

In addition, to identify whether the students observing remotely believed that they had been disadvantaged by the inability to question the demonstrator during the demonstration.

METHOD: 17 students divided into two groups observed a live demonstration of a laboratory technical procedure either at the workbench, or remotely on a Plasma Screen with the aid of video cameras. They subsequently observed a second demonstration with the roles reversed. Questionnaires were used to obtain the students' views of their ability to see and interact with the demonstrator.

RESULTS: The responses of the students observing the demonstration on the Plasma Screen indicated that they felt that they were able to see the demonstration more clearly than those observing at the workbench ($p=0.04$). Those observing on the Plasma Screen first, indicated this in particular ($p=0.03$). The majority of students acknowledged their inability to ask questions when observing on the Plasma Screen and supported the idea that the Plasma Screen should be used to complement the demonstration at the workbench.

CONCLUSION: Plasma Screen technology has considerable potential as a teaching tool for small groups of student, where it can afford significantly superior views of practical procedures. The students considered that the Plasma Screen would be best employed to provide close up views to supplement a live demonstration. The apparatus may be used remotely more successfully if video-conferencing technology were also employed to facilitate interaction with the demonstrator.

45. Prosthetic Dentistry on the Internet

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Since the late sixties when the ARPANET- first computer network was developed, Internet has had a great impact on the way of thinking, buying, teaching, learning and everyday life, including dentistry. The beginning of internet in science and research, has proved to be irreplaceable way of communication between researchers all over the world. Currently (April 2002) one of the most popular search engines on the net (Google) indexed about 2 billion web pages, 35 million of non HTML documents and 700 million Usenet messages, which makes the Internet the greatest information service ever.

The purpose of this study was to investigate which part of the web space is taken by prosthetic dentistry and the importance which it gains on the Internet. The method used was standard Internet search engine keyword queries performed using six web search engines: Google, Lycos, Infoseek, AltaVista, Northern Light, HotBot and Excite.

Research results suggest that there is currently (May 2002) about 30 thousand pages (0.0015% of searched web space) which contain terms: prosthetic dentistry or prosthodontics and about one thousand web pictures connected to these terms. Content analysis suggests that quality and real informative value of the majority of those pages is low. To conclude-informative space on the Internet concerning prosthetic dentistry is still in development and the need for confirmation and authorized information is obvious.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

46. Influence of Sex, Age and Presence of Functional Units on Optical Density and Bone Height of the Mandible in the Elderly

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OBJECTIVES: Mandibular bone height and density were compared with age, sex and the number and type of functional dental units, as represented by Eichner index.

MATERIAL AND METHODS: A sample of 150 elderly patients of the Dental Clinic were divided into three age groups, examined and orthopantomograms/OPG/ taken. The OPGs were taken with the copper stepwedge in order to enable computer-assisted calculation of mandibular optical density and calibration of dimensional measurements by specially designed software.

RESULTS: Eichner class III was found in 62% of patients. The presence of functional units was positively correlated with age ($r=0.67$) and bone height values ($r=0.88$, $p<0.05$). Optical density and bone height values of measurements performed at the same locations on