

General Surgery (Oncology/Endocrine)

Institution: Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Duration: 6 weeks

Supervising Physician: Dr. Carmen Solarzano

Contact Information:
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Year of Training: PGY-3

Educational Objectives:

We would like to welcome you to the Surgical Oncology/Endocrine Service and hope you will have a rewarding and educational experience. Our goal is to help you gain experience and expertise in the treatment of a variety of oncology and endocrine disorders. Listed below are the objectives for the Surgical Oncology/Endocrine Service.

Patient Care and Procedural Skills:

- ✓ Demonstrate proficiency in the clinical and surgical care of patients with endocrine disorders and malignancies.
- ✓ Obtain a focused history, perform an examination and institute the diagnostic evaluation of a patient with a thyroid nodule, goiter, hyperthyroidism and hypercalcemia.
- ✓ Palpate and describe a thyroid nodule and goiter.
- ✓ Identify exophthalmos.
- ✓ Perform a fine needle aspiration biopsy of a palpable thyroid nodule.
- ✓ Perform the initial steps in thyroid surgery, including:
 - a) Patient positioning and marking
 - b) Skin incision and raising subplatysmal flaps
 - c) Opening strap muscles
 - d) Identification of recurrent laryngeal nerve
 - e) Ligation of the superior and inferior pole vessels
 - f) Mobilization of thyroid lobe
 - g) Close strap muscles, platysma and skin
- ✓ Interpret thyroid and parathyroid ultrasound and parathyroid scan.
- ✓ Interpret intra-op intact PTH values.
- ✓ Be familiar with position, operative techniques, and complications of laparoscopic, retroperitoneoscopy, robotic, and open adrenalectomy

Medical Knowledge:

- ✓ Demonstrate normal thyroid anatomy in the operating room, including the thyroid gland, its vascular supply and venous drainage, the parathyroid glands, recurrent laryngeal nerves, strap muscles and platysma.
- ✓ Describe normal variants in recurrent laryngeal nerve anatomy including frequency.
- ✓ Describe normal thyroid and parathyroid embryogenesis.
- ✓ Outline the normal thyroid hormone synthetic pathway including iodine metabolism and feedback mechanisms.
- ✓ Outline the normal calcium and parathyroid hormone pathway.
- ✓ Outline appropriate lab testing for the following clinical scenarios, including interpretation of predicted test results:
 - a) Thyroid nodule
 - b) Goiter
 - c) Hyperthyroidism
 - d) Hypothyroidism
 - e) Hypercalcemia
- ✓ Develop an algorithm that includes pertinent history, examination findings and diagnostic evaluation of:
 - a) A palpable thyroid nodule
 - b) A nonpalpable nodule discovered on ultrasound performed for non-thyroid pathology
 - c) Hypercalcemia
- ✓ Recognition and treatment of common postoperative complications:
 - a) Hematoma

- b) Hypocalcemia
- c) Thyroid storm
- d) Voice changes
- ✓ Outline algorithms for the evaluation and treatment of:
 - a) Well-differentiated thyroid cancer
 - b) Medullary thyroid cancer
 - c) Thyroid lymphoma
 - d) Anaplastic thyroid cancer
- ✓ Describe risk factors for well-differentiated thyroid cancer, medullary thyroid cancer and anaplastic thyroid cancer
- ✓ Outline the staging and prognosis in thyroid cancer
- ✓ Outline the complete evaluation and management of nontoxic multinodular goiter and substernal goiter
- ✓ Describe the management of intraoperative recurrent nerve injury
- ✓ Describe the approach for re-operative thyroid and parathyroid surgery

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

- ✓ Write an accurate and detailed preoperative assessment and counseling note on all patients for which he/she serves as surgeon of record.
- ✓ Utilize assigned journal articles as well as available textbook chapters and information technology (including PubMed search and literature review).
- ✓ Participate in the education of patients, families, students, residents, and other health professionals.
- ✓ Incorporate formative evaluation feedback into daily practice.

Interpersonal and Communication Skills

- ✓ The resident should ensure that the attending is aware of the progress of all patients on the service.
- ✓ The resident should clearly, accurately, and respectfully communicate with nurses and other Hospital employees.
- ✓ The resident should clearly, accurately, and respectfully communicate with referring and consulting physicians, including residents.
- ✓ The resident should clearly, accurately, and respectfully communicate with patients and appropriate members with their families about identified disease processes (including complications), the expected courses, operative findings, and operative procedures.
- ✓ The resident should ensure that clear, concise, accurate, and timely medical records are maintained on all patients.
- ✓ The resident should be able to clearly and accurately teach medical students and junior residents about the procedures performed on this rotation when qualified to do so by hospital and program policy.

