1 - Pregraduate Education

OC-088 - (23941) - COMPARATIVE STUDY OF EMBALMING TECHNIQUES AFTER HISTOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF THE ARTERIAL WALLS OF HUMAN CORPSES

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Introduction - Worldwide, several anatomists have been searching to ameliorate new human embalming methods for teaching, research and surgical training purposes. Formaldehyde is well renown as a good cost/benefit method, with good results in preservation and fixation of organic tissues, durability and efficiency in embalming and sanitation of human corpses. Nevertheless, its potentially high carcinogenic effects on handlers, with severe dehydration and stiffness of the end-result material, have led to intensive research for alternative methods of human embalming. We analysed a new alternative embalming method developed by a group of Portuguese researchers.
Methods - This present study analysis the histological quality of aortic arches collected from human corpses embalmed with formaldehyde, collected at the Anatomy departments of the University of Pernambuco (Brazil), to compare with similar samples collected from human corpses embalmed by the Portuguese alternative techniques with no traces of formaldehyde. The material samples underwent optical microscopy analysis, after histological preparation.
Results - The arterial walls were well-preserved after both embalming techniques. The histological layers of the aortic arch walls were maintained with both methods. The endothelial structure showed good signs of integrity, with no disruptions.

Conclusions - Thus, the Portuguese alternative method demonstrated to soon become a promising embalming technique that endures even after several weeks of dissection works at the Anatomy rooms. It will soon become the best alternative to formaldehyde embalming.

Palavras-chave : Anatomy, Embalming, Formaldehyde