



RON 463

Advanced Clerkship

UCDAVIS
HEALTH

COMPREHENSIVE
CANCER CENTER

RON 463

Radiation Oncology Clerkship

Syllabus

Introduction

Welcome to the clinical outpatient experience at the UCD Cancer Center where you will be participating in the workup and management of a variety of oncology patients, attending multidisciplinary tumor boards and morning teaching rounds, and learning about the appropriate indications and delivery of radiation therapy for cancer patients.

Objectives

- Learn the appropriate diagnostic evaluation, staging and prognosis of the various major cancers (prostate, breast, colorectal, lung, GYN, CNS, head and neck, other GI.) treated with radiation therapy.
- Learn the appropriate indications and use of radiation therapy in the curative setting for the common cancer types.
- Learn the appropriate use of radiation therapy in the palliative setting.
- Understand the acute and late effects that could result from treatment.
- Understand a radiation prescription.
- Understand the basics of simulation, treatment planning and treatment delivery by working with radiation therapists, dosimetrists and physicists.
- Understand the basic concepts of radiation biology.

Expectations

You will be expected to participate in patient evaluation in clinics. The level of student responsibility should be discussed prior to each clinic with each individual resident and attending. You are expected to perform 1 complete H&P per new patient consultation for a total of 2-4 per week. Run your H&P by the resident that you saw the patient with and have them sign the attached resident sign off sheet. You are encouraged to follow 1 patient/ week through simulation and treatment planning and see at least 5-10 weekly status checks. All patient encounters must be supervised by a resident and/or attending. Please do not advise patients without the discussion or presence of a resident or attending.

You will be expected to attend teaching conferences and tumor boards.

You will be expected to provide a thirty-minute oral presentation at the end of your rotation. The presentation should be based on a case that was seen by the student during the rotation. The focus should be on the case presentation, the cancer treatment plan including details of the radiation and a concise review of relevant literature. It is helpful to identify an interesting case during the first 2 weeks of the rotation. The case should be discussed with the attending physician and resident. Please notify the course coordinator once the topic has been chosen to schedule a conference date.

Rotation Breakdown

Day 1:

- Meet the department course coordinator at the front desk at 7:50AM. We are located at 4501 X Street on the ground floor. The course coordinator will escort you to meet with the chief resident.
- Within the first two days, a meeting will be arranged for you to meet with the IOR, Dr. Ruben Fragoso.
- You will be supplied with a rotation schedule for your four-week rotation. You will rotate with different attendings throughout the week to experience different services.

Midway Through the Rotation

- Begin to think about a presentation topic to present on the last day of your rotation. Please check in with the IOR or Chief Resident to ensure that the presentation topic is suitable.
- *Optional:* If there is a specific disease site or service that you are interested in after your first two weeks, please discuss with the Course Instructor and we will try to accommodate your rotation schedule to maximize your exposure to that disease site.

End of the Rotation

- Provide the course coordinator with a title for your presentation by the third Friday of the rotation.
- You will provide your presentation during the last week of the rotation.
- Please send the course coordinator your final presentation once you have presented. This will be used during the grading process.
- Provide the course coordinator with your resident sign-off sheet on your last day

Attendance Policy

- Students are expected to be present from 8AM-5PM; however, they can be relieved early at the discretion of the resident they are assigned to that day. A sign in sheet will be located at the course coordinator's desk for students to document when they check-in and check-out.
- Students should notify the IOR and Department Coordinator for approval of any planned absences as soon as the dates are known.
- Absences beyond two days are required to be made up, even if the IOR approves of the absences.
- All time off must be approved by the IOR.
- Any make up days assigned by the IOR are required for completion of the course.

Patient Evaluation and Care

There are 5 basic types of patient encounters in Radiation Oncology: Consultation, Simulation, Treatment Delivery, Status Checks of patient undergoing a course of radiation treatment, and Follow-ups.

1. Consultations:

- Obtain the relevant history and diagnostic workup and perform physical examinations of the cancer patient.
- Present the relevant details of the H&P and workup to the attending physician. (2-4/week)
- Formulate a cancer treatment plan with the attending physician.

2. Simulation and Treatment Planning:

- Assist in the careful design of a course of radiation treatment during patient simulation and treatment planning.
- Understand the workflow process in radiation planning and the involvement of radiation therapists, dosimetrists and physicists.

3. Treatment Delivery:

- Observe the delivery of radiation treatment on the treatment units (Tomotherapy, Elekta1, Elekta S, GammaKnife, brachytherapy)

4. Weekly Status Checks:

- Evaluate patients for the acute effects of radiation treatment during weekly status check visits and the management of these effects.

5. Follow-ups:

- Evaluate patients for tumor response, late effects of radiation therapy and their management.

Additional Information

Clinic Schedule

- The clinic is divided into Mornings and Afternoons with assignments.
- New patient clinic is half a day with appointments every 1 hour (3 patients)
- Follow-up clinic is half a day with appointments every 15 minutes (10-15 patients)
- Simulations are 4 /day
- Status checks are not scheduled; patients are seen in clinic following their treatment.
- Please see the Weekly Physicians' Schedule for a visual breakdown.

Suggested References

- Principles and Practice of Radiation Oncology, 4th edition (Perez and Brady)
- Technical Basis of Radiation Therapy, Practical Clinical Applications, 4th edition (Levitt, Purdy, Perez, Vijayakumar)
- Cancer: Principles and Practice of Oncology (DeVita, Hellman, Rosenberg)
- Handbook of Radiation Oncology (L. Coia)

Our Team:

- [Radiobiologists](#)
- [Physicians](#)
- [Medical Physics](#)
- [Residents](#)

Telecommunications Information

Phones

To call within the Medical Center, dial 4+XXXX or 3+XXXX (4-digit extension). To call the Davis Campus, dial 9+1+530+752+XXXX (4-digit extension). To call outside the Medical Center within the Sacramento area, dial 9+the seven-digit number.

Pager

How to page: To call while inside the Medical Center, dial 9+762-XXXX. You will then be asked to enter your numeric message after the tone (your telephone number). To page from outside the Medical Center, dial 762-XXXX.