

GENERAL SURGERY OBJECTIVES

Using current medical knowledge and up-to-date scientific evidence the student is responsible for competency in the following areas by the end of the clinical rotation.

Medical Knowledge

- Demonstrate an appropriate physical exam on a surgical patient depending upon the presenting complaint and identify any abnormal findings.
- Choose appropriate diagnostic tests to identify an abnormality.
- Describe the surgical procedure used to treat the surgical disease process and the accompanying risks and benefits of the procedure.
- Explain the indications of the surgical procedures used to treat surgical disease process.
- Manage preoperative care of patient.
- Explain postoperative care and potential complications including the inflammatory response.
- Summarize fluid and electrolyte management in the surgical patient.
- Compare the different types of shock and how to manage them.
- Evaluate and initially manage all types of trauma patients.
- Determine treatment of benign and malignant conditions.
- Review the presentation, diagnosis and management of common surgical diseases encountered in the pediatric population.
- Assess and manage an acute abdomen.
- Express understanding of common surgical pathologies involving the GI tract, liver, pancreas, biliary tract, thyroid, lungs, esophagus, gallbladder, adrenals, and different types of hernias including presentation, diagnosis and treatment.
- Describe basic principles of vascular surgery, including presentation, diagnosis and treatment options of patients with occlusive disease and thromboembolism.
- Document pre and post-operative procedure notes.
- Select appropriate wound closure and perform wound closure by method of suture, staple, and skin glue.
- Remove staples and sutures.
- Anesthetize procedural area by local injection.
- Perform in office procedures including incision and drainage, and biopsy of skin lesion.

Interpersonal & Communication Skills

- Practice professionally in a working situation with other members of the health care team including appropriate dress, punctual attendance and professional attitude.
- Demonstrate an openness to receive constructive criticism.
- Recognize limitations and locate assistance from supervising preceptors and appropriate reference material.
- Interpret independent outside readings concerning medical problems encountered.
- Prepare a problem oriented progress note using the SOAP format or site-specific template.

- Write a differential diagnosis based upon patient history, physical examination data and diagnostic data.
- Compose an oral case presentation and present to the preceptor.
- Construct an appropriate treatment plan based on history, physical exam and diagnostic data.
- Interpret diagnostic studies as related to the patient's medical condition.
- Select written patient education handouts to address a health promotion issue using the most up to date medical data.
- Contrast possible risks and benefits of diagnostic studies and treatment plans.
- Explain possible risks and benefits of diagnostic studies and treatment plan to your patient as approved by the supervising provider.

Patient Care

- Show sensitivity to the emotional, social, developmental and ethnic background of patients and their family on his/her service.
- Recognize the impact distance from a referral center has on a patient's care.
- Identify the obstacles to obtaining medical care for those with financial difficulties.
- Describe the obstacles to obtaining medical care for those who are uninsured.
- Assess the impact poverty or location may have on your treatment plan.
- Contrast risk and benefits of procedures needed to be performed on your patient.
- Support patient education with the use of written patient education handouts.
- Evaluate community resources to implement patient care.
- Describe health promotion and disease prevention to your patients.
- Identify communication barriers with different patient populations.
- Adapt communication style and information context to the individual patient interaction.
- Appraise health of patient with screening health exams that follow appropriate medical guidelines for the patient's age.

Professionalism

- Apply professional attitude in such areas as attendance, dress code and performance in the medical setting.
- Demonstrate knowledge of the legal and regulatory requirements of the role of a physician assistant.
- Employ a professional relationship with the supervising providers and other members of the health care team.
- Operate under the rules of HIPPA to preserve patient confidentiality.
- Demonstrate sensitivity and responsiveness to patients' culture, gender, age and disabilities.

Practice-Based Learning

- Demonstrate motivation and desire to learn.
- Develop the ability to learn from practice.
- Show ability to understand and apply decision-making tools
- Recognize the importance of lifelong learning in the medical field.
- Assess medical evidence and communicate to patients and colleagues.
- Apply information technology to access on-line medical information and continue personal education.
- Recognize personal limitations and where to access help personally and professionally.

System-Based Practice

- Use medical information technology in decision-making, patient care, and patient education.
- Evaluate cost effective health care and resources that do not compromise quality of patient care. Practice according to policy and procedures set forth by the health care facility.
- Choose the appropriate code for billing the responsible payment service under direct supervision of the preceptor.
- Identify the funding sources and payment systems that provide coverage for the patient care.

Required Textbook: This textbook can be used to guide your study according to the Objectives and study guide.

Current Diagnosis and Treatment – Surgery. 14th Ed. Gerard M Doherty. McGraw Hill Lange. 2015.