

Surgical Pathology - Objectives

Patient Care

1. Procedural skills

A. Objectives

1. Level I:
 - a. Demonstrate the ability to perform gross examination and dissection of all general surgical pathology specimens.
 - b. Ability to appropriately fix and select and submit tissue for preparation of microscopic slides.
 - c. Ability to select appropriate tissue for and technically perform frozen sections.
 - d. Ability to perform microscopic examination of all tissue sections grossed and identify normal and abnormal surgical pathology tissues.
2. Level II:
 - a. Ability to use and interpret immunohistochemistry and in situ hybridization in the evaluation of surgical specimens.
 - b. Demonstrate the appropriate use and correlation of ancillary techniques, including microbiology, flow cytometry and cytogenetics.
 - c. Demonstrate familiarity with the gross and microscopic appearance of common conditions and diseases presenting in various areas of surgical pathology.

B. Plan

1. Procedural skills are taught by attending pathologists, fellows, and senior residents for Level I. Attending pathologists and fellows teach Level II.
2. Residents complete three, two-month rotations (6 months total) in surgical pathology and sign-out with an attending pathologist or fellow during microscopic examination of surgical pathology specimens.

C. Supervision/Assessment

1. Procedures are taught and supervised by the attending pathologists, fellows and senior residents for Level I. (Attending pathologists and fellows teach Level II.)
2. Residents make a diagnostic commitment by writing down the results of their microscopic examinations before reviewing them with the attending pathologists or fellow.
3. An exit quiz is administered to the residents at the end of each two-month rotation. The questions on the quiz are based on the resident's level of experience.

2. Interpretative skills

A. Objectives

1. Level I:
 - a. Ability to identify the aspects of common malignancy cases which enable proper TNM classification.
 - b. Demonstrate the ability to construct a concise and clinically useful surgical pathology report containing the basic elements of history, gross examination and microscopic diagnosis using the division templates for various surgical pathology reports.
 - c. Communication of results to clinicians.
2. Level II:
 - a. Demonstrate proficiency in interpreting and reporting frozen sections within 20 minutes of receiving a specimen for that purpose in the pathology laboratory.

- b. Ability to discuss the indications and the limitations pertaining to intra-operative frozen section examinations.
- c. Demonstrate the ability to construct a complex surgical pathology report.
- d. Be able to properly prepare synoptic surgical pathology reports for common malignancies using the division cancer templates.

B. Plan

- 1. Interpretative skills are taught by attending pathologists, fellows and senior residents for Level I and attending pathologists and fellows for Level II.

C. Supervision/Assessment

- 1. Interpretative skills will be assessed by attending pathologists by editing and correcting the residents' surgical pathology reports which have been reviewed by the attending pathologist or fellow prior to finalization.
- 2. Residents must examine tissue sections and form a preliminary opinion before microscopic sign-out with the attending pathologist.