ISSN 2563-7142

EDITORIAL NOTE

Human Anatomy is the Gateway to the Study of Medicine and Sound Medical Practice

Abdelmonem Awad Hegazy*

Hegazy AA. Human Anatomy is the Gateway to the Study of Medicine and Sound Medical Practice. Int J Cadaver Stud Ant Var. 2026;7(1):30-31.

Editorial Note

Medical sciences are classified into two main categories: basic medical sciences, such as anatomy, and clinical or specialized sciences, which include practical medical and surgical disciplines that deal with health disorders, and their sub-specialties. Anatomy represents the backbone of basic medical science and the gateway to its study and subsequently clinical science [1].

Anatomy does not mean dissecting corpses and tissues; this is a misnomer for one of the oldest medical sciences. Dissecting corpses is a method of learning, not the science itself, and its purpose is not cutting. In short, anatomy is the study of the structure and composition of the human body. Therefore, this misnomer can mislead many medical students and others about the true purpose of studying anatomy [1,2].

There are currently many methods of studying anatomy that represent the geography and map of medical practice. In addition to the traditional method of dissecting cadavers to determine the structure of the human body, many other learning methods have emerged, such as medical imaging techniques like X-rays, computed tomography (CT) scans, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), and contrast imaging, as well as the differences and variations we observe during surgical procedures, which we must record [1,3].

Other ways to learn anatomy include movies, 3D animation, and more. However, the first and ancient method of autopsies remains of great importance, as they are used to detect some anatomical variations between humans. Although these variations are uncommon, detecting them is crucial for human safety, particularly to avoid harm during surgical procedures and other interventions, such as radiation therapy and cardiac stent placement [3].

Anatomical sciences consist of three main sections: normal anatomy, abnormal anatomy, which is called pathology, and functional anatomy, which is called physiology. In physiology, the organ in the human body is related to the function that God created it to perform, where structure refers to function, just as function refers to structure [3,4].

Professor and Former Chairman of Human Anatomy and Embryology Department, Faculty of Medicine, Zagazig University, Zagazig City, Egypt

Corresponding author: Abdelmonem Awad Hegazy, Professor and Former Chairman of Human Anatomy and Embryology Department, Faculty of Medicine, Zagazig University, Zagazig City, Egypt, E-mail: ahegazy@zu.edu.eg

Received: June 24, 2026, Accepted: June 25, 2026, Published: June 26, 2026

We now turn to normal anatomy, which is then divided into several branches, including gross anatomy, which describes the detailed structure of the human body without the use of magnification. In contrast, there is microscopic anatomy, which encompasses cytology and histology. Anatomy also includes embryology, the study of embryonic development and growth before birth. It further encompasses genetics, the inheritance of genes from the parents of the newborn, its growth, and any abnormalities that may appear. Finally, anatomy includes anthropology, which studies the variations between humans based on their various ethnicities [3].

Hence, we can summarize the statement by saying that we can describe anatomy as the general basic science of medicine. Biological science is crucial for the study of medicine. There is no medicine without studying human anatomy. Understanding and considering anatomy in all steps of medical practice is essential to avoid errors and ensure good outcomes for patient management and the overall healthcare process.

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