

# NEWS

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**\*\*Video discs help teach crisis decision-making.**

DALLAS--Laser video discs are changing the way health care professionals learn new techniques.

The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas Library's Learning Resources Center now has one of 275 laser video disc systems donated to health care institutions across the nation by Miles Pharmaceuticals, a division of Miles Laboratories, Inc. These systems enable students and professionals to confront real medical situations, make decisions based on the facts given and be tested on recall of information.

The unique aspect of the video discs, according to Mary M. Rydesky, director of the Learning Resources Center at the library, is that they are interactive. This means that the viewer, instead of having to progress at the speed of the machine in a linear style (start to finish), can pick and choose topics that are especially difficult or interesting to them. This is a more efficient way to learn since students can go right to the things they don't understand.

According to Miles Pharmaceuticals, distributor of the system, the Miles Learning Center represents a significant advance in medical education. "Presented with a critical situation, such as the diagnosis and treatment of an infectious disease in a hospital, or the emergency management of seriously injured patients, the physician viewer decides how to respond, enters that response into the video disc player and immediately sees the effects of the decision." The computer then points out errors and allows the user to review the situation at his or her pace and then begin a new lesson.

Richard E. Dixon, M.D., consultant to the Miles Learning Center program and commentator on a number of the medical video discs, says that this type of interactive learning is the wave-of-the-future in health care.

"With medical technology changing so rapidly, it is vital for hospitals to train and retrain their staffs continually, especially in new areas of specialization," says Dixon, who is also director of Medicine at Helene Fuld Medical Center in Trenton, N. J., and associate professor of Medicine at Hahnemann University, Philadelphia. "The major advantage of the Miles Learning Center is its ability to simulate actual medical situations, such as rare or life-threatening events that physicians need to see but often don't until the situation actually occurs."

Design features inherent in the state-of-the-art systems include: accessibility to any point on the video disc within five seconds, slow-motion or freeze-frame capability to vary the playback speed to the viewer's own pace, frame-by-frame control to walk the viewer through a procedure one step at a time, a two-channel audio capability to program either two languages or different levels of information, and a 54,000-frame capacity per disc which makes it possible, for example, for an instructor to pick and choose slides, program the sequence and replay them as a teaching tool.

Medical education programs available through UTHSCD Library's Learning Resources Center include: Ileocolic Resection for Crohn's Disease, Trauma Training Materials I and II, Emergency Appendectomy for Acute Appendicitis, Profile of Mezlin: Mezlocillin Sodium, Bacteremia: Diagnosis and Prevention, Preventing and Managing Infection in the Immunosuppressed Patient, To Save a Life: Choking and CPR, Surgical Infections: Assessment of Risk, A Diabetes Primer and an Introduction to the Miles Learning Center: Orientation and Operating Instructions. These are available for viewing in the LRC, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

In conjunction with the American Cardiology Convention being held at the Dallas Convention Center, March 26-29, Miles Pharmaceuticals is planning an exhibit of the video disc systems.

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