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DALLAS--Airline passengers who plug into recorded music during their flights now have nothing on medical students who are plugging stethoscopes into heart sound lectures.

At The University of Texas Southwestern Medical School here, the entire sophomore class has tried out individual stethoscopes which were connected to a heart sound generator operated by Dr. Charles Mullins, associate professor of internal medicine. Any heart sound or murmur can be simulated realistically with the system and is an outstanding innovation in the teaching of heart disease, Dr. Mullins said.

Also, with the new equipment, any number of students can listen simultaneously to the heart beat of a patient in a hospital ward along with the instructor, by simply plugging into the portable equipment carried on the instructor's belt.

Dr. Fred Christen, head of Instructional Communications at UTSWMS, believes "this type of instruction is the leading edge of the future."

Cardiologist Mullins explains that the stethoscope hookup surpasses previous reproduction equipment in fidelity.

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