%
- 21-30%
- 31-40%
- 41-50%
- 51-60%
- 61-70%
- 71%-80%
- 81-90%
- 91-100%
- Other: Not applicable

Overall, was the app/intervention effective? \*

- yes: all primary outcomes were significantly better in intervention group vs control
- partly: SOME primary outcomes were significantly better in intervention group vs control
- no statistically significant difference between control and intervention
- potentially harmful: control was significantly better than intervention in one or more outcomes
- inconclusive: more research is needed
- Other:



### Article Preparation Status/Stage \*

At which stage in your article preparation are you currently (at the time you fill in this form)

- not submitted yet - in early draft status
- not submitted yet - in late draft status, just before submission
- submitted to a journal but not reviewed yet
- submitted to a journal and after receiving initial reviewer comments
- submitted to a journal and accepted, but not published yet
- published
- Other:

### Journal \*

If you already know where you will submit this paper (or if it is already submitted), please provide the journal name (if it is not JMIR, provide the journal name under "other")

- not submitted yet / unclear where I will submit this
- Journal of Medical Internet Research (JMIR)
- JMIR mHealth and UHealth
- JMIR Serious Games
- JMIR Mental Health
- JMIR Public Health
- JMIR Formative Research
- Other JMIR sister journal
- Other:



Is this a full powered effectiveness trial or a pilot/feasibility trial? \*

- Pilot/feasibility
- Fully powered

Manuscript tracking number \*

If this is a JMIR submission, please provide the manuscript tracking number under "other" (The ms tracking number can be found in the submission acknowledgement email, or when you login as author in JMIR. If the paper is already published in JMIR, then the ms tracking number is the four-digit number at the end of the DOI, to be found at the bottom of each published article in JMIR)

- no ms number (yet) / not (yet) submitted to / published in JMIR
- Other: 23594

## TITLE AND ABSTRACT

1a) TITLE: Identification as a randomized trial in the title

1a) Does your paper address CONSORT item 1a? \*

I.e does the title contain the phrase "Randomized Controlled Trial"? (if not, explain the reason under "other")

- yes
- Other:



### 1a-i) Identify the mode of delivery in the title

Identify the mode of delivery. Preferably use "web-based" and/or "mobile" and/or "electronic game" in the title. Avoid ambiguous terms like "online", "virtual", "interactive". Use "Internet-based" only if Intervention includes non-web-based Internet components (e.g. email), use "computer-based" or "electronic" only if offline products are used. Use "virtual" only in the context of "virtual reality" (3-D worlds). Use "online" only in the context of "online support groups". Complement or substitute product names with broader terms for the class of products (such as "mobile" or "smart phone" instead of "iphone"), especially if the application runs on different platforms.

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subitem not at all important                        essential

Clear selection

### Does your paper address subitem 1a-i? \*

Copy and paste relevant sections from manuscript title (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Not exactly, but "e-learning" is part of the title. "Web-Based" was not embedded to keep the title short, but it could be depending on the editorial decision.

### 1a-ii) Non-web-based components or important co-interventions in title

Mention non-web-based components or important co-interventions in title, if any (e.g., "with telephone support").

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### Does your paper address subitem 1a-ii?

Copy and paste relevant sections from manuscript title (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Not applicable





1a-iii) Primary condition or target group in the title

Mention primary condition or target group in the title, if any (e.g., "for children with Type I Diabetes")  
Example: A Web-based and Mobile Intervention with Telephone Support for Children with Type I Diabetes: Randomized Controlled Trial

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Does your paper address subitem 1a-iii? \*

Copy and paste relevant sections from manuscript title (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

No, but the term "distance learning" implies that healthcare professionals (or students) are the target population. "Senior Medical Students" could be added, though the title is already quite long.

1b) ABSTRACT: Structured summary of trial design, methods, results, and conclusions

NPT extension: Description of experimental treatment, comparator, care providers, centers, and blinding status.

1b-i) Key features/functionalities/components of the intervention and comparator in the METHODS section of the ABSTRACT

Mention key features/functionalities/components of the intervention and comparator in the abstract. If possible, also mention theories and principles used for designing the site. Keep in mind the needs of systematic reviewers and indexers by including important synonyms. (Note: Only report in the abstract what the main paper is reporting. If this information is missing from the main body of text, consider adding it)

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Does your paper address subitem 1b-i? \*

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript abstract (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes, in the methods section: "The control group followed the traditional didactic video created by Patrick Lyden while the e-learning group followed the updated version of a previously tested highly-interactive e-learning module"

1b-ii) Level of human involvement in the METHODS section of the ABSTRACT

Clarify the level of human involvement in the abstract, e.g., use phrases like "fully automated" vs. "therapist/nurse/care provider/physician-assisted" (mention number and expertise of providers involved, if any). (Note: Only report in the abstract what the main paper is reporting. If this information is missing from the main body of text, consider adding it)

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Does your paper address subitem 1b-ii?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript abstract (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes, it is implicit given the term "distance learning" and the following sentence of the methods section: "Fifth year medical students followed a learning path designed to distantly learn the NIHSS"



**1b-iii) Open vs. closed, web-based (self-assessment) vs. face-to-face assessments in the METHODS section of the ABSTRACT**

