



ISSN: 0975-833X

Available online at <http://www.journalcra.com>

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL  
OF CURRENT RESEARCH

International Journal of Current Research  
Vol. 12, Issue, 08, pp.13142-13143, August, 2020

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.24941/ijcr.39444.08.2020>

## RESEARCH ARTICLE

# PREFERENCE AND EFFECTIVENESS OF DIFFERENT TEACHING MODALITIES IN ANATOMY USED IN ONLINE/DISTANCE TEACHING DURING COVID TIMES

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### ARTICLE INFO

#### Article History:

Received 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2020  
Received in revised form  
21<sup>st</sup> June, 2020  
Accepted 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2020  
Published online 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2020

#### Key Words:

Covid-19, E-learning,  
Face-to-face teaching, Perceptions

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Citation: Dr. Shifan Khanday. 2020. "Preference and effectiveness of different teaching modalities in anatomy used in online/distance teaching during covid times.", *International Journal of Current Research*, 12, (08), 13142-13143.

### ABSTRACT

**Objectives:** This study is a record and representation of what efforts and modalities were used in delivering online Anatomy course to "Net generation / Millennials". The purpose of this study was to determine the perceptions of students towards e-learning during the lock down. **Methods:** A descriptive cross-sectional study was done with a questionnaire and survey sent to MBBS students of Dubai Medical College. **Results:** Students preferred real time lectures and recorded version of the same. Other teaching modalities are also preferred to an extent but most preferred are recorded and real time lectures. **Conclusion:** A blended or hybrid approach needs to be used in post Covid world. Students preferred e-teaching over face-to-face teaching during the lock down situation.

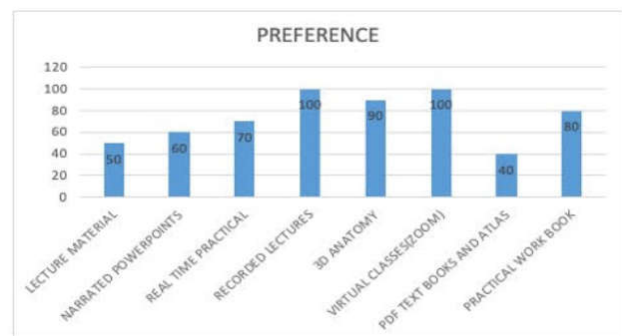
## INTRODUCTION

Covid times came as a challenge to whole world as well as teaching, with Universities closed and all teaching shifting to online. A challenge was thrown to teachers to use and present different teaching modalities to a student's satisfaction and understanding. This paper highlights the teaching modalities used and how students who had initial apprehension started to like and set their preference for these modalities.

**Objectives:** This study is a record and representation of what efforts and modalities were used in delivering online Anatomy course to "Net generation / Millennials". The students were MBBS and Pharmacy college associated with Dubai Medical University. No data no precedent was available where teachers would know which all modalities can be helpful during distance learning. Not enough literature is available till now how other Universities tackled the situation. Though all the modalities were present and used during blended learning. Anatomy when taught face to face or on table i.e. on cadaveric prosected/dissected parts was considered gold standard unless Covid pandemic changed the whole scenario. Many universities worldwide had already shifted to augmented reality and virtual reality-based anatomy teaching but still presence of students was demanded, much of hands on were preferred.

## METHODS AND MODALITIES USED

A descriptive cross-sectional study was done with a questionnaire and survey sent to MBBS students of Dubai Medical College.



Graph depicts student's preference according to teaching modality.

The Teaching modalities used were.

- Narrated PowerPoints.
- Real time demonstration on cadavers
- Virtual classroom using zoom, Brightspace bongo
- Recorded lectures
- 3D Anatomy by Elsevier
- Lecture material
- PDF version of reference textbooks and atlases.
- Practical workbook.

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Our university has a E-learning platform from Brightspace. So we were already uploading teaching material before each lecture, have regular quizzes and discussion forum. Lecture material was already available. We converted all PowerPoint lectures to narrated lectures. Reading reference material in form of PDF books and atlases were already provided to the students. Virtual classroom started and we used zoom/Bongo for the sessions. The same real time lectures were recorded and made available to students as cloud links, YouTube videos. Workable practical workbooks were created and uploaded after each virtual session of practical demonstration.

For practical demonstration I visited the university twice a week with special permission to move around during lockdown. 3D Anatomy by Elsevier, picture shots from prosected parts were used for demonstration. An online survey was sent to students. The teaching modalities and to which extent students were content with and would prefer to be taught if the current crisis persists for long time.

### THE PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECT

Initially students thought online teaching will be for few weeks only and took leisure time and non-seriously. As weeks passed and exam time approached apprehension started to build up. Students demanded more of recorded lectures which were taken during routine real time virtual classes. Regular quiz uploads and assignments came handy. In a survey student complained of back to back virtual lectures and loads of assignment. For Anatomy as most of the material was handy, well crafted, well explained. Students preferred practical as well as lectures recorded and sent to them via Youtube and cloud based. There were days even we as doctors were in lockdown and couldn't reach the university to record practicals. 3D Anatomy by Elsevier came as a complete solution. I could give voice to all presentations and rotate the model inside out, zooming in to important details.

### LIMITATIONS

One of the limitations of the study is that the cohort is from a single medical college. Therefore, results of the study cannot be generalized.

## RESULTS

Students preferred real time lectures and recorded version of the same. Other teaching modalities are also preferred to an extent but most preferred are recorded and real time lectures. An amazing finding was in the results as failure rate has decreased exponentially as compared to previous years. Now when we talk of next academic session and hybrid teaching a clear preference and road map has been set. This is the new normal now and we as teachers have understood the correct delivery method to this generation of students. Based on this, we should not spare any modality and use it for the best interest of students.

## CONCLUSION

A blended or hybrid approach needs to be used in post Covid world. Students preferred e-teaching over face-to-face teaching during the lockdown situation.

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