Lahey Clinic Internal Medicine Residency Program: Curriculum for Medical Oncology

Faculty representative: Joyce McCaffrey, MD
Resident representative: Kimberly Bennett, MD
Revision date: June 30, 2006

Overview

Medical Oncology is the branch of internal medicine that focuses on the management and treatment of patients with cancer, including the detection, diagnosis, and staging of cancer, and the treatment of the disease, its complications and the complications of therapy. Often, the medical oncologist directs the multidisciplinary treatment of the patient. The oncologist has, by training and experience, knowledge of tumor biology, the natural history and epidemiology of various cancers, and the principles of the therapeutic modalities and all facets of cancer diagnosis.

Educational Goals

The rotating medical resident will

- Interview and examine a variety of patients representing the most common malignancies
- Research and discuss tumor biology and therapeutic options with the supervising medical oncologist
- Review current oncology treatment protocols available to each patient
- Decide on appropriate, cost-effective diagnostic tests and useful consultations
- Plan suitable palliative care for patients requiring pain control and other supportive measures
- Organize a follow-up plan including integration of social, nursing and nutritional support

Educational Venues

- Lahey Clinic Medical Oncology outpatient clinic
- Selected inpatient consultations
- Multidisciplinary Breast Center (in Department of General Surgery)

Team Organization

There are five attending oncologists and a fellow rotating from the Tufts New England Medical Center program. Other team members include a nurse practitioner, oncology pharmacist, certified oncology nurses, social worker and nutritionist.

Conferences

- Case discussions with the supervising oncologist daily
- Thoracic oncology conference every other Monday
- Tumor Board every Wednesday
- Gynecology oncology conference every other Wednesday
- Breast cancer conference every Friday
- Urology Tumor Board held monthly

Principle Educational Goals Based on the ACGME General Competencies

In the tables below, the principle educational goals of the Medical Oncology curriculum are listed for each of the six ACGME competencies

1) Patient Care
2) Medical Knowledge
3) Practice-Based Learning and Improvement
4) Interpersonal and Communication Skills
5) Professionalism
6) Systems-Based Practice

The resident learns by supervised direct patient care, assigned reading and presentations. The resident is evaluated by global assessment.

1) Patient Care

Objective	Learning Environment	Evaluation Method
Perform a detailed history and physical exam and assessment	Outpatient clinic Hospital consults	Individual assessment by attending physicians
Formulate a diagnostic and management plan	Outpatient clinic Hospital consults	Individual assessment by attending physicians
Clearly document the plan in the medical record	Outpatient clinic Hospital consults	Individual assessment by attending physicians

2) Medical Knowledge

Objective	Learning Environment	Evaluation Method
Discuss the natural history of common malignancies	Outpatient clinic Hospital consults Reading the literature	Individual assessment by attending physicians
Learn the appropriate diagnostic evaluation	Outpatient clinic Hospital consults Reading the literature	Individual assessment by attending physicians
Learn the management of common cancers	Outpatient clinic Hospital consults Reading the literature	Individual assessment by attending physicians

3) Practice-based Learning and Improvement

Objective	Learning Environment	Evaluation Method
Use literature search to answer clinical questions	Outpatient clinic Hospital consults Oncology conferences	Individual assessment by attending physicians
Be able to interpret laboratory tests and learn	Outpatient clinic Hospital consults	Individual assessment by attending physicians

what additional tests to order to arrive at a diagnosis		
Identify collaborative resources: physical therapy, nutrition	Outpatient clinic Hospital consults	Individual assessment by attending physicians

4) Interpersonal and Communications Skills

Objective	Learning Environment	Evaluation Method
Communicate effectively and professionally with team members	Outpatient clinic Hospital consults	Individual assessment by attending physicians
Communicate compassionately and effectively with patient and family	Outpatient clinic Hospital consults	Individual assessment by attending physicians
Coordinate care of patient with multidisciplinary services	Outpatient clinic Hospital consults	Individual assessment by attending physicians

5) Professionalism

Objective	Learning Environment	Evaluation Method
Be respectful of patients, families and colleagues	Outpatient clinic Hospital consults	Individual assessment by attending physicians
Maintain patient confidentiality	Outpatient clinic Hospital consults	Individual assessment by attending physicians

6) Systems-based Practice

Objective	Learning Environment	Evaluation Method
Learn to use diagnostic and therapeutic modalities in a logical, cost-effective manner	Outpatient clinic Hospital consults Reading the literature	Individual assessment by attending physicians
Learn to consult with other specialties appropriately	Outpatient clinic Hospital consults Reading the literature	Individual assessment by attending physicians
Implement and review standardized treatment protocols	Outpatient clinic Hospital consults Reading the literature	Individual assessment by attending physicians

Oncology Curriculum Checklist

	Setting: **I** (inpatient) **O** (outpatient)	Date
Advance planning and managing		
End of life issues		
Breast cancer (pre- and post-menopausal)		
Gastrointestinal cancers		
Colorectal cancer		
Anal cancer		
Esophageal cancer		
Pancreatic cancer		
Stomach cancer		
Hepatoma		
Metastatic disease		
Gallbladder cancer		
Genitourinary cancers		
Cervical cancer		
Prostate cancer		
Endometrial cancer		
Kidney cancer		
Ovarian cancer		
Testicular cancer		
Bladder cancer		
Head and neck cancers		
Cancer of the head, neck		
Thyroid cancer		
Parathyroid cancer		
Management of pain, emesis and nutrition		
Neurologic cancers		
Metastatic disease to CNS		
Primary brain tumors		
Oncologic emergencies		
Hypercalcemia		
Pericardial tamponade		
Spinal cord compression		
Pulmonary cancers		
Lung cancer		
Superior vena cava syndrome		
Mediastinal tumors		
Pleural malignancy		
Bronchial carcinoid		
Sarcomas		
Melanoma		