INTERACTIVE ELECTRONIC ANATOMY LAB STUDY GUIDE

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Introduction, Summary or Focus: We will demonstrate the utilization of internet/browser technology to present complex content and concepts about the human body. The interactive courseware complements didactic and practical (dissection) activities in human anatomy. Anyone with an interest in medical educational software should benefit from this demonstration.

Abstract: A partnership was formed among students, faculty and staff to develop an electronic study guide for online distribution to first-year medical students. The goal was to stimulate student-centered, self-directed, and problem-based learning, and to integrate related disciplines into a structured format that is readily accessible for local and distance learning. The study guide complements delivery of objective-driven and question-focused content presented in didactic lectures. It is organized around active cadaver dissection activities on back and spinal cord, upper and lower limbs, head and neck, thorax, abdomen, pelvis and perineum. Dream Weaver and Flash target content dealing with gross and surface anatomy, osteology, introductory imaging, and self-assessment, e.g., drill-and-practice quizzes, questions of the day, and simulated patients for clinical application. Integration with commercial software from Gold Standard Multimedia gives learners online access to a dissection guide, radiographic anatomy and animated embryology tutorials. The study guide benefits learners by presenting complex concepts in a simple and interactive manner that reduces cognitive load and enhances retention and confidence. It is 'user friendly', accessible for local and distance learning, and achieves a dimension that cannot be attained using conventional textbooks, dissectors, or gross and imaging atlases.