

Audio-Visual Gross Anatomy Dissection Module

– A Novel Innovation –

Dr. P.B. Iyer, Dr. Y. J. Bhosale and Dr. P.S. Bhuiyan

Dissection forms the mainstay of undergraduate curriculum in Anatomy for learning gross Anatomy. Learning by doing has got a great impact on understanding the subject and retaining the concepts for a long time to come. Visualizing the steps of dissection concerning different regions helps better comprehension. It reinforces the matter read from a dissection manual. Hence the department of Anatomy has started with the project of preparing an audio-visual gross anatomy dissection module for various regions of the body.

The method involves one teacher dissecting the part and explaining the steps. This is captured by a digital video camera and projected on a larger screen which can be visualized by all students working in the dissection hall. During this entire process, the detailed steps of dissection and exposure of the structures to be seen during a session is demonstrated. Thus the students become absolutely clear of what is expected out of them during a particular session. The session objectives become very clear in the minds of the students by reading them from the handbook, listening to them from a teacher during 'dissection goals' session and then just prior to dissection, visualizing the actual structures.

The project was started in 2006 and there was an overwhelming response from the students which was reinforced in the written feedback which was collected from them. Like any project there were some suggestions offered regarding the way it is being carried out. We respect the opinions expressed by the students and are working towards improvement in each and every step we are taking forward.

The recorded videos are being edited and converted into educational material available for use subsequently. Along with the videos, the department has plans to make it interactive by making a web-based questionnaire pertaining to the videos, so that an immediate feedback can be obtained regarding the understanding of the sessions. Further it can also be used for revision purposes.

The need for using modern technology is to facilitate the learning process. But one must remember that learning by doing is the best way of learning. Hence performing dissection is equally important for comprehending gross anatomy. Of course such a product will definitely be helpful in colleges where there is shortage of supply of cadavers for dissection.

Remember, technology is not a replacement for reality. To get a feel of the parts, one has to touch the cadaver. All in all we hope that our efforts will continue in enhancing the learning capacity of the students by many such innovations.

We hear, and we forget

We see, and we remember

We do, and we understand