

TESTING PRACTICAL SKILLS OF HISTOLOGY STUDENTS IN THE PC-EQUIPPED HISTOLOGY PRACTICAL LAB

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D2.3 IMAGE ATLASES AND MULTIMEDIA FOR EDUCATION

With the advent of modern didactic methods in histology teaching, we have started to use new and more effective methods of examination and testing of student's practical skills. First, we used projection of simple slide presentations in MS PowerPoint format on a central screen in the class. These presentations have been setup to advance further automatically with one minute timing in order to allow students to write their answers into a prepared answer form. This method had several drawbacks like a necessity of maximal dimming of room lights that interfered with the student's writing, and a possibility of cross talk of students in crowded benches. After the practical laboratory has been equipped with PCs for each student's seat, this method was improved with delivery of testing presentations onto student's monitors simultaneously in three different versions. As a further step in developing PC-based testing of identification of histology slides we have used a special software Articulate Quizmaker '09. Because this software shuffles the quiz content randomly onto monitors of examined students, only one version of histology test was necessary to prepare for one practical class. Quizmaker '09 offers the possibility to use a mix various formats of question like - MCQ, MRQ, Hot Spot and Drag& Drop. The test can be exported into different application formats for web or LMS. The major benefits of this system are the straight forward and quick use of question packages, immediate and objective evaluation and reporting of results, limitation of lateral student's communication and crosstalk, and a good prevention of leaking questions outside of the examination room. This PC-based method of practical skills testing was well accepted by students and teachers alike.