

THE EXPERIENCE OF ANATOMIC DISSECTION OF THE ABDOMINAL WALL AND LEARNING IN HUMAN ANATOMY

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Introduction

Human anatomy learned by active methodologies through dissection has many proven benefits, including improved anatomical knowledge. Thus, this study aims to report the experience of dissecting the abdominal wall in a human cadaver and to describe the benefits in learning anatomy.

Methodology

The present study was carried out at the Human Anatomy Laboratory of the Biological Sciences Institute of the Federal University of Goiás, Brazil. Dissection of the male abdomen was performed in the supine position, previously fixed in formaldehyde and preserved in glycerin. The dissector was positioned lateral to the region to be dissected.

The repair points were:

- (1) median incision, from the xiphoid process to the pubic symphysis, after bypassing the umbilical scar;
- (2) incision in the lateral direction, over the costal margin to the lateral limit of the region;
- (3) incision starting from the pubic symphysis, towards the median part of the iliac crest. Learning was discussed by a focus group with discussions on structures in the dissected area.

Results

The epidermis and dermis were dissected, separating it from the subcutaneous mesh. Thus, the dissection enabled a better skill in handling with the scalpel. In addition, after dissection of the subcutaneous mesh, it was possible to visualize the superficial inferior epigastric vein and the rare presence of port-systemic collateral circulation. The practice of dissection combined with the active study with anatomy atlases improved a better learning of the superficial anatomical structures of the abdominal wall.

Conclusion

The dissection enabled the visualization of the superficial inferior epigastric vein and a greater understanding of the port-systemic collateral circulation, in addition to stimulating critical and investigative thinking.