Mention how participants were recruited (online vs. offline), e.g., from an open access website or from a clinic or a closed online user group (closed usergroup trial), and clarify if this was a purely web-based trial, or there were face-to-face components (as part of the intervention or for assessment). Clearly say if outcomes were self-assessed through questionnaires (as common in web-based trials). Note: In traditional offline trials, an open trial (open-label trial) is a type of clinical trial in which both the researchers and participants know which treatment is being administered. To avoid confusion, use "blinded" or "unblinded" to indicated the level of blinding instead of "open", as "open" in web-based trials usually refers to "open access" (i.e. participants can self-enrol). (Note: Only report in the abstract what the main paper is reporting. If this information is missing from the main body of text, consider adding it)

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**Does your paper address subitem 1b-iii?**

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript abstract (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

**Yes: "A randomized, controlled, data-analyst blinded web-based trial was conducted at the University of Geneva Faculty of Medicine"**

**1b-iv) RESULTS section in abstract must contain use data**

Report number of participants enrolled/assessed in each group, the use/uptake of the intervention (e.g., attrition/adherence metrics, use over time, number of logins etc.), in addition to primary/secondary outcomes. (Note: Only report in the abstract what the main paper is reporting. If this information is missing from the main body of text, consider adding it)

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### Does your paper address subitem 1b-iv?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript abstract (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes: "Out of 158 potential participants, 88 started their allocated learning path, and 75 completed the trial." and "Participants who followed the e-learning module performed better than those who followed the video (38 [95%CI 37 to 39] correct answers versus 35 [95%CI 34 to 36],  $P < .001$ ). [...]"

### 1b-v) CONCLUSIONS/DISCUSSION in abstract for negative trials

Conclusions/Discussions in abstract for negative trials: Discuss the primary outcome - if the trial is negative (primary outcome not changed), and the intervention was not used, discuss whether negative results are attributable to lack of uptake and discuss reasons. (Note: Only report in the abstract what the main paper is reporting. If this information is missing from the main body of text, consider adding it)

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### Does your paper address subitem 1b-v?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript abstract (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Not applicable: this was not a negative trial.

## INTRODUCTION

2a) In INTRODUCTION: Scientific background and explanation of rationale



### 2a-i) Problem and the type of system/solution

Describe the problem and the type of system/solution that is object of the study: intended as stand-alone intervention vs. incorporated in broader health care program? Intended for a particular patient population? Goals of the intervention, e.g., being more cost-effective to other interventions, replace or complement other solutions? (Note: Details about the intervention are provided in "Methods" under 5)

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### Does your paper address subitem 2a-i? \*

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes, the whole introduction states the problem. It is however summarized thus:  
"Given the need for social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic, our goal was to compare medical students' distance learning of the NIHSS using two different teaching tools: [...]"

### 2a-ii) Scientific background, rationale: What is known about the (type of) system

Scientific background, rationale: What is known about the (type of) system that is the object of the study (be sure to discuss the use of similar systems for other conditions/diagnoses, if appropriate), motivation for the study, i.e. what are the reasons for and what is the context for this specific study, from which stakeholder viewpoint is the study performed, potential impact of findings [2]. Briefly justify the choice of the comparator.

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Does your paper address subitem 2a-ii? \*

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes - there is even a paragraph about how the intervention was improves: "We have recently shown that, compared to the traditional didactic video created and described by Patrick Lyden in 1994 [19], a highly-interactive e-learning module improved NIHSS knowledge acquisition in paramedics [20]. Nevertheless, this study was performed with the participants present on the study site, therefore allowing them to immediately access technical support if needed. Moreover, we identified certain shortcomings in the e-learning module which has since been updated and now embeds more cut scenes extracted from the original teaching video. "

2b) In INTRODUCTION: Specific objectives or hypotheses

Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 2b? \*

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes: "Given the need for social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic, our goal was to compare medical students' distance learning of the NIHSS using two different teaching tools: the gold standard didactic video versus the updated version of our e-learning module."

**METHODS**

3a) Description of trial design (such as parallel, factorial) including allocation ratio



### Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 3a? \*

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes: "We performed a randomized, controlled, data-analyst blinded, web-based trial following the CONSORT-EHEALTH guidelines and incorporating relevant elements from the CHERRIES checklist [21,22]."

### 3b) Important changes to methods after trial commencement (such as eligibility criteria), with reasons

### Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 3b? \*

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

No - the study was short enough ("The study took place between April 28th and June 8th 2020 in Geneva, Switzerland."). Therefore, no significant change could reasonably have happened during this time (and none has).

### 3b-i) Bug fixes, Downtimes, Content Changes

Bug fixes, Downtimes, Content Changes: ehealth systems are often dynamic systems. A description of changes to methods therefore also includes important changes made on the intervention or comparator during the trial (e.g., major bug fixes or changes in the functionality or content) (5-iii) and other "unexpected events" that may have influenced study design such as staff changes, system failures/downtimes, etc. [2].

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### Does your paper address subitem 3b-i?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

More or less - the updates performed on the previous version of the e-learning module (v20) were described: "The module was updated to include video extracts regarding the dysarthria and level of consciousness (global and questions) items of the NIHSS. Such videos were not part of the previously studied version of our module (version 20) [20]." Once again, the study period was short, so no significant change (or downtime) happened.

### 4a) Eligibility criteria for participants

#### Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 4a? \*

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes: all 5th year medical students: "After gathering the necessary authorizations, the UGFM students' secretary transmitted the exact number of fifth year medical students to MS"

#### 4a-i) Computer / Internet literacy

Computer / Internet literacy is often an implicit "de facto" eligibility criterion - this should be explicitly clarified.

