



ONCOLOGY ATTACHMENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Aims of the attachment:

By the end of this attachment, you will have consolidated prior learning on the scientific principles underlying oncology practice, applied existing knowledge about specific cancers to clinical situations, and gained experience of cancer complications and treatment toxicities in order to care for cancer patients throughout all areas of medicine.

Intended Learning Outcomes for the attachment:

Professional skills:

By the end of your attachment, you should be able to:

- Perform a focused history and examination of patient with a possible acute oncology presentation, initiate investigations and immediate management of these presentations, seeking specialist oncology advice where appropriate
- Assess a patient's performance status according to a standard scale (e.g. Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group [ECOG], World Health Organization [WHO])
- Perform an oncological history and examination from a patient undergoing cancer treatment to identify toxicities from treatment and cancer-related symptoms
- Describe the principles of breaking bad news to a patient with a cancer diagnosis

Professional values and behaviours:

By the end of your attachment you should be able to:

- Describe the complexity and uncertainty in managing patients with cancer and appreciate the importance of seeking support and help from medical and other healthcare professionals.
- Explain the principles of the legal framework which are relevant to patients with cancer, e.g. power of attorney, adults with incapacity, assessment of fitness to drive

- Describe an ethical framework to solve ethical dilemmas commonly encountered in management of patients with cancer, including patient confidentiality, DNACPR, advanced care planning
- Describe the role/importance of the Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) in formulating management plans for patients, e.g. medical oncologists, clinical oncologists, pathologists, radiologists and surgeons.
- Describe the roles of members in a multi-professional team caring for cancer patients (e.g. physiotherapists, occupational therapists, clinical nurse specialists, dietitians, radiographers)
- Describe the indications for referral to supportive care services including specialist palliative care

Professional knowledge:

By the end of your oncology attachment, you should be able to:

Clinical Features and Management

- Describe the principles and clinical relevance of grading and staging of cancers (for example, TNM system of staging)
- Describe the factors that may influence treatment options such as treatment intent, co-morbidities, performance status and patient choice
- Describe how response to cancer treatment can be assessed (e.g. use of imaging, tumour markers)
- Describe the clinical features and definitive treatment options of the following acute oncology presentations:
 - Neutropenic fever/sepsis
 - Malignant spinal cord compression
 - Raised intracranial pressure and brain metastases
 - Superior vena cava obstruction
 - Malignant hypercalcaemia
 - Venous thromboembolism
 - Immune-related colitis

Treatment

- Describe the biological principles of the functions and toxicities of:
 - Biologically targeted therapy
 - Cytotoxic chemotherapy
 - Hormone manipulation
 - Immunotherapy
 - Radiotherapy
- Describe the clinical relevance of identifying targetable mutations and other biomarkers in the treatment of cancer
- Describe the definitions of treatment intent e.g. curative, radical, adjuvant and neoadjuvant, and palliative
- Describe the process of planning and delivery of radiotherapy

Other

- Explain the role of clinical trials in cancer management