Computer assisted learning (CAL)

Computer assisted learning (CAL) for teaching experimental pharmacology is a novel beginning. Ethical issues with the use of animals has led to newer trends in teaching and learning. Introduction of multimedia CAL was established in this college in the year 2015 and is a part of tertiary care education at undergraduate and postgraduate students in the subject of pharmacology . The software has been installed in 30 computers with two students sitting on each

In CAL, experimental pharmacology has diverse practicals like Introduction to Experimental pharmacology, eliciting the Dose response curves and phenomena of antagonism and potentiation, Bioassays, Effects of various drugs on isolated rabbit's intestine, Effects of drugs on Rabbit's eye, Effect of drugs on blood pressure of an anaesthetized animal, analgesiometry and convulsiometry.

Computer simulation and interactive interface in pharmacokinetic, pharmacodynamics and clinical pharmacology of various drug class help in reinforcing te knowledge of different drugs acting on various organ systems of the body. CAL software has also been developed to promote rational and evidence based medication utilization among the medical students.

Advantages of CAL

1)   It can be done at the individual's convenience and pace.

2)   Also provides videos to enhance student learning.

3)   Provides feedback as pre and post MCQ test sessions to identify improved knowledge.

4)   CAL is an innovative teaching method which primarily focus on increasing the understanding of the subject rather than psychomotor skill acquisition.

 CAL is a feasible and very effective teaching and learning method in pharmacology with huge potential to change the way of learning as it meets majority of learning objectives. CAL has a qualitative and quantitative potential to raise teaching standards to new level of sophistication. However, there is a need to make awareness among the teachers of the advantages of teaching.