UND School of Medicine & Health Sciences
University of North Dakota

Elective Description

Campus: Northeast (Grand Forks)
Department: Surgery
Elective/Experience Title: Plastic Surgery
Course Number: SURG 9309-01

Location of Elective: Altru Health System / Truyu
Preceptor(s): Hector Campbell, MD & Mike Dixon, MD

Period(s) Offered: All
Course Prerequisites: Completion of Surgery Clerkship
Number of students per period: 1
Revised Curriculum Phase(s): 2 & 3

Purpose: To provide education and experience in the care of patient requiring plastic surgery or cosmetic surgery services.

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

1. Perform basic evaluation of patients in reference to topographical regional anatomy and its relationship to surgical problems.
2. Perform accurate and thorough histories and physical examinations of patients presenting for plastic or cosmetic surgery.
3. Develop differential diagnoses and treatment plans for plastic surgery or cosmetic surgery patients.
4. Perform patient care with consideration of physiologic principles of wound healing and potential surgery complications.
5. Complete post-hospitalization evaluations of plastic surgery or cosmetic surgery to assess surgical outcomes and patient satisfaction.
6. Work effectively with the interdisciplinary team in assisting in the care of the plastic surgery or cosmetic surgery patient.
7. Gain a better understanding of inclusion and exclusion criteria for plastic surgery procedures.
8. Perform appropriate cosmetic skin closure under attending supervision.
9. Provide empathetic and sensitive care for aesthetic patients seeking plastic surgery services.

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

1. Participating in patient care in clinic and hospital settings; taking histories and doing physical examinations; and formulating differential diagnoses and management plans.
2. Assisting the preceptor in the operating room and participating in the hospital care of the preceptor's patients.
3. Observing and participating in diagnostic procedures and developing treatment plans while keeping in mind potential complications of these procedures.
4. Discussing with the preceptor the reading assignments from texts, including online medical literature.

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

1. Utilize the standardized UNDSMHS senior elective evaluation form.
2. Evaluate by direct observation the student's ability to accurately and thoroughly take histories and perform physical examinations and formulate appropriate treatment plans. (Objective 2 and 3)
3. Evaluate by direct observation the student's knowledge of the basic management of common plastic surgery or cosmetic surgery conditions. (Objective 3 and 4)
4. Evaluate by direct observation the student's professionalism and ability to provide empathetic and sensitive care. (Objective 9)
5. Evaluate student's knowledge of hand, breast, extremity, and other body areas by discussion of anatomy case by case in the operating room and directly observe the student's ability to perform suture closure of skin on these areas (Objective 1 and 8)
6. Evaluate by direct observation the student's ability to discuss with a patient and report the patient's outcome and satisfaction with said outcome at postoperative clinic appointments (Objective 5)
7. Evaluate by direct observation the student's interactions with staff in the clinic, operating room, and on the hospital wards (Objective 6)
8. Evaluate by direct observation the student's interactions with patients in clinic and the information reported by the student regarding patients indications for surgery (Objective 7 and 9)