

Laparoscopic Surgery Videos as a 'Visual Aid' Improve Learning of Anatomy: A Prospective Controlled Study

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Background

Approaches to teaching correlate with quality of learning. Knowledge of anatomy, a foundation for practice of medicine, can improve by visualization. Dissection on dwindling 'available cadaver' population fails to achieve this in totality. Easily available laparoscopic surgery videos can be useful as visual teaching aids. Aim of teaching anatomy is to produce competent physicians. Today's generation is multimedia-savvy. Practice of medicine is also evolving with integration of multimedia technologies. Hence multimedia tools can be incorporated in teaching and learning as well.

Aims and Objectives

To assess if the learning of anatomy could be facilitated by laparoscopic surgery videos.

Materials & Methods

This is a prospective controlled study from August 2007 - July 2008. One hundred medical students were divided into study group and control group. Control group students underwent the existing system of dissection, didactic lectures and tutorials. Study group students were shown edited videos of laparoscopic surgery by a teacher in addition to routine teaching. The

division of students into two groups was along the routine practice of dividing an academic batch into two groups. The teacher incorporating the surgery videos utilized them for the study group only.

End points

1. Evaluation of students in the part completion test.
2. Student's perception of the utility of videos.

Student's perception of surgery videos as a learning tool was assessed on 4 point Likert Scale i.e. Excellent, Very Good, Good and Can't say. Five criteria for learning perception were used to measure the efficacy according to aforesaid Likert scale. These were:

- Improved memory
- Help in revision
- Improved drawings
- Helpful in group discussion and
- Appeal for career selection

The data collected was collated in a Microsoft Excel sheet for analysis.

Conclusions

Performance of the study group was better than the control group in theory as well as practical for the part covered by laparoscopic surgery videos. Large majority (92%) of study group students thought laparoscopic surgery videos to be 'Very Good' additional learning tool. Complete results withheld in the abstract.