

SELECTION OF BASIC ANATOMICAL STRUCTURES FOR STUDENTS' PRACTICAL SKILLS AND CLINICAL FUTURE: CHALLENGES AND DIRECTIONS

Dzintra Kažoka¹, Māra Pilmane¹

¹Department of Morphology, Institute of Anatomy and Anthropology, Rīga Stradiņš University

Objectives. The objective of the present study was to detect the complex basic anatomical structures that can be important components for the practical skills of students at the end of the Human Anatomy course respecting the transition of students from this basic study course to clinical courses.

This descriptive case report study took place in autumn 2022 at the Department of Morphology. Until autumn 2019, a total of 1087 structures were asked the students to learn for testing of the practical skills during three semesters in the Human Anatomy course. All structures were presented in 4 categories: locomotor (496 structures) and internal organs (266 structures) systems, nervous (206 structures), and cardiovascular system (119 structures). In autumn 2022 for testing of students' practical skills, anatomy tutors reviewed these structures in a compressed time frame and detected basic 150 structures, related to clinical courses and/or clinical procedures. No statistical calculations were performed there.

At first, the plastic 3D models with visible basic anatomical structures from the Laboratory of Anatomy were selected by tutors for the needs of the 3rd-semester students. Based on the topics of Human Anatomy course content for the Faculty of Medicine, there were prepared 150 anatomical structures for recognizing on 3D models and virtual dissection table "Anatamage". Respecting inclusion, exclusion criteria and/or difficulties, the content was reduced and there were selected only basic anatomical structures of locomotor (30 bony, 20 muscular), internal organs (30), nervous (40), and cardiovascular (30) systems. Specific clinical conditions were identified for each anatomical system.

By reviewing previous structures, a new complex of basic anatomical structures was designed and implemented, expecting positive educational outcomes. Selected anatomical structures with practical integration of clinical contexts should be included at the end of the Human Anatomy course to enhance students' understanding and role in the future.