

Progression of Training and Skills Gynecology

Preamble

The majority of women with gynecologic complaints consult a family physician. Indeed, unless a young female physician takes active steps to prevent it, her practice will be dominated by obstetrics, gynecology and pediatrics. Consequently, fundamental gynecology is learned in the resident's continuity clinic with faculty assistance at the point-of-care. The minimum two-week specialty gynecology rotation allows comparison of contrasting management styles, the role of nurse practitioners, an appreciation of gynecologic pathology in referral practice, indications for referral, and outpatient gynecologic procedures. However, key elements remain the investigation of abnormal bleeding, infertility, and pelvic floor abnormalities with altered urodynamics. The required experience at a federally-subsidized health clinic provides experience in diagnosis and management of sexually transmitted disease, contraception, and colposcopy. The cognitive and behavioral objectives for the gynecology rotation are comprehensive and should thus be viewed as skills that develop throughout the residency experience.

Goals

To gain an understanding of the care of the female patient, with particular emphasis from adolescence onwards, understanding the particular pathologies and presentations and their management, and the importance of the care of this population to family medicine practice.

Residents will have at least 100 hours dedicated to the care of women with gynecologic issues, including well-woman care, family planning, contraception, and options for unintended pregnancy. The resident experience will occur through two blocks of shared experience with geriatrics in the second and third year. The resident will spend 12 half-days at Valley Health in each block.

Objectives

- Competent performance of routine gynecologic exam
- Knowledge of disease prevention, health promotion and periodic health evaluation
- Knowledge of physiology of menstruation
- Diagnosis and management of abnormal uterine bleeding
- Management of amenorrhea
- Management of abnormal pap test including HPV
- Diagnosis and management of pelvic inflammatory disease
- Diagnosis and management of endometriosis
- Diagnosis and management of peri-menopausal/menopausal problems
- Knowledgeable of pelvic floor dysfunction and urinary incontinence
- Discuss complex issues with clarity, sensitivity and compassion

The goals and objectives are achieved through a combination of structured experience and didactic instruction.

[Revised and approved at the Faculty Meeting April 3, 2012]

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Suggested readings:

Approach to diagnosis and management of abnormal uterine bleeding

Diagnostic strategies for post menopausal bleeding