Professionalism

- ✓ Demonstrate compassion, integrity, and respect for others.
- ✓ Demonstrate sensitivity and responsiveness to a diverse patient population, including but not limited to diversity in gender, age, culture, race, religion, disabilities, and sexual orientation.
- ✓ Demonstrate sensitivity to issues of age, race, gender, and religion with patients, family, and members of the healthcare team.
- ✓ Demonstrate respect for patient privacy and autonomy.
- ✓ Remain honest with all individuals at all times in conveying issues of patient care.
- ✓ Respond to the needs of the patient above one's own needs and desires.
- ✓ Maintain high standards of ethical behavior in all professional activities.
- ✓ Demonstrate a commitment to the continuity of patient care to carrying out professional responsibilities or through assuring that those responsibilities are fully and accurately conveyed others acting in his/her stead.
- ✓ Understand the institutional policy on duty hours and remain compliant with all duty hour regulations. Residents must enter the number of hours spent in the hospital into the tracking system within 1 week of duty.
- ✓ Be properly and professionally attired at all times while engaged in patient care.
- ✓ Be properly and professionally groomed at all times when engaged in patient care.
- ✓ At all times treat patients, families, and all members of the healthcare team with respect.
- ✓ Reliably be present in prearranged places at prearranged times except when actively engaged in the treatment of a medical or surgical emergency. The resident must notify the appropriate supervisor if he or she will be unable to be present.
- ✓ Remain compliant with all required training designated by the institution.

Systems-based practice

- ✓ The resident should be able to assess the risks and benefits of all options for treating patients with surgical illness.
- ✓ The resident should be able to summarize the financial costs, potential complications, and long-term expectations for planned procedures.
- ✓ The resident should recognize the differences between the three hospital systems in which he or she will participate: federal, university, and private.
- ✓ The resident should be able to determine the benefit of additional treatment by other services such as plastic surgery, interventional radiology, and orthopedics.
- ✓ The resident should be able to determine and convey to appropriate individuals the instruments and other materials necessary for all procedures.

Description of Clinical Experiences:

Specific daily responsibilities of the PGY-3 resident include: The PGY-3 resident will work primarily with Drs. Solorzano and Baregamian (the resident may work with other faculty as needed when there are no endocrine cases). Operative days are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. The PGY-3 resident will cover all assigned cases. Prior to the case, the PGY-3 resident is expected to have seen the patients in the clinic and/or reviewed the StarPanel records and films. The PGY-3 resident is expected to be familiar with all inpatients and is responsible for the daily work associated with their patients including discharges, prescriptions and coordination of follow-up as needed. The PGY-3 resident is to attend Dr. Solorzano's clinic on Wednesday (9-4pm). If Dr. Baregamian has cases on Wednesday's the resident can do the first case but will be expected in Dr. Solorzano's clinic by 11am. Endocrine consults will be seen by the PGY-3 resident and reported to the Chief resident and Dr. Solorzano or Dr. Baregamian. The PGY-3 resident is to remain in constant communication with the Chief resident regarding the status of their patients and is expected to stay informed regarding the oncology service. They are expected to be available if called upon in times of emergency when the Chief resident is unavailable and are expected to contribute to the dialogue regarding patient care management and issue when on rounds.

Description of Didactic Experiences:

Attend endocrine clinic as assigned, including the equivalent of at least one full day a week, as well as the conferences listed below:

- Surgical Oncology Teaching Conference, Monday @ 5:15pm
- Multidisciplinary Solid Tumor Conference, Tuesday @ 7:00am
- Endocrine Tumor Conference, 2nd and 4th Tuesday @ 8:00am
- Department of Surgery Morbidity and Mortality Conference, Wednesday @ 6:30am
- Resident Bonus Conference, Wednesday @ 7:30am
- Grand Rounds, Friday @ 7:00am
- Resident Teaching Conference, Friday @ 8:00am

Evaluation Process:

Faculty and senior residents will evaluate the performance of each resident using the above goals and objectives. Each resident on the service will evaluate the rotation, the service, faculty and any senior residents also on the rotation.

Other Important Rotation Information: