



Anatomical specimen painting technique – A non-lecture activity for 1st year B.A.M.S. students

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ABSTRACT -

The subject *Rachana Sharir* (Anatomy) is an important subject in any medical college for students. The *Rachana Sharir* (Anatomy) museum is also very vital in this regard. The well equipped museum with eye-catching coloured specimen plays a crucial part in the teaching and learning method. The specimens has been coloured with Oil Paint colours. After proper drying procedure, the coloured specimens were mounted in acrylic containers with the combination of water and formalin. In this process of specimen colouring, oil paint colours were used. The materials required are oil paint colours, appropriate size brush, clear acrylic container and 10% formaldehyde. This colouring method of wet specimen makes specimen noticeable which is also cost effective, generate interest and helps in long term recollection for the students.

Keywords: Colour specimen, *Rachana Sharir* (Anatomy) museum, Oil paint, Acrylic container mounting

INTRODUCTION -

Rachana Sharir (Anatomy) Museum is a place where students get more knowledge about the normal anatomical position, anatomical parts with deviation in the nerves, vessels, organs etc. Specimen mounting in formalin solution filled container may not look more educational. The text books which include coloured diagrams give full knowledge to the students. Many workers used various procedures to colour the specimens. Congdon, E. D. (1932) used *albuminous* paints to colour the specimen. Intravascular injection of silicone, gelatin, latex or epoxy was used to highlight the vessels (Tiedemann, 1982); von *Hagens*, 1985; *Oostrom*, 1987; *Oostrom and von Hagens*, 1988; *Riepertinger and Heuckendorf*, 1993; *Grondin and Olry*, 1996). Robert W. Henry, Larry *Janick*, and Carol Henry (1997) used silicon to colour *plastinated* specimens. Although everything of the specimen are essential but the important parts dissected may be highlighted in wet specimen with the

permanent colours. In this regard, oil paint colours were used to colour the specimens. These coloured specimens can be kept in 10 percent formalin filled containers. Vessels, Nerves, Ligaments, Tendons, Organs and Muscles can be coloured which remain enduringly in 10 percent formalin filled glass container. ¹⁻⁴

MATERIALS & METHODS –

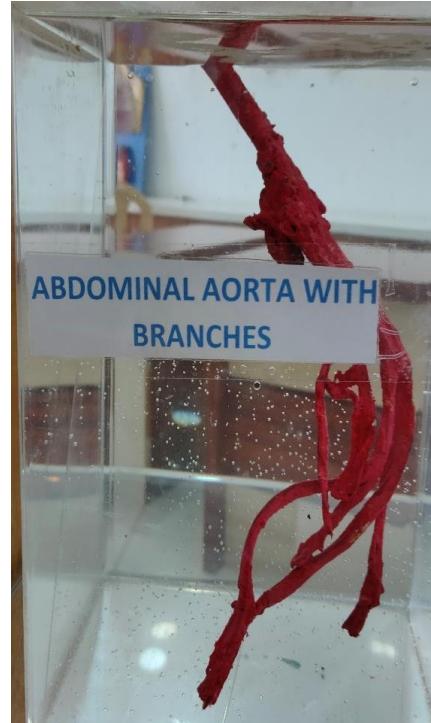
Materials -

1. The wet specimens were selected for the colouring purpose.
2. Oil paint colours of any brand can be used.
3. Appropriate size brush to be used for colouring the specimens.
4. 10% formalin for final storage with glass containers.

Methodology -

The specimen is prepared by fine dissection method. The selected specimens were kept out of formalin containers at room temperature for drying purpose. After two days of drying procedure, the selected specimens were coloured with oil paint tube colours with proper size paint brush. The muscles, vessels, tendons, nerves and various important parts and impressions on the organs were coloured accordingly. After the final colouring procedure, all the coloured specimens were again kept for drying at room temperature for two to three days. After the complete drying, all the coloured specimens were kept in acrylic jars with water and 10 % formalin.

Photograph 1 –



Photograph 2 –



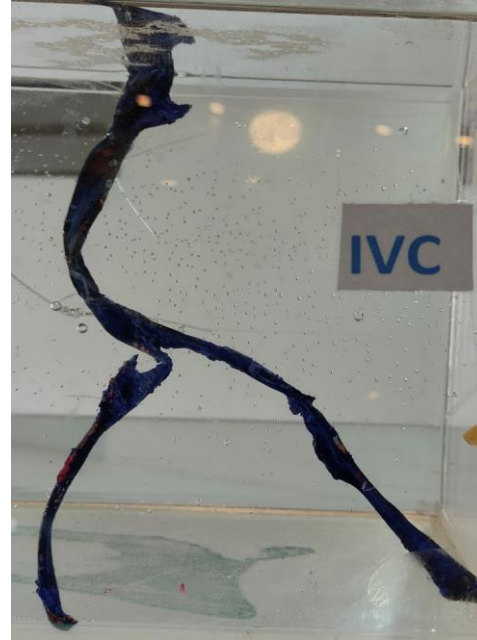
Photograph 3 –



Photograph 4 –



Photograph 5 -



DISCUSSION –

Many stalwarts have worked on different methods to colour to specimen. Oil paint colour technique is used to colour the wet specimens which were stored in acrylic containers filled with 10 percent formalin solution without any noticeable changes in colours. Drying of the specimens before and after the colouring is very important. This specimen painting helps the students to recall the vital anatomical structures with their detailing. The detailing with respect to relations, parts, branches etc. the specimens and the *Rachana Sharir* (Anatomy) museum also looks attractive.

CONCLUSION -

Coloured anatomical specimens are very helpful in teaching students of any medical college. This colouring technique of important structures by using the anatomically accurate colours makes the specimens more attractive and animated. It also helps in recalling the different anatomical structures. The detailing of anatomical structures with respect to

relations, parts, branches also facilitate for the students in their anatomy studies. So anatomical specimen painting helps in all regards.

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