

Dalhousie University Neurosurgery

Resident Rotation Objectives – Psychiatry

Introduction

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

1. Understand the interaction between mental and physical wellness or illness.
2. Understand the role of a behavioral medicine consultant in the care of the medical/surgical patient.
3. Understand the indications for prescribed medications for the treatment of common psychiatric problems.

Medical Expert

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

1. Perform and report a focused history on a patient with psychiatric concerns, with particular attention to patient's complaints and functional ability.
2. Recognize the presenting symptoms of common psychiatric disorders including depression, anxiety and panic disorder, somatization disorder, and substance abuse.
3. Recognize when a patient needs referral to behavioural medicine.
4. Assess risk of self-injury, risk of injury to others, dangerousness and appropriate use of constant observation.
5. Accurately assess patients for capacity to make medical decisions ("competency").
6. Describe appropriate use of antipsychotics and benzodiazepines in agitated medical/surgical patients.
7. Understand the medications that have psychiatric symptoms as side effects.
8. Understand risk factors, recent precipitants, classical and atypical presentations, screening tests, etiologies, appropriate medical evaluation, and the comprehensive treatment strategies of delirium.

Communicator

1. Communicate effectively and compassionately with patients and families.
2. Adapt the interview style to suit the clinical setting and medical and/or psychiatric condition of the patient (i.e. communicate effectively with patients on ventilators, recognize stress and fatigue in patients, communicate effectively with difficult or agitated patients, prioritize questions and perform multiple, brief interviews if necessary).
3. Develop a therapeutic alliance with respect for privacy in medically ill patients.
4. Accurately document patient encounters in complete and legible form.

Collaborator

1. Facilitate the requesting service's ability to formulate a clinical question relevant to psychiatry's capacity to aid in the care of the patient.
2. Advise and guide requesting services about the role of medical disease in a patient's presentation, further diagnostic testing required to clarify the clinical picture and medications that are accordingly recommended.
3. Provide appropriate direction to requesting services regarding management of dangerous, agitated and/or psychotic patients who are treated on general hospital units.
4. Relate and work well as a team player with supervisors, peers and other staff.

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. Understand appropriate referrals for psychiatric care.
3. Describe different options available for care in the inpatient and outpatient settings and when each would be appropriate.

Health Advocate

1. Understand the core concepts of competency and the legal process that may be invoked once a patient has been deemed incompetent.
2. Understand economic and social forces which impact health behaviours and availability of treatment options.
3. Use available resources to assist with patients' educational, socio-economic, and psychological challenges.

Scholar

1. Be able to perform a literature search to answer clinical questions.
2. Demonstrate ability to critically evaluate the medical literature.
3. Participate in case conferences and journal club (if applicable).
4. Demonstrate an adequate understanding of the principles of research, with particular emphasis on the ethical principles involved in research on patients with psychiatric illnesses.

Professional

1. Exemplify personal and intellectual integrity.
2. Interact with patients and their families in a respectful, sensitive, and ethical manner.
3. Maintain patient confidentiality.
4. Demonstrate a capacity for introspection and self-assessment.