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Opportunities and challenges of online anatomy teaching and learning for pre-clinical students

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Teaching techniques should ensure the knowledge retention and development of specific skills along with different learning styles. Teaching and learning of anatomy commenced in a traditional approach preliminarily and supplemented with computer-assisted methods at present to increase engagement and interaction through learner-centered approaches. The recent crisis, caused by the SARS-CoV-2, has tremendously affected face-to-face teaching and learning of anatomy education globally. Implementation of e-learning methods became more popular among the educationist after the COVID 19 pandemic to ensure the continuity of teaching and learning. Use of scheduled online video lectures, pre-recorded lectures, pre-recorded laboratory dissections videos, web-based 3D virtual techniques and high-quality microscopic images through the learning management system (LMS) suited the commonest practice to teach the anatomy. In addition to above techniques, online assessment tools or Moodle quizzes in LMS used to ensure the attainment of the learning objectives after the online sessions. These techniques enhanced the duration of self-directed learning, knowledge retention and better understanding as a consequence of repeated listening to the recorded sessions and attempt to the formative assessments. Hence, online sessions show beneficial impact on theoretical aspect of teaching and learning of anatomy. However, network interruptions were the significant constraints for online learners. Cadaveric dissection plays a crucial role in practical-based learning of the gross anatomy with relations and variations in the structures. In addition, the practical sessions enable to develop specific skills such as experiencing the texture, and exploring tissue planes by handling tissues and organs of the human body. Therefore, blended learning using conventional offline methods and online platforms would be a valuable tool in the perspectives of teachers and learners to teach anatomy in future.

Biography

H M F J Nazeefa has her expertise in evaluation and passion for improving the Anatomy teaching and learning process. Her open and contextual evaluation model creates path to identify the opportunities and challenges in online Anatomy Teaching for pre-clinical students during the COVID 19 outbreak. She has done the evaluation to overcome the interruption in the learning environment caused by the prevailing situation in teaching anatomy with the physical presence of students in her educational institution. This review might give an opportunity to the anatomist to focus on designing the curriculum in teaching and learning of anatomy for the virtual platform.

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