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### Dentistry should be a part of medical curriculum



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The separation of BDS as a profession rather than a subject of medical science seem artificial and contrary to forward thinking; and require to be amended. By convention MBBS and BDS curriculum is overlapping but their field of work has remained separate. The doctor patient ratio of 1:1700 in India is less than WHO recommended 1:1000. To deal with the situation government is roping on one hand AYUSH doctors whose educational philosophy is not supported by modern medicine and on other hand Dental colleges whose working field is restricted and overlapping the field of oral surgery; and so these Government's efforts are questionable.

Our country has unique problems in healthcare and solutions should be unique as well. Instead of adding more medical knowledge to dental students, we should add basic dental knowledge to MBBS curriculum. The subjects like dental pathology and community dentistry can be taught under pathology and community medicine. In medical education after MBBS, MD/MS in dentistry can be offered instead of running separate BDS/MDS courses, Dental colleges and DCI. In this manner providing healthcare and medical education system would be simplified and doctors can manage health of all parts of the body even in peripheral services. Upgrading dental colleges as medical colleges and merging DCI into MCI would be convenient in our Indian perception. There is need of medical professional, who can deal with all body parts including dental at primary care level.

#### Conflicts of interest

The authors have none to declare.

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### Knowledge and attitude towards body and organ donation among doctors in Lanja – A rural town in India



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**Aims and objectives:** To study the attitude and knowledge towards body and organ donation among doctors in rural India.

**Material and methods:** The present study was conducted in a rural town called Lanja, in Konkan region of Maharashtra. A specially designed questionnaire covering various aspects of organ and Body donation was distributed amongst all Doctors of Lanja region of Western Maharashtra in a "Lanja Doctors Association" meeting and later their responses were analyzed statistically.

**Results:** 100% of the doctors (31) attending the meeting consented to participate in the study. Awareness regarding organ donation was found to be high. Most claimed newspaper and television as their source of information regarding organ donation. There was awareness regarding eye, liver, heart and kidney donations but very less awareness regarding all other forms of Organ or Body donation. All were aware of need for legal supervision but awareness regarding the existing laws was found to be poor.

**Conclusion:** Doctors in rural Maharashtra had high levels of awareness and a positive attitude towards body and organ donation. However knowledge regarding "brain-death", legalities and ethical issues was poor. A teaching intervention in the form of lectures at MBBS level, or CMEs, etc to address these issues could help increase the knowledge of the doctors.

All over the world, people on organ transplant waiting lists die every year due to shortage of donor organs. The success of organ donation program needs education of the population regarding organ donation for which doctors play a key role.

#### Conflicts of interest

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### A study on predicting academic performance in first year MBBS students



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**Aim and objectives:** This study is aimed on predicting the preparedness of first year MBBS students to face their curriculum, it also reflects their learning outcome, approaches to studying this competent course, impresses on the habits that the professional students need to develop during the course, through the study skill inventory and help them to contract required learning skills.

**Material and methods:** Over 150 first year MBBS students who gave their consent were requested to fill the questionnaire to predict their academic performance. This project was designed to assess the preparedness of students of the first MBBS level in a medical college towards facing the academics using a questionnaire of 50 items on a Likert format and close ended type questionnaire. The data was analysed for individual item responses.

**Results:** Two important constructs came out as the determinants of preparedness of students. In our results students revealed their willingness to take on this tough curriculum but were inadequately prepared.

**Conclusion:** The preparedness of the student to take on this curriculum has an added advantage over the unwillingness of students which can be predicted using this study skill inventory.

#### Conflicts of interest

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### Changing trends in medical education



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**Aims and objectives:** This study is an attempt to see the changing trends in medical education especially in vast field of Anatomy. There are number of specialties in which it can be group like embryology, morphology, surface anatomy, gross anatomy, so modern

methods and ways of teaching may simplify this subject and may be interactive for the students.

**Material and methods:** Comparison of various studies regarding modern teaching and assessment method for medical students.

