

DEPARTMENT OF NEUROLOGY

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR DEMENTIA-COGNITIVE ROTATION

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Goals:

To become proficient in evaluating patients with cognitive and memory deficits. This includes understanding the use of a variety of tools including neuropsychologic testing, neuro-imaging and laboratory studies.

To gain experience in distinguishing the features of different types of dementia and to understand the underlying pathology.

To gain basic proficiency in the long term care of patients with dementing illnesses.

Objectives: On completing the dementia-cognitive rotation, the resident is expected to be able to:

1. Patient Care

- Perform initial assessments of elderly patients, including evaluation of neuropsychiatric symptoms, cognitive and functional abilities, and medical comorbidity.
- Diagnose dementia and diagnose and understand unique aspects of depression presenting in elderly patients with complex medical problems.
- Generate initial treatment plans, including appropriate first-line treatment modalities and management strategies.

2. Knowledge

- Display intermediate knowledge of the features of mild, moderate and severe Alzheimer's disease.
- Display basic knowledge of the features of frontal-temporal dementia, vascular dementia and dementia associated with Parkinson's Disease and the Parkinson's plus syndromes.
- Understand the content of and the significance of the tests that are commonly administered by neuropsychologists.
- Understand the role and limitations of neuro-imaging in dementia patients, including the use of MRI, PET and SPECT.

3. Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

- Locate and critically appraise scientific literature relevant to patient care.
- Regularly use information technology in the service of patient care.

4. Interpersonal and Communication Skills

- Create and sustain effective therapeutic relationships with patients, families, and caregivers.
- Display empathic listening skills
- Work effectively with health care professionals (including those from other disciplines), colleagues, and staff to provide patient-focused care.

5. Professionalism

- Demonstrate respect and compassion for others.
- Demonstrate integrity, accountability, responsible and ethical behavior
- Demonstrate understanding of patients and their illnesses in a sociocultural context, including displaying sensitivity to patients' culture, ethnicity, age, gender, socioeconomic status, sexual minority status, and/or disabilities.
- Display openness to supervision; accept constructive feedback.
- Seek direction when appropriate; demonstrate eagerness to learn.

6. Systems-Based Practice

- Adequately assess the nature and quality of the patient's caregiving network, including primary care physicians, subspecialty physicians, family members, social network, nursing home staff.