

Elective Description

Campus: Northeast (Grand Forks)

Elective/Experience Title: Hematology-Oncology

Location of Elective: Altru Cancer Center & Hospital – Grand Forks, ND

Department: Internal Medicine

Course Number: IMED 9326

Preceptor(s): Karine Darbinyan, MD; Kevin Panico, MD; Todor Dentchev, MD; Daniel Walsh, MD

Period(s) Offered: all

Number of students per period: 1

Course prerequisites:

Revised Curriculum Phase(s): 2 & 3

Purpose: To improve the student's knowledge and clinical skills in hematology/oncology.

Objectives: Following successful completion of this elective, the student will be able to:

1. Recognize common presenting clinical features of various neoplastic diseases.
2. Recognize common para-neoplastic phenomenon and syndromes.
3. Present the diagnostic and therapeutic approaches to patients with: pleural effusion, superior vena cava syndrome, spinal cord compression, CNS metastasis, pancytopenia, anemia, and infection in the immunocompromised host.
4. Describe the multidisciplinary approach in providing care to oncology patients utilizing surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy, and immunotherapy in the treatment and management of patients with malignant diseases.
5. Give oral history and physical presentations following inpatient and outpatient hematology/oncology encounters.
6. Report the identifying etiologies responsible for anemia, leukopenia, and thrombocytopenia.
7. Evaluate the etiology of a given hemostatic emergency or coagulopathy and describe first steps in management.
8. Recite the relative survival statistics of common malignancies.
9. Describe pain management and palliative care in the oncology patient.
10. Answer patient care questions with evidence-based literature including evaluation of the strength of the literature sources.

Instructional Activities: During this elective, the student will be involved in/experience:

1. Oncology/hematology patient rounds
2. Inpatient consultations
3. Outpatient hematology/oncology evaluations
4. Didactic lectures in hematology/oncology
5. Tumor conferences
6. Work up and evaluation of hematology and oncology patients
7. Interpretation of bone marrow biopsies, peripheral blood smears, and coagulation data
8. Reading and discussing assigned textbook and journal articles.

Criteria for Grading: During and following this elective, the preceptor will:

1. Utilize the standardized UNDSMHS senior elective evaluation form.
2. Evaluate the student's ability to identify disease process and pathophysiology through discussion with the student and review of written work.
3. Evaluate by direct observation the student's interaction with patients including the student's physical examination, diagnostic reasoning, lab results interpretation, and communication skills.
4. Directly observe the student's oral presentation skills for organization, clarity, and focus.
5. Evaluate the student's interpretive skills of assigned journal articles and textbook readings.
6. Evaluate by direct observation the student's knowledge of the multidisciplinary approach to treating oncologic disease, the survival statistics of common malignancies and the etiologies responsible for common hematologic disease.