

## **Surgical Oncology**

Welcome to the surgical oncology team. As a subspecialty of general surgery, surgical oncology focuses on the surgical management of cancer. On this rotation, you will learn more about how to diagnose, stage, and treat patients with various kinds of malignancies. You will additionally gain an understanding of the multidisciplinary approach to treating many cancers by surgical oncologists, radiologists, medical oncologists, and pathologists. An exciting part of surgical oncology is that there is a wide range of possible diagnoses you will encounter, some of which may require innovative surgical approaches to treat. Some of the various diagnoses include but are not limited to the following:

- Skin cancers
  - Melanoma
  - Squamous Cell Carcinoma
  - Basal Cell Carcinoma
  - Merkel Cell Carcinoma
- Soft Tissue cancers (lipoma, liposarcoma, etc.)
- Breast cancer
- Colon and Rectal cancer
- Hepatocellular carcinoma
- Pancreatic cancer
- Thyroid and Parathyroid cancer

Below you will find the expectations for medical students on this rotation. This is to help you adjust to the rotation so that you are better prepared. Overall, students are expected to become more knowledgeable on how to care for surgical patients, especially surgical oncology patients. If you have any questions about your role as a student, be sure to clarify with the residents and/or attendings on your team. We are excited to have you on service.

## **M3 Student Expectations while on Surgical Oncology**

### **Educational**

Students are expected to learn about the diagnosis, preoperative workup, staging, and surgical management of various kinds of cancer by engaging in the following:

- Review anatomy, pathophysiology, pre- and post-operative management, and other relevant information prior to cases
- Learn relevant information regarding the inpatients you are following
- Attend all Wednesday morning conferences (M&M, grand rounds, etc) and surgery clerkship lectures (notify residents prior to leaving)
- Recommended resources to use throughout the rotation: NCCN guidelines, De Virgilio, Surgical Recall, & UpToDate

### **Clinical**

M3 students are expected to expand their clinical skills and strengthen their patient care by doing the following:

- Scrub into surgeries daily and be engaged - this is where a majority of the learning happens so ask questions
- Learn principles of surgical technique
- Participate in clinic as instructed by your team by seeing patients, presenting to the attending, and writing their clinic note
- Round on patients, present your assessment/plan to the team, and be active members in their care

### **Professionalism**

It is the expectation of all students enrolled at the UTHSC to maintain the highest ethical and professional standards as outlined in UTHSC's student policies and guidelines:

- Arrive on-time to all cases, clinic days, lectures, and Wednesday conferences
- Engage with all attendings, PA's, residents, MA's, nurses, and staff with respect and a professional manor
- Incorporate and contribute to the team
- Maintain a commitment to patient well-being and be mindful that some patients may have a particularly poor prognosis requiring awareness and sensitivity regarding their stressful situation
- Learn how to participate in difficult conversations with patients

## **M4 Student Expectations for Surgical Oncology Elective**

### **Educational**

Students are expected to learn about the diagnosis, preoperative workup, staging, and surgical management of various kinds of cancer by engaging in the following:

- Review anatomy, pathophysiology, pre- and post-operative management, and other relevant information prior to cases
- Participate in ongoing research projects if possible
- Attend all tumor boards (Approximately 1 each week - ask where/when this will occur)
- Attend all Wednesday morning conferences (M&M, grand rounds, etc)
- Recommended resources to use throughout the rotation: NCCN guidelines, Textbook of Complex General Surgical Oncology, & Surgical Oncology Manual

### **Clinical**

M4 students are expected to function with increased autonomy in patient care by doing the following:

- Scrub into all surgeries and actively engage in each procedure
- Develop and strengthen surgical technique
- Participate in clinic by seeing patients, presenting to the attending, and writing their clinic note
- Round on admitted patients with your attending when instructed
- Be available for on-call activities if your attending is scheduled to take call, including weekends

### **Professionalism**

It is the expectation of all students enrolled at the UTHSC to maintain the highest ethical and professional standards as outlined in UTHSC's student policies and guidelines:

- Arrive on-time to all cases, clinic days, and tumor boards
- Engage with all attendings, PA's, residents, MA's, nurses, and staff with respect and a professional manor
- Incorporate and contribute to the team
- Maintain a commitment to patient well-being and be mindful that some patients may have a particularly poor prognosis requiring awareness and sensitivity regarding their stressful situation
- Learn how to participate in difficult conversations with patients