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### Does your paper address subitem 4a-i?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Not explicitly, but the population was only composed of 5th year medical students, who use the Internet on a daily basis (they must use a Moodle platform to access study material)

### 4a-ii) Open vs. closed, web-based vs. face-to-face assessments:

Open vs. closed, web-based vs. face-to-face assessments: Mention how participants were recruited (online vs. offline), e.g., from an open access website or from a clinic, and clarify if this was a purely web-based trial, or there were face-to-face components (as part of the intervention or for assessment), i.e., to what degree got the study team to know the participant. In online-only trials, clarify if participants were quasi-anonymous and whether having multiple identities was possible or whether technical or logistical measures (e.g., cookies, email confirmation, phone calls) were used to detect/prevent these.

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### Does your paper address subitem 4a-ii? \*

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes - all 5th year students received an invitation e-mail: "MS then created specific identifiers which were transmitted back to the UGFM along with a mailing template."



#### 4a-iii) Information giving during recruitment

Information given during recruitment. Specify how participants were briefed for recruitment and in the informed consent procedures (e.g., publish the informed consent documentation as appendix, see also item X26), as this information may have an effect on user self-selection, user expectation and may also bias results.

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#### Does your paper address subitem 4a-iii?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes: "The students were informed of the goals of the investigation, were given information regarding data security and anonymization procedures, and were supplied with the e-mail addresses of three investigators to allow them to ask further questions. Students who elected to browse the website were provided with additional information, as well as with a link to a full 4-page consent form in PDF format they could either print or save. Using their identifiers to log into the site was considered as acceptance to participate in the study."

#### 4b) Settings and locations where the data were collected

#### Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 4b? \*

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

No - as this was a web-based study, participants could connect from wherever they wished to.



#### 4b-i) Report if outcomes were (self-)assessed through online questionnaires

Clearly report if outcomes were (self-)assessed through online questionnaires (as common in web-based trials) or otherwise.

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#### Does your paper address subitem 4b-i? \*

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes: "The primary outcome was the proportion of correct answers to the 50-question quiz."

#### 4b-ii) Report how institutional affiliations are displayed

Report how institutional affiliations are displayed to potential participants [on ehealth media], as affiliations with prestigious hospitals or universities may affect volunteer rates, use, and reactions with regards to an intervention.(Not a required item – describe only if this may bias results)

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#### Does your paper address subitem 4b-ii?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes - the mailing was sent through the UGFM secretary, and the students "were supplied with the e-mail addresses of three investigators to allow them to ask further questions". Therefore the affiliation of the investigators was crystal clear.



5) The interventions for each group with sufficient details to allow replication, including how and when they were actually administered

5-i) Mention names, credential, affiliations of the developers, sponsors, and owners

Mention names, credential, affiliations of the developers, sponsors, and owners [6] (if authors/evaluators are owners or developer of the software, this needs to be declared in a "Conflict of interest" section or mentioned elsewhere in the manuscript).

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Does your paper address subitem 5-i?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes - we do clearly speak of "our" learning module: The experiment was version 21 of our e-learning module, which contains 184 highly interactive slides. The "other disclosures" section also reads: "Though the e-learning module was created by four of the authors (Mélanie Suppan, Loric Stuby, Avinash Koka and Laurent Suppan), these authors declare no financial conflict of interest as the module is freely available on the study's website.

The other authors (Emmanuel Carrera, Philippe Cottet, Frédéric Assal and Georges Louis Savoldelli) report no potential competing interest."



### 5-ii) Describe the history/development process

Describe the history/development process of the application and previous formative evaluations (e.g., focus groups, usability testing), as these will have an impact on adoption/use rates and help with interpreting results.

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### Does your paper address subitem 5-ii?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes, but only in part: the first paper described it more thoroughly (ms#18358), while this paper specifically described the improvements that were performed on the module: "The module was updated to include video extracts regarding the dysarthria and level of consciousness (global and questions) items of the NIHSS. Such videos were not part of the previously studied version of our module (version 20) [20]."

### 5-iii) Revisions and updating

Revisions and updating. Clearly mention the date and/or version number of the application/intervention (and comparator, if applicable) evaluated, or describe whether the intervention underwent major changes during the evaluation process, or whether the development and/or content was "frozen" during the trial. Describe dynamic components such as news feeds or changing content which may have an impact on the replicability of the intervention (for unexpected events see item 3b).

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Clear selection



### Does your paper address subitem 5-iii?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes, as stated above: "The experiment was version 21 of our e-learning module, which contains 184 highly interactive slides. The module was updated to include video extracts regarding the dysarthria and level of consciousness (global and questions) items of the NIHSS. Such videos were not part of the previously studied version of our module (version 20) [20]."

### 5-iv) Quality assurance methods

Provide information on quality assurance methods to ensure accuracy and quality of information provided [1], if applicable.

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subitem not at all important                        essential

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### Does your paper address subitem 5-iv?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes: "Data was securely stored on an encrypted MariaDB 5.5.5 database (MariaDB foundation, Redwood City, USA) located on a Swiss server, before being extracted in CSV format."



5-v) Ensure replicability by publishing the source code, and/or providing screenshots/screen-capture video, and/or providing flowcharts of the algorithms used

Ensure replicability by publishing the source code, and/or providing screenshots/screen-capture video, and/or providing flowcharts of the algorithms used. Replicability (i.e., other researchers should in principle be able to replicate the study) is a hallmark of scientific reporting.

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Clear selection

Does your paper address subitem 5-v?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes: the module is freely available online (both versions): <https://www.nihss-study.ch>; moreover, our original data has been deposited to Mendeley data: doi: 10.17632/R3XCWPH3RD.1

5-vi) Digital preservation

Digital preservation: Provide the URL of the application, but as the intervention is likely to change or disappear over the course of the years; also make sure the intervention is archived (Internet Archive, [webcitation.org](http://webcitation.org), and/or publishing the source code or screenshots/videos alongside the article). As pages behind login screens cannot be archived, consider creating demo pages which are accessible without login.

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subitem not at all important                        essential

Clear selection



### Does your paper address subitem 5-vi?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes - the module is available, free of charge, at <https://www.nihss-study.ch>

### 5-vii) Access

Access: Describe how participants accessed the application, in what setting/context, if they had to pay (or were paid) or not, whether they had to be a member of specific group. If known, describe how participants obtained "access to the platform and Internet" [1]. To ensure access for editors/reviewers/readers, consider to provide a "backdoor" login account or demo mode for reviewers/readers to explore the application (also important for archiving purposes, see vi).

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subitem not at all important                        essential

Clear selection

### Does your paper address subitem 5-vii? \*

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes: "Immediately after login, the medical students discovered the group to which they had been allocated [...]"





### 5-viii) Mode of delivery, features/functionality/components of the intervention and comparator, and the theoretical framework

Describe mode of delivery, features/functionality/components of the intervention and comparator, and the theoretical framework [6] used to design them (instructional strategy [1], behaviour change techniques, persuasive features, etc., see e.g., [7, 8] for terminology). This includes an in-depth description of the content (including where it is coming from and who developed it) [1], "whether [and how] it is tailored to individual circumstances and allows users to track their progress and receive feedback" [6]. This also includes a description of communication delivery channels and – if computer-mediated communication is a component – whether communication was synchronous or asynchronous [6]. It also includes information on presentation strategies [1], including page design principles, average amount of text on pages, presence of hyperlinks to other resources, etc. [1].

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subitem not at all important                        essential

Clear selection

### Does your paper address subitem 5-viii? \*

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes - between the previous manuscript (ms#18358) and this one, the development and improvement of the module have been exposed.

### 5-ix) Describe use parameters

Describe use parameters (e.g., intended "doses" and optimal timing for use). Clarify what instructions or recommendations were given to the user, e.g., regarding timing, frequency, heaviness of use, if any, or was the intervention used ad libitum.

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subitem not at all important                        essential

Clear selection



### Does your paper address subitem 5-ix?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Not applicable to this study ("single dose" of an e-learning module)

### 5-x) Clarify the level of human involvement

Clarify the level of human involvement (care providers or health professionals, also technical assistance) in the e-intervention or as co-intervention (detail number and expertise of professionals involved, if any, as well as "type of assistance offered, the timing and frequency of the support, how it is initiated, and the medium by which the assistance is delivered". It may be necessary to distinguish between the level of human involvement required for the trial, and the level of human involvement required for a routine application outside of a RCT setting (discuss under item 21 – generalizability).

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subitem not at all important	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	essential

Clear selection

### Does your paper address subitem 5-x?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes - the titles almost clarifies it on its own ("distance learning"). The "study sequence" section of the methods gives a thorough understanding of what the medical students did.



### 5-xi) Report any prompts/reminders used

Report any prompts/reminders used: Clarify if there were prompts (letters, emails, phone calls, SMS) to use the application, what triggered them, frequency etc. It may be necessary to distinguish between the level of prompts/reminders required for the trial, and the level of prompts/reminders for a routine application outside of a RCT setting (discuss under item 21 – generalizability).

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subitem not at all important                        essential

Clear selection

### Does your paper address subitem 5-xi? \*

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes, quite thoroughly, but in the results section: "After the first mailing (April 28th, 2020) 21 students completed the trial. The first reminder (May 11th, 2020) led 29 more students to complete the course, while another 25 participated after the second and last reminder (May 18th, 2020). "

### 5-xii) Describe any co-interventions (incl. training/support)

Describe any co-interventions (incl. training/support): Clearly state any interventions that are provided in addition to the targeted eHealth intervention, as ehealth intervention may not be designed as stand-alone intervention. This includes training sessions and support [1]. It may be necessary to distinguish between the level of training required for the trial, and the level of training for a routine application outside of a RCT setting (discuss under item 21 – generalizability).

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subitem not at all important                        essential

Clear selection



Does your paper address subitem 5-xii? \*

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Implicitly - the whole study sequence is detailed, and no co-intervention was designed.

6a) Completely defined pre-specified primary and secondary outcome measures, including how and when they were assessed

Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 6a? \*

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes: "The primary outcome was the proportion of correct answers to the 50-question quiz. Secondary outcomes were proportion of correct answers for each specific NIHSS item, user satisfaction, perceived adequacy of the time needed to complete the course, perceived difficulty of the course, probability the participant would recommend the course, and whether the learning path had been completed over multiple days."

6a-i) Online questionnaires: describe if they were validated for online use and apply CHERRIES items to describe how the questionnaires were designed/deployed

If outcomes were obtained through online questionnaires, describe if they were validated for online use and apply CHERRIES items to describe how the questionnaires were designed/deployed [9].

subitem not at all important      1      2      3      4      5      essential

              

Clear selection



Does your paper address subitem 6a-i?

