Review of CD Rom

The Virtual Surgeon: ACL Reconstruction  Y. Mulla

"The Virtual Surgeon consists of a ground breaking series of CD-ROMs, which aims to provide surgeons with a new and powerful training tool. It provides surgeons with the most accurate and realistic model of the knee available, and our developments in animation allow them to see all aspects of the surgical procedure.

Actual surgical instruments have been translated into computer representations and animated, producing an accuracy in the portrayal of surgery never before achieved. Data for the anatomical model of the knee was obtained from the US National Library of Medicine’s Visible Human project, meaning that real human data is worked upon by real instrument data.

Instruments, as well as flesh and bone, can take on a translucent appearance to expose the interior views. Surgeons can halt the procedure, review what has gone before, and return, without losing the precision of detail. The also have complete flexibility when using the 3D anatomical model, from which one may peel structural layers, rotate, tilt, zoom in and out, and label any part of the knee."

To make efficient use of this CD-ROM one has to be computer literate and have available the necessary hardware and software for access. This may be difficult in our circumstances, in the developing world, where a relative lack of computers and training may affect access to this method of learning. It may be easier to revert to printed material in a textbook. This CD-ROM is a useful additional teaching tool, however, and should prove useful both to individual orthopaedic surgeons and Medical Schools.

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