

Dalhousie University Neurosurgery

Resident Rotation Objectives: Plastic Surgery

Introduction

Neurosurgery Residents rotating on the Plastic Surgery service should develop a working knowledge of the following Core Objectives:

1. The nature and principles of correction and reconstruction of congenital and acquired defects of the head, neck, trunk, and extremities.
2. The treatment of acute, chronic, and neoplastic defects not requiring complex reconstruction.

Medical Expert

The resident will achieve and demonstrate competency in their ability to:

1. Describe normal skin anatomy.
2. Describe the process of normal wound healing, including levels of wound contamination and management principles, factors inhibiting the normal healing process, and various wound dressings.
3. Describe various suture materials and various suturing techniques.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the pathophysiology of thermal, chemical, and electrical burns, and describe the initial management for each type.
5. Understand resuscitation of a burned patient.
6. Acquire an understanding of the various types and indications for flaps, including an understanding of the anatomy of commonly used flaps in plastic surgery.
7. Review the methods for performing incisional and excisional biopsies of lesions of the oral cavity and skin in a manner appropriate to the specific lesion.
8. Perform a systematic examination of the hand to assess motor and sensory function.
9. Assess the degree and extent of facial trauma.
10. Perform a comprehensive examination of the mouth and the oral and nasal pharynx.

Communicator

1. Write a complete and accurate history, physical examination, differential diagnosis, plan of investigation, and treatment plan on the chart or dictate appropriate consultation letters.
2. Maintain accurate, complete, and legible progress notes in the chart.
3. Make clearly formulated consultation requests to other physicians.
4. Dictate succinct but complete discharge summaries that will be useful to the referring physician.
5. Demonstrate skill in effective and sensitive information exchange with patients and family members.

6. Interact and communicate effectively with the nursing staff and other health professionals involved with the care of patients on the service.

Collaborator

1. Work efficiently and effectively as part of the trauma team.
2. Understand the role of the physician and contribute in an effective manner to multidisciplinary team meetings.
3. Understand the importance of coordination in rehabilitation and discharge planning for patients recovering from reconstructive procedures.
4. Develop a management plan for patients that include consultation of appropriate medical and allied health care services.
5. Work with discharge planning services to ensure the transition to home is made as smoothly as possible. This will require knowledge of available community services, such as Home Care Nova Scotia, outpatient occupational therapy and physiotherapy services.

Leader

1. Effectively manage their time, as demonstrated by punctuality and timeliness in completion of duties (e.g. patient assessments, completion of discharge summaries).
2. Effectively allocate health care resources, by choosing appropriate investigations and interventions that adhere to good standards of practice.
3. Demonstrate the ability to coordinate the management plan for patients utilizing multiple members of the health care team.
4. Demonstrate the ability to effectively manage the activities of more junior staff to further their education and contribution to the health care team.
5. Understand the importance and role of quality assurance activities.

Health Advocate

1. Understand the importance of primary prevention for trauma and burns.
2. Develop skills in identifying important risk factors for neoplastic disease (e.g. smoking, use of tanning beds) and counselling patients appropriately.
3. Learn the appropriate circumstances for advocating use of a variety of inpatient and outpatient care services (e.g. physiotherapy, occupational therapy, social work, Home Care Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia Pharmacare).
4. Become aware of services and support groups available to patients and be able to communicate these to patients.

Scholar

1. Demonstrate ability to evaluate the medical literature utilizing critical appraisal techniques. This could be directed toward specific questions arising during clinical care, presentation at journal club or presentation at clinical teaching rounds.

2. Facilitate and support the education of medical students, other residents, and other healthcare team members. Teaching may be at the bedside during clinical care, clinical skills learning sessions or in didactic educational sessions.
3. Demonstrate an adequate understanding of the principles of research, including ethical principles.

Professional

1. Interact with patients and their families in a respectful, sensitive, and ethical manner.
2. Interact with Plastic Surgery Faculty members and ambulatory clinic personnel in a respectful, responsible, and professional manner.
3. Demonstrate a continuous improvement in the skills and knowledge necessary for the practice of surgery. This can be accomplished by participation in didactic and bedside educational activities.
4. Demonstrate insight into personal limitations and recognize when consultation is the most appropriate course of management.