Impact of COVID-19 on the Future of Cadaveric Dissection and Anatomy Teaching

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ABSTRACT

Objectives: To systematically review the published data on the behavior of students on Cadaveric dissection vs. Virtual dissection during SARS-CoV-2 infection. The main purpose of this study is to compare the findings in various techniques.

Method: One database search (PubMed, Medline) was conducted using study related to Anatomy dissection during SARS-CoV-2 infections to collect data from 2019-2021. Data was extracted from the results, figures and tables of studies which met the selection criteria. Studies unavailable in English were excluded.

Results: A total of 35 studies were evaluated for this study. The top five reported symptoms for Cadaveric dissection is most efficient technique in Anatomy. A study performed by UK and Irish Universities 14% of universities did not have a practical examination, 36% cancelled their assessment and 21% had online digital spotter examinations. While 21% showed concerns in regards to Professor-student relationship, 14% on assessments and 7% on temporary suspension of body donation programs and lack of technical support.

However, majority of students were absent due to pandemic lockdown has caused stalling and postponement of study plans, impeding academic progress and student satisfaction, thus posing a challenge for academics.

Conclusion: This case and literature review support the hypothesis that students can adequately learn anatomy by using different modalities and approaches. Educators and their institutions must determine the most effective anatomy education model while considering which educational methods best matches certain professions; for example, cadaveric dissection for surgeons and virtual dissection of imaging science students. Cost and time of various educational methods as well as the curricular models, regions-based versus systems-based, utilized by the institutions will be factors in which educational methods are most appropriate. We propose based upon our experiences, replacement of anatomy dissection with virtual dissection and its implications. It has its own challenges which could overcome with the planned directives based upon current experience.

The ideal student to cadaver ratio is 10:1.

Keywords: COVID-19, Confirmed cases, Vaccines, Presenting symptoms, Severity

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