Copy and paste relevant sections from manuscript text

Yes, but this was a CONSORT-EHEALTH compliant study. Therefore, only the relevant CHERRIES items were reported: "We performed a randomized, controlled, data-analyst blinded, web-based trial following the CONSORT-EHEALTH guidelines and incorporating relevant elements from the CHERRIES checklist"

6a-ii) Describe whether and how "use" (including intensity of use/dosage) was defined/measured/monitored

Describe whether and how "use" (including intensity of use/dosage) was defined/measured/monitored (logins, logfile analysis, etc.). Use/adoption metrics are important process outcomes that should be reported in any ehealth trial.

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subitem not at all important                        essential

Clear selection

Does your paper address subitem 6a-ii?

Copy and paste relevant sections from manuscript text

Not applicable. We however sought to determine "whether the learning path had been completed over multiple days"



6a-iii) Describe whether, how, and when qualitative feedback from participants was obtained

Describe whether, how, and when qualitative feedback from participants was obtained (e.g., through emails, feedback forms, interviews, focus groups).

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subitem not at all important                        essential

Clear selection

Does your paper address subitem 6a-iii?

Copy and paste relevant sections from manuscript text

Yes, this is part of the secondary outcomes: "[...] user satisfaction, perceived adequacy of the time needed to complete the course, perceived difficulty of the course, probability the participant would recommend the course [...]"

6b) Any changes to trial outcomes after the trial commenced, with reasons

Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 6b? \*

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Not explicitly - given the short time frame and the study design, no real change to the outcomes could have been carried out. Moreover, our previous manuscript has a similar design, with similar (if not identical) outcomes.

7a) How sample size was determined

NPT: When applicable, details of whether and how the clustering by care provides or centers was addressed



**7a-i) Describe whether and how expected attrition was taken into account when calculating the sample size**

Describe whether and how expected attrition was taken into account when calculating the sample size.

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subitem not at all important                        essential

Clear selection

**Does your paper address subitem 7a-i?**

Copy and paste relevant sections from manuscript title (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes - "We used a convenience sample and calculated the power post-hoc."

**7b) When applicable, explanation of any interim analyses and stopping guidelines**

**Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 7b? \***

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

There were no such analyses.

**8a) Method used to generate the random allocation sequence**

NPT: When applicable, how care providers were allocated to each trial group



**Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 8a? \***

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes: "[...] who performed a 1:1 computer assisted randomization without having access to any other data regarding the students"

**8b) Type of randomisation; details of any restriction (such as blocking and block size)**

**Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 8b? \***

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes: "[...] 1:1 computer assisted randomization [...]"

**9) Mechanism used to implement the random allocation sequence (such as sequentially numbered containers), describing any steps taken to conceal the sequence until interventions were assigned**

**Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 9? \***

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes: "[...] without having access to any other data regarding the students." and "Immediately after login, the medical students discovered the group to which they had been allocated [...]"

**10) Who generated the random allocation sequence, who enrolled participants, and who assigned participants to interventions**





Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 10? \*

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes: "After gathering the necessary authorizations, the UGFM students' secretary transmitted the exact number of fifth year medical students to MS, who performed a 1:1 computer assisted randomization without having access to any other data regarding the students. MS then created specific identifiers which were transmitted back to the UGFM along with a mailing template. The UGFM staff were therefore unable to determine student allocation or results. In addition, we were prevented from determining students' identities."

11a) If done, who was blinded after assignment to interventions (for example, participants, care providers, those assessing outcomes) and how

NPT: Whether or not administering co-interventions were blinded to group assignment

11a-i) Specify who was blinded, and who wasn't

Specify who was blinded, and who wasn't. Usually, in web-based trials it is not possible to blind the participants [1, 3] (this should be clearly acknowledged), but it may be possible to blind outcome assessors, those doing data analysis or those administering co-interventions (if any).

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subitem not at all important                        essential

Clear selection

Does your paper address subitem 11a-i? \*

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes: "data-analyst blinded" and "STATA 15.1 was used by LSt for statistical analysis"



11a-ii) Discuss e.g., whether participants knew which intervention was the “intervention of interest” and which one was the “comparator”

Informed consent procedures (4a-ii) can create biases and certain expectations - discuss e.g., whether participants knew which intervention was the “intervention of interest” and which one was the “comparator”.

subitem not at all important      1      2      3      4      5      essential

                      

Clear selection

Does your paper address subitem 11a-ii?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

While it was not explicitly explained to the medical students, they probably guessed that the e-learning was the intervention of interest.

**11b) If relevant, description of the similarity of interventions**

(this item is usually not relevant for ehealth trials as it refers to similarity of a placebo or sham intervention to a active medication/intervention)

Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 11b? \*

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes, in the discussion: "Our aim was indeed to evaluate whether knowledge acquisition was different when presenting similar content in different learning formats." Parts of the methods and of the introduction also contain significant data regarding this subitem, such as: "Moreover, we identified certain shortcomings in the e-learning module which has since been updated and now embeds more cut scenes extracted from the original teaching video"



## 12a) Statistical methods used to compare groups for primary and secondary outcomes

NPT: When applicable, details of whether and how the clustering by care providers or centers was addressed

### Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 12a? \*

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes: "STATA 15.1 was used by LSt for statistical analysis. Incomplete answers to the 50-question quiz were not analysed.

Normality was assessed by graphical evaluation and, if in doubt, we used the Shapiro-Wilk test. We applied Fisher's exact test to categorical variables, and the Student's t-test or the Mann-Whitney U test to continuous variables accordingly to normality. We considered a two-sided P value lower than .05 as significant.

