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Medical undergraduates' views regarding audio visual presentations (AVP) as a learning tool in Anatomy

Pathirana TG[1], Rathnayake RMASB[1], Kumara JMD[1], Higgoda E[1], Heenatigala C[1], Gallage CV[1], Dissanayake MHP[1], Edirisinghe EAST[1], Yasawardene SG[1], Dissanayake PH[1]

[1]Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenapura

Introduction and objectives: Different learning tools have been used in teaching anatomy. With advancing technology, computer assisted teaching/learning methods have been introduced to medical curricula. This study was carried out to determine the views of medical students regarding the use of audio visual presentations (AVPs) in teaching/learning Anatomy at the Faculty of Medical Sciences (FMS), University of Sri Jayewardenepura (USJP).

Method: Altogether 146 students of the 2012/2013 A/L intake to FMS, USJP completed a simple self-administered questionnaire regarding anatomy teaching/learning.

Results: Students considered cadaver dissections(CD) as their most favoured method of learning anatomy [80.8 % (118/146)] followed by dissection hall teaching [77.3% (113/146)], tutorials [66.4% (97/146)], learning from AVP [50% (73/146)] and lectures [49.3%(72/146)]. The majority 44.4% (52/117) of students who did the A/L in the Sinhala medium had a better understanding of AVP while 50% (7/14) of students who did A/L in the English medium had the best understanding. 59.6% (87/146) and 90.4% (132/146) wanted AVP to be shown after the relevant lecture and during the dissections periods respectively. Most students [87.7% (128/146)] believe that learning anatomy cannot be done only by AVPs and that they can gain more [68.5% (100/146)] if they read around the AVP topic prior to the presentation. Students stated that CDs should not be replaced [93.2% (136/146)] by AVPs even though the three dimensional orientation of difficult dissection areas could be easily grasped [(91.8% (134/ 146)] by watching AVPs.

Conclusion: Cadaver dissections continue as the most preferred teaching/learning method in anatomy with an increasing trend in using AVP. The majority of students think that cadaver dissections should not be replaced by computer assisted techniques.