

## **Computer-Based Teaching of Pathology at the Zagreb University School of Medicine**

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**Aim.** To review the experience gained in transferring USA computer-based teaching system of medical school pathology to Croatia.

**Methods.** Computer-based teaching program of pathology developed at the University of Kansas School of Medicine, Kansas City, Kansas, USA, was transferred to the University of Zagreb School of Medicine, Zagreb, Croatia. The experimental group of 49 students was enrolled into this computer-based program. Their performance was compared with that of 195 classmates enrolled in the standard course. Objective (performance on the examinations) and subjective data (students' interviews and written evaluations of the course) were analyzed.

**Results.** The computer program was operational 5 months from the inception of the transfer. It was well received by the students, even though many initially complained that it required more effort and a continuous commitment. The major problems concerned scheduling, reflecting various requirements imposed on students by other departments teaching in parallel with the Pathology course. Objective data gathered so far indicate that the students enrolled in the computer-based program took the first midterm examination at a significantly higher rate than the rest of the class ( $p < 0.001$ ), and passed the examination with significantly better grades ( $p < 0.001$ ).

**Conclusion.** Computer-based teaching programs can be readily transferred to other countries. Full implementation of the program, however, may require significant changes in the existing curriculum in the medical school to which such a program has been transferred or considerable modifications in the program adopted for transfer. It appears that the students enrolled in the computer-based program perform better than students in the standard pathology course.

**Key words:** computer-assisted instruction; computer programs; education, medical; pathology, examination questions; self-instructive programs, computerized; students, medical; teaching; technology transfer