**Results and conclusion:** There should be look onto ways like small groups, competitive tests, integral teaching.

#### Conflicts of interest

The author has none to declare.

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#### A questionnaire-based pedagogic evaluation of anatomy-teaching in first year MBBS students



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**Aims and objectives:** Anatomy, taught in the first year of MBBS course, has been classically considered as the basic foundation for learning medicine and has a decisive role in medical education as well as at the professional front in later years. But just like other scientific disciplines, it has also grown simultaneously with technology and communication sciences. And the role of faculty members in this modern concept of Medical Education is to facilitate the learning process—making use of multiple techniques – to cater to the needs of different types of learners.

Keeping this in view, a Questionnaire-based evaluation of 300 students (belonging to MBBS–first professional) was conducted at Government Medical College, Kannauj, to assess the effectiveness of various methods employed in teaching Anatomy to the undergraduates as well as to know students' opinions regarding the assessment examinations, routinely used.

**Material and methods:** For this purpose, a specially-designed anonymous questionnaire, comprising of 21 objective questions, was given to all the participants, at the end of the term. Their answers were assessed and compiled.

**Results and conclusion:** It was found that best method for understanding a given topic, according to students, was cadaveric dissection (54%). Present one-year duration to cover the Anatomy syllabus was found insufficient by 75% of students. Dissection–hall teaching was the most preferred mode of learning by students (45%). Students preferred written exams (36%) over oral/viva exams (25%) and 40% students believed that only Part-completion tests should be held, no midterms and final exams.

#### Conflicts of interest

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#### Emotional impact of dissection hall on medical students



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**Aims and objectives:** Dissection of the dead human body has been central to medical education since renaissance. First year medical students normally experience a variety of emotional

reactions and mixed feelings, when they encounter human cadavers for the first time.

In order to assess the impact of anxiety and physical symptoms from the experience of dissection room, a questionnaire was prepared which provide an insight into the difference in attitudes and dissection hall experience of the male and female medical students.

**Material and methods:** Total 178 students were given same questionnaires 1 week and 3 months after initial exposure to the dissection hall. The students were asked to answer in either 'Yes' or 'No' option.

**Results:** All the physical symptoms experienced by both male and female students in dissection hall were found to be decreased over a period of 3 months except lack of concentration.

**Conclusion:** A better teacher–student interaction, pre-education sessions will help in improving the attitudes of students towards cadaveric dissection, which will in turn offer a stable mental status for medics to handle higher levels of stress in their clinical career, thereby reducing the drop-out rates.

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#### Plastination of human lungs using silicon polymer (S-10)



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**Aims and objectives:** Well preserved gross specimens become an integral part for understanding their three dimensional anatomy, thereby providing clarity to spatial correlations to aspiring medical graduates, physicians and surgeons. The commonly used fixative i.e. formalin has certain limitations which can be overcome by plastination as these specimens are dry, odourless and permanent. Plastination of hollow organs and organs with air spaces faces many challenges like shrinkage. So the present study was aimed to plastinate lungs using an improvised method of standard silicone S-10 technique.

**Material and methods:** Twenty one autopsied lungs were collected from department of Forensic Medicine, AIIMS, New Delhi preserved in 5% formalin for two weeks and then plastinated (group I) whereas 15 embalmed lung specimens were taken from department of Anatomy, AIIMS, New Delhi which were stored in 15–20% formalin for 3–6 years and then plastinated (group II). The lungs in both the groups were subjected to standard as well as modified protocol of plastination where xylene was added during impregnation step.

**Results:** In both groups, statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) difference was observed in mean % shrinkage of surface area and volume between lungs impregnated with xylene–polymer mixture and those impregnated with polymer alone. Group I had superior colour preservation and flexibility than those of group II.

**Conclusion:** The addition of xylene in polymer during forced impregnation reduced the shrinkage in both the groups. The aesthetic qualities were superior when lungs were fixed in 5% formalin and xylene was added to the polymer mixture.