

HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY ROTATION 2008 – 2009

Overview

The Hematology/Oncology Section of the Department of Medicine and the Feist-Weiller Cancer Center provide Internal Medicine residents with patient care experience on the Hematology/Oncology Ward of LSUHSC Hospital and on an inpatient Consultation Service. On both, residents work closely with Hematology/Oncology faculty and fellows. The range of blood diseases and malignancies encountered is wide, and affords the resident the opportunity to see these problems at every stage of their natural history and treatment. The service utilizes both established treatment modalities and a large number of collaborative research protocols in the management of patients. Residents are thereby exposed to cutting-edge concepts of treatment. An added benefit is that residents can access the Feist-Weiller Cancer Center's state-of-the-art electronic medical record system, and gain experience in using such a system to increase their clinical efficiency.

Learning Venues/ Activities

Hematology/Oncology Ward Service

The ward service team consists of one upper-level resident, two PGY-1 residents, a hematology/oncology fellow, a physician's assistant, two or three medical students, a physician's assistant student, and the faculty attending.

- **Schedule** – Monday through Friday
 - *Bedside rounds*: 8 a.m. Residents present patients they have admitted.
 - *Afternoon team "chart" rounds*: Begin between 2 and 5 p.m., depending on other clinical responsibilities of team members. The team reports on events that have occurred on patients and reviews diagnostic data. Consultations from other services are discussed, and new admissions are visited.
- **Weekend Schedule**: determined by faculty and fellow

Consultation Service

The consultation team consists of residents, a hematology/oncology fellow, and a faculty attending. New consults that are received each day are divided between the resident and fellow. Residents will be assigned as wide a variety of patients as possible.

- Schedule:
 - *Bedside rounds:* 8 a.m. The residents and fellow see patients being followed by the Consultation Service. New consults are seen during the morning or early afternoon hours.
 - *Afternoon bedside rounds:* Begin between 2 and 5 p.m., depending on other clinical responsibilities of the team. The team meets with the attending to discuss the events that occurred with each patient that day. Laboratory data and radiographs are reviewed. Patients are seen at the bedside with the faculty. Recommendations are placed in the medical record, and the consulting physicians are notified of any new significant recommendations. The team then discusses the new consults of the day with the attending, and then visits each patient. A formal consultation note is then produced by the resident who initially evaluated the patient. The consulting physicians are notified of significant recommendations.

Conferences

- *Bone Marrow Review:* Tuesday 4 p.m., Pathology Conference Room
- *Peripheral Smear and Bone Marrow Review:* Wednesday 8 a.m., Hematology/ Oncology Fellows Room, 6th Floor of hospital
- *Hematology/Oncology Grand Rounds:* Friday 8 a.m., Feist-Weiller Cancer Center

Learning Resources

- Standard medical and hematology text books
- Applicable sections of UpToDate; available through LSUHSC-S website
- MKSAP-14 Hematology and Oncology syllabi

Evaluation Methods

- Global faculty evaluation at end of rotation (*all competencies*)
- Clinical evaluation exercises: Interviewing skills, examination skills; counseling skills; documented through *MyEvaluations*; (*Patient care; Interpersonal and communication skills; Professionalism*)
- Specific medical knowledge and diagnostic interpretation exercises may focus on, but are not limited to:
 - Interpretation of the peripheral blood smear
 - Interpretation of iron studies
 - Interpretation of coagulation studies

Educational Goals: Ward Service

Patient Care – PGY-1

- Learn to stage and manage *lung cancer* appropriately
 - Small cell lung cancer
 - Limited stage
 - Advanced stage

- Non-small cell lung cancer
- Learn to manage *carcinoma of unknown primary* appropriately
 - How aggressive should the search for the primary site be?
 - Best management options for such patients.
- Learn to evaluate and manage *anemia* appropriately
- Learn to evaluate and manage *thrombocytopenia* appropriately
- Learn to evaluate and management *leucopenia* appropriately
- Learn to evaluate and manage patients with *sickle cell anemia crisis*, appropriately, including optimal pain management
- Learn to manage *hypercalcemia of malignancy* appropriately
- Learn to evaluate and manage *febrile neutropenia* appropriately
- Learn to use *transfusion therapy* appropriately
- Learn the principles of management of *acute and chronic pain*
- Learn to perform a proper examination for *adenopathy and organomegaly*

Patient Care – PGY-2,3

- Understand and learn to use the classification systems for *lymphoid neoplasms*
- Learn to diagnose and manage *plasma cell neoplasms* appropriately; determine when treatment is needed and when “watchful waiting” is appropriate:
 - MGUS
 - Symptomatic and asymptomatic multiple myeloma
 - Plasmacytoma
- Learn to stage and manage *breast cancer* appropriately
 - Early breast cancer
 - Local-Regionally advanced breast cancer
 - Metastatic breast cancer
 - Estrogen receptor-negative disease
 - Estrogen receptor-positive disease
- Learn to evaluate and manage *colorectal cancer* appropriately
 - Recognize those who might have hereditary CRC
 - FAP
 - HNPCC
 - Recognize those who likely have sporadic CRC
- Learn to manage *prostate cancer* appropriately
 - When is “watchful waiting” an acceptable plan of care?
 - Appropriate use of hormonal therapy
- Learn to manage *AIDS-related malignancies* appropriately
- Learn to diagnose and manage *hypogammaglobulinemia* appropriately
- Learn to evaluate, diagnose, and manage *hereditary and acquired coagulation defects* appropriately
- Evaluate and manage *acute spinal cord compression and superior vena cava syndrome* appropriately

