Teaching Veterinary Physiology by means of Multimedia

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Veterinary Physiology is a basic science subject taught in 150 lecture hours and in adjoining 60 hours of lab work plus a Directed Self Education block. The course is given in three languages (English, German and Hungarian). The high number of students and the aim to foster independent and self-paced learning forced us to develop a multimedia environment for our teaching. First the entire theoretical material was made available in multimedia format (P. Rudas "Veterinary Physiology, a multimedia resource for teaching, learning and self-testing", Mezogazda Publ. House, 1998) and then parts of the lab work was replaced by multimedia type of work (Virtual Physiology Series by Thieme Vlg. Germany). Mid-term tests and the final exam is also based on CBT. Analysis of comparative test results and interviews with the students show that the average score increased by 12% (between 1998-2000) but the attitude of students is unchanged (30% likes multimedia methods, 30% accepts it as an improvement, 40% would prefer traditional methods)