We used a convenience sample and calculated the power post-hoc. We defined, a priori, four sensitivity analyses, according to whether the participant had prior knowledge of the NIHSS, had already followed a specific NIHSS course, had worked in either an intensive care unit or in a neurology or neurosurgery ward for more than 3 months, or if the learning path had been completed over multiple days. This was defined as more than 12 hours elapsed between initiation and completion of the course.

Finally, we performed a univariate then multivariable linear regression to look for possible confounding factors."

### 12a-i) Imputation techniques to deal with attrition / missing values

Imputation techniques to deal with attrition / missing values: Not all participants will use the intervention/comparator as intended and attrition is typically high in ehealth trials. Specify how participants who did not use the application or dropped out from the trial were treated in the statistical analysis (a complete case analysis is strongly discouraged, and simple imputation techniques such as LOCF may also be problematic [4]).

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subitem not at all important                        essential

Clear selection



Does your paper address subitem 12a-i? \*

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Not explicitly, but missing values were reported as such (Table 2) - therefore, no imputation was made.

### 12b) Methods for additional analyses, such as subgroup analyses and adjusted analyses

Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 12b? \*

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes - see subitem 12a

### X26) REB/IRB Approval and Ethical Considerations [recommended as subheading under "Methods"] (not a CONSORT item)

X26-i) Comment on ethics committee approval

subitem not at all important      1      2      3      4      5      essential

                      

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### Does your paper address subitem X26-i?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes, though it was not really needed, and we went further than strictly required:  
"Since the study included no patient and as no health outcome was recorded, trial registration was not required according to the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors guidelines. Though participants were not part of a vulnerable group according to the Swiss federal law on human research [23], we filed a jurisdictional enquiry, and the regional ethics committee issued a "Declaration of no objection" (Req 2020-00474). The study was also approved by the Board of the Teaching Committee of the UGFM."

### x26-ii) Outline informed consent procedures

Outline informed consent procedures e.g., if consent was obtained offline or online (how? Checkbox, etc.), and what information was provided (see 4a-ii). See [6] for some items to be included in informed consent documents.

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subitem not at all important                        essential

Clear selection

### Does your paper address subitem X26-ii?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes: "Informed consent was gathered electronically." and "Students who elected to browse the website were provided with additional information, as well as with a link to a full 4-page consent form in PDF format they could either print or save. Using their identifiers to log into the site was considered as acceptance to participate in the study."



### X26-iii) Safety and security procedures

Safety and security procedures, incl. privacy considerations, and any steps taken to reduce the likelihood or detection of harm (e.g., education and training, availability of a hotline)

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subitem not at all important                        essential

Clear selection

### Does your paper address subitem X26-iii?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes: "MS then created specific identifiers which were transmitted back to the UGFM along with a mailing template. The UGFM staff were therefore unable to determine student allocation or results. In addition, we were prevented from determining students' identities."

## RESULTS

### 13a) For each group, the numbers of participants who were randomly assigned, received intended treatment, and were analysed for the primary outcome

NPT: The number of care providers or centers performing the intervention in each group and the number of patients treated by each care provider in each center

### Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 13a? \*

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes - Figure 1 and "Out of 158 potential participants, 75 (47.5%) completed the trial (Figure 1). Table 1 details their characteristics."



**13b) For each group, losses and exclusions after randomisation, together with reasons**

Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 13b? (NOTE: Preferably, this is shown in a CONSORT flow diagram) \*

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes - Figure 1

**13b-i) Attrition diagram**

Strongly recommended: An attrition diagram (e.g., proportion of participants still logging in or using the intervention/comparator in each group plotted over time, similar to a survival curve) or other figures or tables demonstrating usage/dose/engagement.

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subitem not at all important                        essential

Clear selection

Does your paper address subitem 13b-i?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript or cite the figure number if applicable (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes - Figure 1

**14a) Dates defining the periods of recruitment and follow-up**



### Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 14a? \*

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes, in the methods: "The study took place between April 28th and June 8th 2020 in Geneva, Switzerland." and in the results: "After the first mailing (April 28th, 2020) 21 students completed the trial. The first reminder (May 11th, 2020) led 29 more students to complete the course, while another 25 participated after the second and last reminder (May 18th, 2020)."

### 14a-i) Indicate if critical "secular events" fell into the study period

Indicate if critical "secular events" fell into the study period, e.g., significant changes in Internet resources available or "changes in computer hardware or Internet delivery resources"

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subitem not at all important                        essential

Clear selection

### Does your paper address subitem 14a-i?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

No, but the study period was too short for that ("The study took place between April 28th and June 8th 2020")

### 14b) Why the trial ended or was stopped (early)





Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 14b? \*

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Not really, but the time frame described makes it clear that the study was completed as expected.

15) A table showing baseline demographic and clinical characteristics for each group

NPT: When applicable, a description of care providers (case volume, qualification, expertise, etc.) and centers (volume) in each group

Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 15? \*

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes - Table 1

15-i) Report demographics associated with digital divide issues

In ehealth trials it is particularly important to report demographics associated with digital divide issues, such as age, education, gender, social-economic status, computer/Internet/ehealth literacy of the participants, if known.

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subitem not at all important                        essential

Clear selection



Does your paper address subitem 15-i? \*

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

No - participants were all 5th year medical students who needed to access a Moodle platform on an almost-daily basis

16) For each group, number of participants (denominator) included in each analysis and whether the analysis was by original assigned groups

16-i) Report multiple "denominators" and provide definitions

Report multiple "denominators" and provide definitions: Report N's (and effect sizes) "across a range of study participation [and use] thresholds" [1], e.g., N exposed, N consented, N used more than x times, N used more than y weeks, N participants "used" the intervention/comparator at specific pre-defined time points of interest (in absolute and relative numbers per group). Always clearly define "use" of the intervention.

