1 - Pregraduate Education

PO-018 - (23913) - VASCULAR COLOURED LATEX-INJECTION AS FACILITATOR OF DISSECTION OF THE HAND IN PRE- AND POSTGRADUATE TRAINING

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Comprehensive knowledge of anatomy is the centrepiece for good results at hand surgery. Nevertheless, understanding the vascular anatomy of the hand is challenging for medical students and residents. The best teaching method is careful dissection of human cadaveric specimens. Injection of the vascular system with coloured latex allows arteries and veins appear more prominently, resulting in substantial facilitation of dissection.

In this pilot study, four formalin-fixated cadaveric specimens underwent coloured latex injection of the vascular system of the hand at the sites of the radial and ulnar artery and veins immediately before dissection. Tissue penetration of latex was excellent in all specimens and clearly improved malleability and vascular identification. A survey was performed among teachers (n=3), residents (n=24), and course students (n=60) comparing the feasibility of anatomical dissection and study between hands with and without latex injection.

All teachers and medical residents and 55% of the students (n=33) returning the questionnaire agreed that this technique improved the quality of hand dissection and facilitated their anatomical study.

We consider that injection of coloured latex, reaching small calibre vessels, and giving tissues greater malleability and flexibility, allows facilitated dissections and exposure, and is suitable to improve anatomy and surgery teaching. The method is fast and easy to perform on conserved specimens and affordable to establish in every teaching setting, be it in

a dissection course, a training course for surgical specialties, or postgraduate training as recently applied in a workshop for anatomists with varying levels of experience.

Palavras-chave : hand dissection, latex injection, vasculature