



FOURTH YEAR GENERAL SURGERY

Goal: The goal of the General Surgery rotation is to provide learning opportunities that will enable students to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to:

1. Care for patients with surgical illnesses and arrange for appropriate referral to consulting surgeons.
2. Act as a liaison between the patient, the surgeon, the family and other members of the health care team.
3. Perform minor surgical procedures that will be useful in an ambulatory primary care setting.
4. Assess major trauma and surgical emergencies, stabilize patients, and arrange for immediate transfer if required.

Objectives: Upon completion of the rotation residents will demonstrate the ability to:

Pre-operative care

1. Explain to patients the most common possible therapeutic interventions and recognize their concerns and fears.
2. Perform a health and risk assessment to determine the patient's operative risk and ask for appropriate consultations if required.
3. Understand the principle of informed consent and know how to obtain it.
4. Understand the management of diet and preanesthetic medication.

Intra-operative care

1. Perform surgical first-assist.
2. Perform basic surgical techniques and operative procedures.
3. Competently perform the following anesthesia skills:
 - a. Intubation in adults.
 - b. Maintaining the airway in an unconscious patient.
 - c. Intra-operative monitoring.

Post-operative care

1. Provide basic post-operative care, including:
 - a. Monitoring.
 - b. Respiratory care.
 - c. Mobilization.
 - d. Care of the wound.
 - e. Renal and bladder function.

- f. Nutrition.
 - g. Fluid and electrolyte balance.
 - h. Pain control.
 - i. Rehabilitation.
 - j. Mobilization of fluids through the use of osteopathic manipulation.
 - k. Increased motility in the Gastrointestinal system with the use of indirect osteopathic lumbar techniques.
 - l. The use of osteopathic manipulation in the prevention of pneumonia following surgery.
2. Recognize and manage post-operative complications, including:
- a. Wound complications.
 - b. Hematoma.
 - c. Atelectasis.
 - d. Infections.
3. Recognize other complications such as:
- a. Cardiac complications.
 - b. Cerebral and psychiatric complications.
 - c. Deep venous thrombosis and pulmonary embolus.
 - d. Peritoneal complications.

Common general surgical conditions

1. Understanding of the presentation, preliminary investigations and initial management, as well as the appropriate referral for the following surgical conditions:
- a. Head and neck masses.
 - b. Thyroid nodules.
 - c. Breast disease: benign and malignant.
 - d. Lung tumors: benign and malignant.
 - e. Pneumothorax and hemothorax.
 - f. Gallbladder disease.
 - g. Appendicitis.
 - h. GI bleed.
 - i. GI tumors.
 - j. Intra-abdominal emergencies.
 - k. Diverticular disease.
 - l. Inflammatory bowel disease.
 - m. Inguinal hernias.
 - n. Bowel obstruction.
 - o. Anorectal lesions.
 - p. Stasis ulcers and varicose veins.
 - q. Peripheral vascular disease.
 - r. Gangrene.
 - s. Aortic aneurysm.
 - t. Assessment of trauma.

2. Perform the following procedural skills:
 - a. First or second assist in general surgery.
 - b. IV insertion.
 - c. Venipuncture.
 - d. NG tube insertion.
 - e. Arterial puncture.
 - f. Abscess I&D.
 - g. Basic wound debridement.
 - h. Aseptic technique.
 - i. Urinary bladder catheterization.
 - j. Excision of simple skin lesions.
 - k. Adult intubation.

3. Identify the indication, contraindications, and procedures for the following procedural skills:
 - a. Central line insertion.
 - b. Conscious sedation.
 - c. Chest tube insertion.