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subitem not at all important                        essential

Clear selection

Does your paper address subitem 16-i? \*

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes - Figure 1



### 16-ii) Primary analysis should be intent-to-treat

Primary analysis should be intent-to-treat, secondary analyses could include comparing only "users", with the appropriate caveats that this is no longer a randomized sample (see 18-i).

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subitem not at all important                        essential

Clear selection

### Does your paper address subitem 16-ii?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Not applicable

### 17a) For each primary and secondary outcome, results for each group, and the estimated effect size and its precision (such as 95% confidence interval)

#### Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 17a? \*

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes: "Participants who followed the e-learning module performed better than those who followed the video (38 [95%CI 37 to 39] correct answers versus 35 [95%CI 34 to 36],  $P < .001$ ). Participants in the e-learning group scored five elements better than the video group: key NIHSS concepts ( $P = .02$ ), the consciousness – global item ( $P < .001$ ), the facial palsy item ( $P = .04$ ), the ataxia item ( $P = .03$ ) and the sensory item ( $P = .04$ ). There was no such effect in the video group. Detailed results are shown in Table 2."



**17a-i) Presentation of process outcomes such as metrics of use and intensity of use**

In addition to primary/secondary (clinical) outcomes, the presentation of process outcomes such as metrics of use and intensity of use (dose, exposure) and their operational definitions is critical. This does not only refer to metrics of attrition (13-b) (often a binary variable), but also to more continuous exposure metrics such as "average session length". These must be accompanied by a technical description how a metric like a "session" is defined (e.g., timeout after idle time) [1] (report under item 6a).

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subitem not at all important                        essential

Clear selection

**Does your paper address subitem 17a-i?**

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Not applicable: we could only analyze the participants who logged into the site, who completed the module, and who completed the post-learning path quiz.

**17b) For binary outcomes, presentation of both absolute and relative effect sizes is recommended**

**Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 17b? \***

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Relative effect would not make much sense in this particular study. Only the absolute effect was therefore reported.

**18) Results of any other analyses performed, including subgroup analyses and adjusted analyses, distinguishing pre-specified from exploratory**



## Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 18? \*

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes: "We used a convenience sample and calculated the power post-hoc. We defined, a priori, four sensitivity analyses, according to whether the participant had prior knowledge of the NIHSS, had already followed a specific NIHSS course, had worked in either an intensive care unit or in a neurology or neurosurgery ward for more than 3 months, or if the learning path had been completed over multiple days. This was defined as more than 12 hours elapsed between initiation and completion of the course."

### 18-i) Subgroup analysis of comparing only users

A subgroup analysis of comparing only users is not uncommon in ehealth trials, but if done, it must be stressed that this is a self-selected sample and no longer an unbiased sample from a randomized trial (see 16-iii).

1      2      3      4      5

subitem not at all important                        essential

Clear selection

## Does your paper address subitem 18-i?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Not applicable

## 19) All important harms or unintended effects in each group

(for specific guidance see CONSORT for harms)



Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 19? \*

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Not applicable

19-i) Include privacy breaches, technical problems

Include privacy breaches, technical problems. This does not only include physical "harm" to participants, but also incidents such as perceived or real privacy breaches [1], technical problems, and other unexpected/unintended incidents. "Unintended effects" also includes unintended positive effects [2].

1      2      3      4      5

subitem not at all important                        essential

Clear selection

Does your paper address subitem 19-i?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Implicitly - no privacy breach could have happened given our study design

19-ii) Include qualitative feedback from participants or observations from staff/researchers

Include qualitative feedback from participants or observations from staff/researchers, if available, on strengths and shortcomings of the application, especially if they point to unintended/unexpected effects or uses. This includes (if available) reasons for why people did or did not use the application as intended by the developers.

1      2      3      4      5

subitem not at all important                        essential

Clear selection



Does your paper address subitem 19-ii?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes: "Though the precise total learning time dedicated to either method could not be assessed owing to the study design, no statistical difference regarding the perceived duration of the course was identified (80% adequate in the e-learning group [95%CI 67 to 93] versus 65% [95%CI 47 to 83],  $P=.25$ ). There was no significant difference regarding the perceived difficulty of the course, as 84% [95%CI 68 to 100] found it «easy or very easy» in the e-learning group versus 53% [95%CI 28 to 78] in the video group ( $P=.07$ ). Participants who followed the e-learning method were more likely to recommend it to a colleague (66% answered «Yes, most certainly » [95%CI 50 to 82] versus 31% [95%CI 13 to 49] in the video group,  $P=.007$ ) (Figure 3)."

## DISCUSSION

### 22) Interpretation consistent with results, balancing benefits and harms, and considering other relevant evidence

NPT: In addition, take into account the choice of the comparator, lack of or partial blinding, and unequal expertise of care providers or centers in each group

#### 22-i) Restate study questions and summarize the answers suggested by the data, starting with primary outcomes and process outcomes (use)

Restate study questions and summarize the answers suggested by the data, starting with primary outcomes and process outcomes (use).

subitem not at all important      1      2      3      4      5      essential

                      

Clear selection



Does your paper address subitem 22-i? \*

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes: "In this study, distance learning using a highly-interactive e-learning module yielded better results than following the traditional didactic video online. The superiority of a previous version of this module has already been established in Swiss paramedics following an onsite computer-based course [20]. The present study confirms the generalizability of these findings when using this method for distance learning in a different population of learners, i.e., fifth year medical students."

