Elective: General Surgery; Head and Neck Surgical Oncology Service

OVERVIEW

The Head & Neck Surgical Oncology service is one of the general surgery services, with clinics and surgery both at CancerCare Manitoba the Health Sciences and St. Boniface General Hospital. The service emphasizes a multidisciplinary approach to the diagnosis and management of the head and neck cancer patients. The Head and neck surgical oncology service exposes the medical students to a wide range of disease site specific outpatient clinics thus providing an opportunity for the student to become comfortable with the history, examination and management of the clinic’s particular disease focus within the time frame of the rotation. The student is encouraged to assess new patients in each clinic and follow the patient through the diagnosis, treatment planning and initial stages of management.

The ward work load is relatively light for a surgical service and there are no service expectations from the medical students thereby providing a stress free learning environment. As much of the surgery performed involves short hospital stays, there is ample time to attend clinics and surgery.

INTRODUCTION

Location(s):
CancerCare Manitoba, Health Sciences Centre & St. Boniface General Hospital
The Head and neck surgical oncology ward is located on GHS at the Health Sciences Centre.
The Head and neck surgical oncology clinic is located at Clinic 1, first floor, CancerCare Manitoba (MacCharles Unit attached to HSC) and Thyroid Clinic is at CancerCare Manitoba (Tache Unit), St Boniface General Hospital

Preceptors:

Attending Surgeons
Dr. Richard Nason, Professor
Dr. Alok Pathak, Professor

Contact Person:

Ms. Andrea Roskevich, Program Coordinator
Phone: 204 787-1340
aroskevich@exchange.hsc.mb.ca

LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CanMEDS)

The students will understand the surgeon's role in the multidisciplinary management of head and neck cancers as it applies to: (A) Diagnosis (B) Treatment (C) Palliation (D) Rehabilitation (E) Prevention

Medical Expert
As Medical Experts, physicians integrate all of the CanMEDS Roles, applying medical knowledge, clinical skills and professional attitudes in their provision of patient-centered care:
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**Goals**
The student will understand the surgeon’s role in the multidisciplinary management of head and neck cancer as it applies to:

- Prevention
- Screening
- Diagnosis
- Treatment
- Palliation
- Rehabilitation

Specific malignancies that are treated on the Head and Neck Surgical Oncology Service include:

- Head & neck squamous cancers
- Thyroid cancers and benign thyroid diseases
- Benign and malignant tumors of salivary gland
- Head & neck skin malignancies
- Head & neck sarcoma

Surgeries includes entire gamut of procedures for thyroid and parathyroid tumors, as well as less common procedures, such as neck dissection, parotidectomy, sentinel node biopsy, oral cancers excision, endoscopies and laser surgeries.

**Technical Skills**
Suturing skills and biopsy techniques such as fine needle aspiration, punch biopsy, and incisional or excisional biopsies.

**Communicator**
Physicians effectively facilitate the doctor-patient relationship and the dynamic exchanges that occur before, during, and after the medical encounter.

As Communicators, students will facilitate the doctor-patient relationship:

- Establish rapport, trust and a therapeutic relationship with patients and families
- Listen effectively
- Elicit relevant information and perspectives of patients, families, and the health care team
- Convey relevant information and explanations to patients, families and the health care team
- Convey effective oral and written information about a medical encounter
- Maintain clear, accurate, appropriate, and timely records of clinical encounters/operative procedures
- Address challenging communication issues effectively
  - Obtain informed consent
  - Deliver bad news
  - Disclose adverse events
  - Discuss end-of-life care
  - Discuss organ donation
- Addressing anger, confusion and misunderstanding using a patient centric approach

**Collaborator**
Physicians effectively work within a healthcare team to achieve optimal patient care.

As Collaborators, students will work effectively within the surgical team to achieve optimal patient care:
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- Demonstrate a team approach to health care
- Participate effectively in an inter-professional and interdisciplinary health care team
- Recognize and respect the diversity of roles, responsibilities, and competences of other health professionals in the management of the surgical patient
- Work with others to assess, plan, provide, and integrate care of the surgical patient

**Leader**

Physicians engage with others to contribute to a vision of a high-quality health care system and take responsibility for the delivery of excellent patient care through their activities as clinicians, administrators, scholars, or teachers.

