Improving medical skills using Thiel embalmed cadavers?

Ursula Grabs¹, Gilles Bronchti¹, Raynald Gareau¹², Detlev Grabs¹

¹Département d’Anatomie, UQTR, Trois-Rivières (Québec), Canada; ²Faculté de Médecine, UdeM, Montréal (Québec), Canada

Introduction
In 1992, the Austrian Walter Thiel presented his research in finding a suitable method for cadaver fixation, that would keep the color, the flexibility and the texture of the tissues as close to a living body as possible¹. We introduced this method in our lab in 2008, and it has been used primarily for resident training, advanced workshops, further education and research purposes. Here we present some of the possibilities of using these cadavers.

Infectious state of the cadaver are further advantages. The preserved flexibility of the joints enables the placement of the cadaver adapted to clinical needs. The preserved texture of the tissue, less formalin and the non-infectious state of the cadaver are further advantages.

Conclusion
Thiel cadavers combine the advantage of embalmed (preservation, non-infectious state, long time use) as well as of fresh cadavers (flexibility, tissue texture, positioning). It is the ideal fixation method for advanced training and education. Up to date we used these cadavers for endoscopic, orthopedic and surgical procedures as well as for workshops in anesthesiology, emergency care, radiology, plastic surgery, gynecology, urology, ORL and ultrasound formations and we are sure to include many more application soon.