Slide-tape programmes in the teaching of pharmacology

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A series of slide-tape teaching programmes has been developed to aid the teaching of pharmacology at Manchester (Table 1). Principally these programmes are intended for private study by individual students. They are expected to be used

- (a) by students (undergraduate and postgraduate) wishing to pursue private revision.
- (b) as revision courses for students experiencing difficulty with more traditional forms of teaching.

- (c) by postgraduate students following M.Sc. courses in Pharmacology after first degree courses in related subjects and for foreign postgraduate students.
- (d) in some cases by one particular sub-group of students (e.g. dental students) as the main part of their course.1

The demonstration will show selected samples from the slide-tape library including programmes on local hormones and mediators on inflammation, local anaesthetics and autonomic pharmacology for dental students.

The techniques for rapid and relatively inexpensive production of tapes will be presented along with surveys of student attitudes to this form of teaching. More detailed evaluation is underway.

¹ This programme was made in collaboration with the Dental School, University of Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.

Table 1 Slide-tape programmes available for teaching Pharmacology

Programme	No. of tapes	Topic	Audience
1	1	Introduction to the autonomic nervous system	General
2	3	The noradrenergic neurone	General/advanced
3	3	Local hormones and mediators of inflammation	General
4	3	Endocrine pharmacology	General
5	3	Pharmacology of reproduction	General/M.Sc. Reproductive Pharmacology
6	1	Pharmacology of the eye	General/Ophthalmic optics
7	1	Local Anaesthetics	
8	1	Drug Metabolism	General
9	1	Malaria	General
10	8	Autonomic Pharmacology	Dentists

Autonomic drugs and the eye

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This tape-slide presentation takes the form of a discussion between a pharmacologist and a consultant ophthalmic surgeon and centres on the latter's choice and use of drugs active on the eye.

The tape opens with some revision material on the structure, function and innervation of the eye followed

by a classification of the different ways of drug administration. There is then a categorization of the different autonomic agents to be discussed later. An extended section on glaucoma, both acute and chronic, reflects the surgeon's interest in this disease and clarifies for the non-specialist the important differences between the two forms. The remaining discussion on drugs and their use in ophthalmology is somewhat less detailed but nevertheless contains many interesting photographs taken in clinical situations. The inclusion of drugs in the presentation is not meant to be comprehensive but is restricted to those actually used by the clinician.