As Leaders, students will participate in the activities of the surgical service, making decisions, allocating resources, and contributing to the effectiveness of the health care team:

- Employ information technology appropriately for patient care
- Allocate finite health care resources appropriately

**Health Advocate**

Physicians responsibly use their expertise and influence to advance the health and well-being of individual patients, communities and populations.

As Health Advocates, students will responsibly use their expertise and influence to advance the health and well-being of individual patients, communities and populations:

- Concern for the best interest of patients
- Identifying health needs of individual patients, and advocate for the patient, where appropriate
- Promote and participate in patient safety

**Scholar**

Physicians demonstrate a lifelong commitment to reflective learning, as well as the creation, dissemination, application and translation of medical knowledge.

As Scholars, students will demonstrate a lifelong commitment to learning:

- Demonstrate the ability for continuing self-learning
- Discuss the principles of surgery and the application of basic sciences to surgical treatment
- Demonstrate appropriate presentation skills, including formal and informal presentations
- Critically evaluate medical information and its sources and apply this appropriately to clinical decisions
- Critically appraise the evidence in order to address a clinical question
- Integrate critical appraisal conclusions into clinical care

**Professional**

As Professionals, physicians are committed to the health and well-being of individuals and society through ethical practice, profession-Led regulation, and high personal standards of behaviour.
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As Professionals, students are committed to health and well-being of individuals through ethical practice, profession-led regulation and high personal standards of behavior:

- Exhibit professional behaviors in practice, including honesty, integrity, commitment, compassion, respect and altruism
- Demonstrate a commitment to delivering the highest quality care
- Recognize and respond appropriately to ethical issues encountered in practice
- Recognize and respect patient confidentiality, privacy and autonomy
- Participation in peer review
- Manage conflicts of interest and maintain appropriate relations with patients
- Demonstrate awareness of industry influence on medical training and practice
- Recognition of personal and clinical limitations

INFORMATION

These are locations, readings, evaluations, call responsibilities, etc.

Required Reading

Lawrence Essentials of General Surgery, 3rd Ed. Chapters of particular relevance to this rotation include:
Chapter 20 - Surgical Endocrinology
Chapter 24 - Surgical Oncology
Chapter 26 - Surgical Procedures, Techniques & Skills

Evaluations

An exit interview will be performed on leaving the service by the student’s preceptor, Dr A Pathak/ Dr. R. Nason. If the preceptor has concerns a mid-rotation interview will be conducted. Any questions regarding the rotation or concerns that a student has while on the service can be directed towards the attending surgeons, Dr. A. Pathak (AP) or Dr. R. Nason (RN)

Call Responsibilities

- As there are no service/call expectations from the students, the call schedule will be as required for a general surgery rotation (maximum of 1-in-4)

First Day Instructions

The student is to page the Head & Neck Surgical Oncology fellow the day before the start of the rotation through hospital paging at 787-2071

WARD ACTIVITIES

These are examples of schedules, expectations, rotation details, etc. All the details below are subject to change.
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Expectations

- Students are expected to attend morning ward rounds (Monday through Friday) and participate in the management of the inpatient ward under the supervision of the head and neck fellow.
- Times will be divided equally between the clinics and operating room to provide as wide as exposure as possible to head and neck surgical oncology.
- The student should try to assess one or two new patients in each of the disease sites and follow their course through the diagnosis, treatment planning and initial stages of management.
- The student is expected to attend multidisciplinary case rounds, where cases are reviewed with medical oncology, radiation oncology, pathology and radiology – a true multi-disciplinary approach to disease management and an excellent learning opportunity.

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