



Orthopaedic Surgery Clerkship Objectives

Goal: To develop medical student clinical knowledge of orthopaedic surgery

Objectives: *By the end of this rotation, students will be able to:*

- Participate in a full spectrum of orthopaedic patient care.
- Perform a musculoskeletal history and physical extremity exam for the major anatomic areas: shoulder, wrist, hip, knee, ankle, and spine.
- Provide appropriate initial management of common musculoskeletal injuries and complaints.
- Describe actively and concisely various common fracture patterns and recognize the importance of closed versus open fractures.
- Interpret musculoskeletal x-rays of common fractures and degenerative conditions.
- Assess patients with overuse, degenerative, and traumatic problems and describe treatment options.
- Following the accurate assessment of acute injuries, medical students will be able to provide appropriate initial management, including basic stabilization techniques such as application of a cervical collar, various braces and splints, as well as be familiar with immobilization and transport techniques involved with traumatized patients with attention to protection of potential spine injuries.
- To be familiar with the neurovascular assessment of extremity injuries to recognize the degree of urgency for further assessment by specialists of common potentially limb threatening injuries. This will include recognizing the symptoms and signs of compartment syndrome.
- Describe the symptoms and signs of acute and chronic osteomyelitis and recognize the features of septic arthritis. Recognize the signs and symptoms of inflammatory and non-inflammatory joint disease. In particular, primary osteoarthritis, secondary osteoarthritis, gout, pseudogout, and rheumatoid arthritis. Medical students will be able to describe, with help, diagnose, and differentiate the above and recognize which conditions require urgent referral.
- Recognize common causes of cervical and low back pain, including acute injuries and chronic degenerative causes, including spinal stenosis and disc herniation in the cervical or lumbar regions.
- Recognize and differentiate common metabolic diseases, including osteoporosis and osteomalacia and be familiar with the current recommendations for evaluation and treatment options for osteoporosis.
- Access pertinent information concerning musculoskeletal patient care.

Skills:

- Accurately compile a broad differential diagnosis for common musculoskeletal disorders based on an accurate history and physical examination.
- Recognize the significance of acute orthopaedic injuries, including initial open fracture management, evaluation for compartment syndrome, precautions to be taken in the management of trauma patients, including those of the spine, and to be proficient in the initial management of appropriate splinting for the above described injuries.
- Describe proper techniques of joint aspiration, where appropriate, and describe the proper techniques to inject major joints for diagnostic and therapeutic means.