Goals and Objectives for the General Surgery Rotation  
Resident PGY1  
Hamilton Health Sciences or St. Joseph Healthcare (1 block of 2 months)  
Revised October 6, 2010

Overview

During the first year of their residency training the resident will spend 1 block of two months on the General Surgery service either at Hamilton Health Sciences or at St. Joseph Healthcare. The resident will gain experience in assessing and managing patients on the wards, the emergency department and in the operating room. All residents must review their learning objectives with the General Surgery staff at the beginning and at the end of the rotation to facilitate meeting the objectives.

Schedule of the week: Varies weekly and needs to be confirmed with their supervisor.

You will be expected to participate in the activities of the general surgery department such as attending offices and clinics, participating in operations in the outpatient area as well as in the main operating room, participating in endoscopic procedures, seeing and following inpatients, doing consultations on the ward and in the emergency room and cover call.

Call:

You will be assigned to be on call with the general surgery service. You are expected to make handover to the resident on call. The general surgery supervisor or delegate will schedule your call duties. Call will be set according to PAIRO guidelines.

Overall Objectives:

*It is recognized that the resident may not be exposed to all elements of these objectives; however at the conclusion of the rotation the resident should demonstrate knowledge or competency in the following:*

The resident is expected to gain understanding and knowledge of the foundational issues in acute and chronic general surgical problems, including how to assess, and diagnose these conditions systematically, and how to apply clinical judgment in the prescription of treatment. The resident will learn how to manage the metabolic, fluid, electrolyte and acid-base needs of patients. The resident will learn the critically important skills of operating room department and surgical assisting, and as well will function as clinical surgeon at an introductory level in selected procedures.
Specific Objectives:

Medical Expert

The resident is expected to learn how to:

- Take a directed, complete history.
- Perform an effective physical examination.
- Appropriately order and interpret tests.
- Complete data collection using appropriate invasive patient monitoring techniques, biopsy techniques (FNAB, core biopsy, open biopsy), and endoscopic procedures in particularly flexible esophagogastrscopy.
- Formulate a differential diagnosis.
- Formulate the treatment plan, considering the effects, risks, and benefits of operative or non-operative approaches, and the role of co-morbidities.
- Carry out pre-op and post-op care.

Knowledge Basic sciences and anatomy:

The trainee is expected to develop an excellent knowledge base for all of the diseases conditions in the various anatomic sites relevant to general surgery.

Knowledge clinical:

By the end of the general surgery rotation, the resident will demonstrate adequate knowledge of:

- Preoperative assessment and care.
- Post-operative care.
- Wound management and healing.
- Fluid and electrolyte management, acid base disorders.
- Shock.
- Hemostasis mechanisms and disorders use of blood products.
- Metabolic and nutritional care.
- Sepsis and surgical infections.
- Acute abdomen.
- Gastro-intestinal bleeding (upper and lower).
- Intestinal obstruction.
- Oesophageal, gastric and duodenal diseases.
- Hepatobiliary and pancreatic diseases.
- Neck masses.
- Thyroid diseases.
- Parathyroid diseases.
- Major salivary gland diseases.

**Technical skills:**

- Venous access, including placement and care of central lines.
- Arterial access (e.g. for ABG’s and placement of arterial lines.
- Insertion of nasogastric tube.
- Insertion of Foley catheter.
- EKG performance and interpretation.
- Endotracheal intubations.
- FNAB of masses at various sites.
- Biopsies of skin, subcutaneous, and mucosal lesions.
- Incision and drainage of skin and subcutaneous abscesses.
- Wound suturing, dressing and care.
- Esophagogastroscopy.
- Tracheostomy.
- PEG and opened gastrostomy.
- Node biopsies (axillary, inguinal, cervical).
- Function as first or second assistant for the wide range of general surgical procedures.
- Function as surgeon, under supervision, for parts of appropriate general surgical procedures in addition to those detailed above.

**Communicator**

Learn how to give an accurate, concise verbal report of the history and physical examination to staff and to resident colleagues.
Communicate effectively with health care professionals and other members of the team.
Gain experience in requesting, and responding to requests for consultations from colleagues.
Maintain complete and accurate medical records, clearly written or dictated.
Recognize the need for, and practice clear communication in the operating room.
Listen effectively.
Collaborator

Consult and interact with respect to other health care professionals, in particular with the anesthesiologists, the surgeons and their team, nurses in the operating room and on the ward.
Consult and work effectively with the attending staff.
Consults and works effectively with other medical specialists.
Consults and works effectively with colleagues, medical clerks and students.

Manager

Manage effectively the different tasks involved in the diagnosis and treatment of patients.
Prioritize responsibilities.
Utilize health care resources safely and effectively.
Utilize information technology effectively.
Work well in the health care organization (clinic, ward, ICU, ER and operating room).
Learn to use their time efficiently.

Health Advocate

Identify risk factors related to general surgical conditions.
Advocate on behalf of patients, families and communities regarding good health practices.

Scholar

Demonstrate a commitment to, and success with, a personal continuing education strategy.
Read about clinical cases and participate appropriately by asking questions.
Understand the basics of critical appraisal as they pertain to general surgery practice.
Teach medical students and other health care professionals.
Participate in academic rounds, teachings sessions and other educational outlets.
Evaluate proposed diagnosis and treatment with current literature when appropriate.

Professional

The resident is expected to exhibit appropriate personal and interpersonal professional behaviours, to show integrity, honesty, and compassion, and to practice in an ethical manner.
Recognize own limitations and seek advice and help when needed.
Accept constructive feedback and act appropriately.
Continue to pursue a balanced life-style.
Bibliography suggestions

Lawrence Peter F: *Essentials of General Surgery*