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From Dissection to Diagnosis: Integrating Radiology into Anatomy Labs for Medical Students

Authors: Julia Wimmers-Klick

Abstract : At the Canadian University of British Columbia's Faculty of Medicine, anatomy has traditionally been taught through a combination of lectures and dissection labs in the first two years, with radiology taught separately through lectures and online modules. However, this separation may leave students underprepared for medical practice, as medical imaging is essential for diagnosing anatomical and pathological conditions. To address this, a pilot project was initiated aimed at integrating radiological imaging into anatomy dissection labs from day one of medical school. The incorporated radiological images correlated with the current dissection areas. Additional stations were added within the lab, tailored to the specific content being covered. These stations focused on bones, and quiz questions, along with light-box exercises using radiographs, CT scans, and MRIs provided by the radiology department. The images used were free of pathologies. Examples of these will be presented in the poster. Feedback from short interviews with students and instructors has been positive, particularly among second-year students who appreciated the integration compared to their first-year experience. This low-budget approach was easy to implement but faced challenges, as lab instructors were not radiologists and occasionally struggled to answer students' questions. Instructors expressed a desire for basic training or a refresher course in radiology image reading, particularly focused on identifying healthy landmarks. Overall, all participants agreed that integrating radiology with anatomy reinforces learning during dissection, enhancing students' understanding and preparation for clinical practice.

Keywords: quality improvement, radiology education, anatomy education, integration

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