22-ii) Highlight unanswered new questions, suggest future research

Highlight unanswered new questions, suggest future research.

1      2      3      4      5

subitem not at all important                        essential

Clear selection

Does your paper address subitem 22-ii?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Not directly, as this was a follow-up on a previous research which addressed some of its shortcomings.

20) Trial limitations, addressing sources of potential bias, imprecision, and, if relevant, multiplicity of analyses





## 20-i) Typical limitations in ehealth trials

Typical limitations in ehealth trials: Participants in ehealth trials are rarely blinded. Ehealth trials often look at a multiplicity of outcomes, increasing risk for a Type I error. Discuss biases due to non-use of the intervention/usability issues, biases through informed consent procedures, unexpected events.

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subitem not at all important                        essential

Clear selection

## Does your paper address subitem 20-i? \*

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes, extensively: "Moreover, the precise time taken to complete either learning method was not evaluated in this study. While it could be argued that dedicating more time to learning a given content should yield better results, studies have shown that engagement is the most important factor regarding knowledge acquisition [35]. Though time to learning material completion is nevertheless an interesting outcome, we chose not to record this data for two main reasons: risk of unblinding and technical limitations. As the time required to watch the video is fixed unless the participants elect to use the video commands, and as most of them chose not to use this option in a previous study [20], we thought it better not to risk unnecessarily unblinding the data analyst. The technical aspect was linked to the online learning management system and to the mode of delivery of the teaching material. As access to the university premises was barred during the study period, participants followed the learning material from many different locations. Interruptions in the learning process might therefore have happened but we had no means of recording recurrent short breaks in the group that followed the e-learning module, as pauses might also result from taking notes, mulling over the content, or just re-reading some of the written paragraphs to better understand them."

## 21) Generalisability (external validity, applicability) of the trial findings

NPT: External validity of the trial findings according to the intervention, comparators, patients, and care providers or centers involved in the trial



### 21-i) Generalizability to other populations

Generalizability to other populations: In particular, discuss generalizability to a general Internet population, outside of a RCT setting, and general patient population, including applicability of the study results for other organizations

1      2      3      4      5

subitem not at all important                        essential

Clear selection

### Does your paper address subitem 21-i?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes: "The superiority of a previous version of this module has already been established in Swiss paramedics following an onsite computer-based course [20]. The present study confirms the generalizability of these findings when using this method for distance learning in a different population of learners, i.e., fifth year medical students."

### 21-ii) Discuss if there were elements in the RCT that would be different in a routine application setting

Discuss if there were elements in the RCT that would be different in a routine application setting (e.g., prompts/reminders, more human involvement, training sessions or other co-interventions) and what impact the omission of these elements could have on use, adoption, or outcomes if the intervention is applied outside of a RCT setting.

1      2      3      4      5

subitem not at all important                        essential

Clear selection



Does your paper address subitem 21-ii?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Not explicitly, as the results clearly show that the traditional teaching video could be replaced by the e-learning module.

## OTHER INFORMATION

### 23) Registration number and name of trial registry

Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 23? \*

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

No: "Since the study included no patient and as no health outcome was recorded, trial registration was not required according to the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors guidelines."

### 24) Where the full trial protocol can be accessed, if available

Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 24? \*

Cite a Multimedia Appendix, other reference, or copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Not applicable - our previous study has however been published:  
<https://www.jmir.org/2020/6/e18358>



## 25) Sources of funding and other support (such as supply of drugs), role of funders

Does your paper address CONSORT subitem 25? \*

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes, but we did not receive any funding: "Declarations of interest

Funding

None.

"

## X27) Conflicts of Interest (not a CONSORT item)

X27-i) State the relation of the study team towards the system being evaluated

In addition to the usual declaration of interests (financial or otherwise), also state the relation of the study team towards the system being evaluated, i.e., state if the authors/evaluators are distinct from or identical with the developers/sponsors of the intervention.

1      2      3      4      5

subitem not at all important                        essential

Clear selection



### Does your paper address subitem X27-i?

Copy and paste relevant sections from the manuscript (include quotes in quotation marks "like this" to indicate direct quotes from your manuscript), or elaborate on this item by providing additional information not in the ms, or briefly explain why the item is not applicable/relevant for your study

Yes: "Other Disclosures

Though the e-learning module was created by four of the authors (Mélanie Suppan, Loric Stuby, Avinash Koka and Laurent Suppan), these authors declare no financial conflict of interest as the module is freely available on the study's website.

The other authors (Emmanuel Carrera, Philippe Cottet, Frédéric Assal and Georges Louis Savoldelli) report no potential competing interest."

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As a result of using this checklist, did you make changes in your manuscript? \*

- yes, major changes
- yes, minor changes
- no

What were the most important changes you made as a result of using this checklist?

As the study was already designed using the checklist, no significant changes were made after filling in this form. Nevertheless, the initial reporting would have been of lesser quality without this checklist.

How much time did you spend on going through the checklist INCLUDING making changes in your manuscript \*

2 hours



As a result of using this checklist, do you think your manuscript has improved? \*

- yes
- no
- Other:

Would you like to become involved in the CONSORT EHEALTH group?

This would involve for example becoming involved in participating in a workshop and writing an "Explanation and Elaboration" document

- yes
- no
- Other:

Clear selection

Any other comments or questions on CONSORT EHEALTH

Your answer

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