Overview of the Core 3 Neuroscience Clerkship at UH/VA

Objectives

1. Be able to perform a complete neurological examination
2. Recognize and interpret abnormal findings on the neurological examination
3. Recognize and be familiar with management of common neurologic emergencies
4. Identify and provide the rationale for the region of the nervous system that is affected given specific symptoms and clinical findings from the neurological exam
5. Obtain exposure to wide range of diseases and conditions affecting the nervous system and the different subspecialties that manages them
6. Become familiar with the diagnosis and presentation of common neurological problems and symptom complexes

Clinical Experience

At UH, each student will be assigned to two different blocks lasting 2 weeks each. Available blocks include General Neurology, Stroke Neurology, Neurocritical Care, Pediatric Neurology and Neurosurgery. Students rotating at UH are also assigned two outpatient clinic experiences. Students at the VA will spend all four weeks there, seeing a mix of Neurology inpatients, consults, and outpatient clinic patients.

Per SOM policy, each student is expected to come in 1 weekend day per week, on average. Students are not expected to come in during the weekend at the end of the rotation. Holiday schedules are team dependent.

Students at UH are assigned 2 “on-call” experiences with the Neurology residents during the rotation, in order to gain further exposure to neurological emergencies. Call runs from 4pm until approximately 10pm. Students at the VA will arrange home calls with their teams.

Students will receive their outpatient clinic and call assignments shortly before or during orientation.

Students will also have the option a 1 week nightfloat experience during the rotation. The week will consist of nightly intensive call experiences with Neurology residents 9:30pm to approx. 9:30am for 4 nights (Sunday night through Thursday morning). This option is available upon request after orientation on a first-come first-serve basis. Students will be excused from their otherwise scheduled activities during that week (eg. calls and clinics). This option is available to students at UH, as well as students assigned to the VA who have previously rotated at UH during other clerkships.

Didactics/Teaching Conferences

Students are expected to attend Grand Rounds on Friday mornings, from 8-9am, usually in Kulas Auditorium, Lakeside 5th floor.

On Friday (or Wednesday during Shelf Exam week) mornings, students discuss assigned clinical vignettes with Neurology faculty and fellows from 9-11am. Students will receive a schedule and vignette assignments at their orientation. Each student should prepare for the didactic sessions by researching the questions for their assigned...
 vignettes ahead of time. From 11am to noon, students meet with Neurosurgery faculty and housestaff for a lecture on neurosurgical topics.

Students are also expected to attend all teaching conferences otherwise scheduled for the residents throughout the week.

**Target Conditions for Clinical Neuroscience Rotation**

The following is a list of the conditions that students will hopefully encounter during their four-week rotation. Students are required by the School of Medicine to log at least one case per target condition, in order to successfully complete the clerkship. Please note that exposure to the condition in didactic form (i.e. during presentations on rounds, or during Friday morning didactic sessions) “counts” as an exposure and should be logged. Students may also log more than one target condition for a single patient.

- Headache
- Epilepsy
- Dizziness/Syncope
- Stroke
- Movement Disorders
- Peripheral Neuropathy
- Change in Mental Status/Coma
- Dementia
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Nervous System Tumors
- Rehabilitation of patient with neurologic disorder

**Feedback and Evaluations**

As a formative exercise, students are expected to perform an observed complete neurologic exam on a patient and receive feedback from the observer. The observed exam should be performed within the first 2 weeks of the rotation so that any skills learned can be used for the remainder of the month.

The Medical Student Neuroscience Passport will be used to record the completion of the observed neurologic exam as well as additional requirements for the rotation. They include the 2 calls, 2 clinic days, and at least 1 formal topic presentation. All signatures should be collected and the Passport should be submitted via email to the Clerkship Director by the end of the rotation.

Midway through the rotation, the Clerkship Director will complete mid-rotation feedback forms in CAS, to assess students’ progress during the clerkship.

On the last day of the rotation, students will meet with the Clerkship Director for end-of-rotation feedback.

Students are asked to send requests for feedback to their primary residents and attending neurologists/neurosurgeons. While it is recommended that students send one assessment requests to each of their preceptors, the actual number of requests sent will be based on individual student experiences and preceptor preferences. Students are strongly encouraged to speak with their preceptors (attendings and residents) early in
the rotation to determine the most mutually agreeable way to approach feedback in CAS. Students’ Clinical grades will be based on this formal feedback, as well as other (verbal/written) feedback provided directly to the Clerkship Director. It is the responsibility of each student to request feedback in CAS, and to follow up on all sent requests. Students having difficulty receiving formal feedback in a timely fashion should contact the Clerkship Director for assistance.

Remember that your final grade for the rotation is dependent on both your Clinical grade and your performance on the NBME shelf exam, as outlined by official SOM policy.

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