- Develop the appropriate approach to *supportive and palliative care of the terminally ill patient*
- Learn the indications for and complications of *radiation therapy*

Medical Knowledge – PGY-1

- Understand how to interpret diagnostic studies for *anemia*
- Understand the interpretation of *coagulation tests*
- Learn to interpret a *peripheral blood smear* properly

Medical Knowledge – PGY-2,3

- Understand the complications and adverse effects of common *antineoplastic agents*
- Understand the pathophysiology behind the evaluation of a patient with possible *plasma cell dyscrasia*
- Understand the classification and evaluation of *hematologic malignancies*

Interpersonal And Communication Skills – PGY-1

- Demonstrate the ability to *break bad “bad news”* to patients and their families skillfully and compassionately

Interpersonal and Communication Skills – PGY-2,3

- Learn to discuss with patients and families the *goals of treatment in malignant disease*
- Demonstrate the ability to discuss *therapeutic options* in malignant diseases, including *palliative care*, with patients and their families

Educational Goals: Consultation Service (PGY-1, 2, 3)

Patient Care: Learn to:

- Perform a focused examination for *adenopathy and organomegaly*
- Perform a thorough and systematic examination of the *female breast*
- Utilize the appropriate indications for *bone marrow examination*
- Diagnose and manage *iron overload* appropriately
- Manage *coagulation disorders* appropriately in the perioperative period
- Diagnose and manage *erythrocytosis* appropriately
- Diagnose and manage *thrombocytosis* appropriately
- Diagnose and manage *leukocytosis* appropriately
- Diagnose and manage *anemia* appropriately
- Diagnose and manage *thrombocytopenia* appropriately
- Diagnose and manage *leucopenia* appropriately
- Use and interpret *serologic tumor markers* properly
- Manage patients with *monoclonal gammopathy* appropriately, including MGUS, symptomatic and asymptomatic multiple myeloma, plasmacytoma
- Diagnose and manage *thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura* appropriately
- Diagnose and manage *disseminated intravascular coagulopathy* appropriately

- Manage *hypercalcemia of malignancy* appropriately
- Manage *acute spinal cord compression and superior vena cava syndrome* appropriately

Medical Knowledge

- Learn to interpret *coagulation tests* accurately
- Learn to interpret the *peripheral blood smear* accurately
- Understand the differential diagnosis and appropriate evaluation of *thrombocytopenia*
- Understand the differential diagnosis and evaluation of *leukopenia*
- Understand the pathophysiology behind the diagnosis and evaluation of *anemia*
- Understand the differential diagnosis and evaluation of *thrombocytosis*
- Understand the differential diagnosis and evaluation of *leukocytosis*
- Understand the differential diagnosis and evaluation of *erythrocytosis*

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

- Research one or more key clinical questions related to a learning objective under the *Patient Care* and *Medical Knowledge* competencies

Common Subspecialty Consultation Service Educational Goals

Interpersonal and Communication Skills

- Develop skill in interviewing patients with problems in the scope of the subspecialty, with attention to education and culturally-sensitive language.
- Develop skill in giving a focused presentation of clinical findings to the attending faculty.
- Develop skill at communicating findings and recommendations of consultations to primary physicians, both verbally and in writing
- Learn to communicate appropriate information to patients who are seen in consultation, and in obtaining informed consent for procedures performed by the subspecialty.

Professionalism

- Demonstrate a commitment to excellence and continuous professional development.
- Demonstrate punctuality and preparation for consultation rounds.
- Demonstrate courteous and professional behavior during encounters with patients and families.
- Demonstrate appropriate professional relationships with colleagues, faculty, and other members of consultation team.
- Demonstrate respect for patients' primary physicians in discussions with patients and within the consult team.
- Demonstrate a habit of evaluating consultations patients and conveying information in a timely manner

Practice-based Learning and Improvement

- Demonstrate a pattern of self-evaluation of performance, identifying gaps in medical knowledge during the evaluation and management of patients, and incorporating feedback into performance.
- Demonstrate a pattern of replicating the effective clinical decision making of faculty and fellows
- Demonstrate a pattern of independent reading and study related to the diseases encountered in the clinics and through hospital consultations.
- Demonstrate a pattern of using library and Internet resources to appraise the literature related to problems encountered during the rotation, and of applying evidence to patient care.
- Learn to critically appraise articles in the subspecialty.

Systems-based Practice

- Develop an understanding of the hospital resources available to the evaluation and management of patients with problems encountered by the subspecialty.
- Demonstrate sensitivity to health care costs, and insight into balancing costs and quality care.
- Demonstrate sensitivity in working with case managers, clinical coordinators, technicians, and other paramedical personnel to enhance the effectiveness of patient care.
- Demonstrate a knowledge of and commitment to the rules governing confidentiality of patient information.