

Dalhousie University Neurosurgery

Resident Rotation Objectives: Community Neurosurgery

The focus of this rotation is to expose the neurosurgery resident to a community based neurosurgical practice. The neurosurgery resident will be exposed to a broad range of spinal, intracranial, and peripheral nerve pathology in a setting that does not routinely have a resident presence.

Medical Expert

By completion of the rotation, the resident will have demonstrated an appropriate level of knowledge and skill in dealing with the management of spinal, intracranial, and basic peripheral nerve pathologies.

KNOWLEDGE

1. The resident will demonstrate adequate knowledge of neuro-anatomy and neurophysiology appropriate for his/her level of training.

CLINICAL SKILLS

1. The resident must demonstrate appropriate technical skills in the operative management of the above conditions.
2. The resident will participate on a regular basis in the operating room. He/she will function as a primary assistant and will be given increasing responsibility with surgical cases depending on his/her level of comfort and experience.
3. The resident will demonstrate the ability to obtain an appropriate history and ability to perform a general and neurological examination.
4. The resident will demonstrate the ability to order and interpret appropriate diagnostic imaging and laboratory investigations.
5. The resident will demonstrate the ability in the interpretation of the neuro-radiological examination. He/she will be able to order the appropriate neuro-radiological tests.
6. The resident will demonstrate the ability to develop a differential diagnosis and appropriate management plan.
7. The resident will demonstrate the ability to appropriately prioritize and manage the care of emergency and trauma patients.

Communicator

1. Document appropriate histories, physical examinations and progress notes.
2. Establish communication with the patient and family.
3. Provide information to the patient and family that will help with decision making.
4. Respond appropriately to patients, families and colleagues who express anger and have complaints
5. Be able to communicate in a clear, concise and collegial manner.

6. Be able to present data to a group of peers or allied health personnel in a clear and understandable way.
7. Prepare written documentation regarding patient consultations in a timely fashion.

Collaborator

1. Learn to communicate with other physicians and health care professionals in order to contribute effectively to inter-disciplinary team activities for patient care.
2. Contribute administrative skills to the physician team.
3. Be able to delegate responsibilities where and when appropriate.
4. Listen to concerns expressed by others providing care and help resolve such issues.
5. Be exposed to the multi-disciplinary team approach. He/she will have a close
6. working relationship with Rehabilitative Medicine, Pediatrics, ENT, Plastic and Orthopedics including allied health workers such as Physiotherapists, Occupational therapists, Speech & Language Pathologists, Social Workers and Discharge Planners.
7. Develop a working relationship with the Neurosurgical Case Manager who is responsible for daily care of the neurosurgical in-patients.

Leader

1. Utilize resources effectively to balance patient care, learning needs, family and recreational activities.
2. Allocate finite health care resources wisely.
3. Work effectively and efficiently in a health care organization.

Health Advocate

Considering the disabling nature of many conditions affecting the nervous system, the neurosurgery resident will:

1. Learn to identify the important determinants of health that affect his/her patients.
2. Contribute effectively to injury prevention and health maintenance.
3. Be an effective advocate of practices that enhance health and well-being.

Scholar

1. Demonstrate the ability to develop, implement and monitor personal continuing education strategy.
2. Demonstrate the ability to critically appraise sources of medical information.
3. Demonstrate the ability to facilitate the learning of patients and families, house staff, students and other health professional workers.
4. Demonstrate the ability to contribute to the development of new knowledge.
5. Actively participate in all academic rounds and be given responsibility for teaching of more junior staff and nurses.
6. Be exposed to a variety of teaching; this will be in the form of individual teaching in the operating room and on rounds. There will also be more formal teaching with weekly

case presentations or topic reviews as well as monthly Journal Club, Video Conference Rounds and M & M Rounds.

Professional

1. Demonstrate the ability to have a thorough appreciation of the necessity for methods of quality assurance and health care.
2. Learn to deliver the highest quality care with integrity, honesty and compassion.
3. Have the deportment of a professional.
4. Meet deadlines.
5. Be punctual.
6. Monitor patients and provide follow-up.
7. Understand the principles of ethics and apply them in appropriate clinical situations.
8. Demonstrate self-assessment.
9. Seek and accept advice when necessary.

Throughout the rotation, there will be regular evaluation of the resident. The resident will also evaluate the program. By the end of the rotation, the neurosurgery resident will have developed an understanding of community neurosurgery while continuing to increase his/her skill and comfort in intracranial and spinal procedures and expanding his/her neurosurgical knowledge.