

Clinical Oncology

Syllabus

The candidate should possess a good knowledge of the clinical features and natural history of all neoplasms. He/she should be able to undertake the complete investigation of a patient with neoplastic disease with a view to determining appropriate management. He/she should possess a knowledge of the investigation of symptoms and signs which can be caused by a neoplasm and the differential diagnosis, including awareness of the non-neoplastic conditions which are capable of producing such features.

The candidate should possess a knowledge of the mode of action of the various chemotherapeutic and hormonal drugs in the treatment of neoplastic disease and a detailed knowledge of their therapeutic uses.

He/she should understand the principles of medical and surgical treatment of neoplastic disease, with emphasis on those conditions in which radiation therapy plays an important part. A knowledge of the complications of any such treatment is required.

He/she should be familiar with the management of the patient with advanced malignant disease and understand the necessity for the cessation of all active treatment, or its ordering for a special circumstance. He/she should be familiar with the control of pain by drugs and the prescription of sedation for the dying. He/she should have an understanding of the psychosocial problems of neoplastic disease and of rehabilitation.

He/she should have knowledge of the immunology of neoplasia and its therapeutic implications.

Recommended Reading List

1. De Vita V, Hellman S, Rosenberg SA. *Cancer: Principles and Practice of Oncology*, 6th Edition. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2000.
2. T.N.M. General Rules, U.I.C.C., Geneva (latest edition).
3. NH&MRC Guidelines on Breast Cancer, Bowel Cancer and Melanoma
4. Doyle D, Hanks G, McDonald N. *Oxford Textbook of Palliative Medicine* 3rd Edition (2003).
5. A knowledge of current relevant literature is expected.

Important text books illustrating the development of the specialty which may be used to gain a historical perspective

1. Ackerman, L.V. and del Regato, J.A.: *Cancer-Diagnosis, Treatment and Prognosis*, Mosby, 5th Edition (1977).
2. Rubin, P.: *Clinical Oncology for Medical Students and Physicians*, 8th Edition W B Sanders (2001) (as an introduction).