

ETHICS, RULES AND SAFTY IN CADAVERIC DISSECTION

Humne Sankalp¹Jape Ravindra R²

ABSTRACT:

Dissection of human cadaver in learning Anatomy is an essential part. Cadavers are necessary for dissection. Cadavers are obtained by 'unclaimed dead bodies' from government hospitals or donated bodies. However, certain rules, ethics and safety should be followed while doing cadaveric dissection. Professional conduct by students and teachers should be maintained. But while doing dissection; concern of ethics lies in respect towards the human life. This article has been written with intention to mention the rules, safety instructions and ethics to be followed during dissection.

Key Words: Cadaver, Dissection, Ethics, Rules, Safety.

INTRODUCTION:

Sushrut Samhita is the first medical book in ancient world which advocated and brought into practice the dissection of human cadaver by students. "This certainly was the oldest lesson in dissection known to history."^[1] The description of different part of the body such as skin, muscles, bones, blood vessels, tissues, special spots of surgical importance etc. reflect the sound knowledge of surgeons in those days.

Sushrut Samhita is the earliest document on the subject of dissection in whole world. At the time when touching a dead body was taboo in the society, *Sushruta* deserves admiration for his bold step in dissection of human cadaver. Because of his unique method of scraping the body layer by layer he was able to trace and describe various structures of human body. *Sushruta* describes proper selection of dead body and process of dissection in detail in *Sharirsthana*.^[2]

Dissection of Cadaver:

Cadavers are essential for studying and for gaining the practical knowledge of human anatomy. So, the need of human cadaver is on the increase in medical institutions. Such medical institutions have to follow the 'Anatomy act'^[3] which give license to dissect donated dead bodies. Usually the human cadavers are obtained by unclaimed dead bodies from the government hospitals. Occasionally the bodies are donated by family members or by will or wish of the diseased.^[4]

Ethical Concern:

Although cadavers are essential for gaining the knowledge of human anatomy, the use of human cadaver for dissection is a big ethical question.^[5] The ambiguity of cadaveric dissection lies in respect to human life. Ethics concerned are as follows,

- While doing dissection Human cadaver should always be seen and treated with respect and sensitivity.
- Cadavers should be treated in such a way that it maintains the dignity of cadaver.

- Students usually mutilate the body parts of cadaver, which should be strictly avoided, as it is an act of disrespect towards the cadaver.
- Cadaveric remains should be properly disposed off in proper way without affecting the religious, spiritual or social beliefs of the society.
- Cadaver should be disposed of within the fence of the institution with proper care and procedure.
- Body parts or organs separated from the cadaver should be properly preserved.^[6]

Rules and Safety:

- Teachers and students should keep professional conduct while dissection.
- Care of the cadaver should be taken.
- Cadaver should be kept moist all the times. They should be kept immersed in preserving material when not used in dissection.^[7]
- Dissection hall should have limited access. Visitors should not be allowed to dissection hall without permission.
- The doors and windows should be kept closed when not used.
- Photographs should not be taken without prior permission of the authorities.
- Physical contact of cadaver with skin and clothes of the

¹PG Scholar, ²Professor, Department of Rachana Sharira, CSMSS Ayurved College, Aurangabad, Maharashtra (India)

Corresponding author email address:

sankalp.humne@gmail.com

Access this article online: www.jahm.in

Published by Atreya Ayurveda Publications under the license CC-by-NC.

Received on: 10/10/14, Revised on: 14/11/14, Accepted on: 14/11/14

dissector should be avoided.

- Dissection should always be done using wearing rubber disposable gloves.
- White, clean apron should be worn while doing dissection. Shoes covering entire foot should be used.
- Bags, Tiffin boxes, food and drinks should not be allowed in the dissection hall.
- Instrument like forceps, sharp blades should be handled with proper care and safety.
- There should be proper ventilation system in dissection hall to reduce the exposure of the students and teachers to the vapors of preserving material.^[8]
- Removed body parts should be properly kept in tray or preserving jars. Or they should be mounted as specimens.
- Excess liquid on the dissection table should be drained properly.

CONCLUSION:

Dissection is a very essential technique for learning and gaining practical knowledge of the human body. Students can view exact structures in human body which can help them to clarify their concepts. Therefore, dissection is an important part in medical education. However, the process of teaching and learning should be done following the ethical ways.

REFERENCES:

1. Jurgenthorwald. Science and secrets of early medicine: Egypt, Mesopotamia, India, China, Mexico, Peru; DroemerschVerlagsanstalt publication, 1963
2. K.R.Srikantha Murthy; *Sushruta Samhita*; Sharirsthana; Chapter 5; Verse no. 49; 3rd edition; Varanasi; ChaukhambhaOrientalia 2007;p.101
3. Bombay High Court, India. *Bombay Anatomy Act, 1949*. <http://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/acts/1949.11.pdf> (accessed 10 October 2014).
4. Times of India. *Law change spurs body donation*. <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/Law-change-spurs-body-donation/articleshow/20165649.cms?referral=PM> (accessed 13 November 2014).
5. Abu Sadat Mohammad Nurunnabi. *Ethics in dissection of cadaver in teaching and learning of anatomy*. <http://www.banglajol.info/index.php/BIOETHICS/article/view/10258/7584> (accessed 09 October 2014).
6. Frolich K W, Andersen L M, Knutsen A, Flood P R. Long term Preservation of Human Anatomical Specimens for Dissection And Demonstration Pururpose. In: M L Ajmani (eds.) *Embalming Principles and Legal Aspects*. 1st ed. India: Jitendar P Vij; 1998. p266-276
7. Wikipedia. *Embalming*. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Embalming> (accessed 09 October 2014).
8. Dixit D. *Toxic effects of embalming fluid on medical students and professionals*. *JIAFM*.2005;27(4):3

Cite this article as: Humne Sankalp, Jape Ravindra R. Ethics, Rules and Safty In Cadaveric Dissection. *J of Ayurveda and Hol Med (JAHM)*.2014;2(8):22-23.

Source of support: Nil, Conflict of interest: None Declared