

Goals and Objectives for the Headache Clinic Rotation
(Elective Rotation for PGY3-4)

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Where: Center 40 Building, Suite 600
When: Start Mondays 8:00am

Residents in the Department of Neurology at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis may take an elective headache rotation in the PGY3-4 years. They see patients in the department's headache center under the supervision of a faculty member; they will also see some general neurology outpatients under the supervision of a faculty member.

During each half-day session, each resident will evaluate at least two patients. Evaluations may occur in conjunction with the attending or independently. Each patient will be discussed in detail in regards to a working diagnosis, plan for further evaluation, treatment and follow-up. If time on the rotation permits, a resident may see his or her patient in follow up.

It is expected that the rotation will allow trainees to:

- Differentiate between primary and secondary headaches
- Identify and evaluate the causes of dangerous headaches
- Recognize the most common primary headache types
- Understand the basic approach to the management of common headache types
- Understand the pathophysiology of common headache types

At the end of the rotation, an evaluation is sent by the Neurology Residency Coordinator to the attending(s) who worked with the resident(s).

Competency specific Goals and Objectives:

Goals and objectives are similar for PGY3 and 4 residents. PGY4 residents will be expected to work more independently.

Patient Care

The resident rotating in the Headache Specialty Clinic will gain special appreciation for problem-focused examination relative to the management of patients with headache and other neurological disorders. The resident will spend time in the headache clinic and the general neurology clinic and will observe faculty obtaining histories and performing examinations on patients with a headache and other neurological complaints. Residents are expected to:

Objectives:

- Participate in headache and general neurology clinic and the resident's regular general neurology continuity clinics at Barnes Jewish Hospital.

- Evaluate new and follow-up patients in each of the clinics under the direct observation and supervision of attending doctors.

Medical Knowledge

The resident rotating in Headache Specialty Clinic must demonstrate increasing knowledge of established and evolving biomedical, clinical, epidemiological and social-behavioral sciences as they pertain to the management of patients with headache.

Residents are expected to:

Objectives:

- Demonstrate an understanding and gain experience in the procedures for diagnosis and management of patients with neuromuscular diseases, movement disorders, multiple sclerosis, epilepsy and other neurological disorders.
- Differentiate between primary and secondary headaches
- Identify and evaluate the causes of dangerous headaches
- Recognize the most common primary headache types
- Understand the basic approach to the management of common headache types
- Understand the pathophysiology of common headache types
- Develop neurological exam skills relevant to the examination of patients with headache.

Practice-based Learning and Improvement

The resident rotating in Headache Specialty Clinic must demonstrate the ability to rapidly investigate and evaluate their care of neurological patients, to appraise and assimilate scientific evidence, and to continuously improve patient care based on constant self-evaluation and life-long learning. Residents are expected to develop skills and habits to be able to meet the following goals:

Objectives:

- Teach the utility and appropriate use of specialty procedures (MR, CT and other imaging techniques, EEG and CSF evaluations) in the management of patients with headache.
- To prioritize clinical responsibilities, provide timely service, and seek appropriate consultation and support.
- Develop the ability to use information technology to improve the practitioner's fund of knowledge and technical skills to provide better care to patients.
- Participate in outpatient conferences approximately monthly (Lunch and Learn Series)
- Regularly attend weekly neurology conferences including (1) Grand Rounds (2) Clinical Neuroscience Lecture Series; (3) Research Conference when clinical duties permit.

Interpersonal and Communication Skills

The resident rotating in Headache Specialty Clinic must demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in the effective exchange of information and collaboration with patients, their families, and health professionals. Residents are expected to:

Objectives:

- Learn communication techniques for patients and families in the headache and general neurology outpatient practice.
- Develop communication skills with a full spectrum of medical staff including physicians, nurses, social workers, and support personnel to enhance rapid evaluation and treatment of patients.
- Communicate effectively with other health care professionals.
- Work effectively as both a member of a professional group and as a group leader.
- Demonstrate the ability to serve as a consultant to colleagues and health care professionals.
- Maintain comprehensive and timely medical records utilizing the EHR system.

Professionalism

The resident rotating in Headache Specialty Clinic must demonstrate a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities and an adherence to ethical principles. Residents are expected to demonstrate:

Objectives:

- Understand good and bad communication behavior and leadership characteristics. Demonstrate appropriate nonverbal behavior.
- Have a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities.
- Adhere to ethical principles.
- Develop sensitivity to a diverse patient population, with respect for colleagues and other health professionals.
- Function well as a team member.

Systems-based Practice

The resident rotating in Headache Specialty Clinic must demonstrate an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger context and system of health care, as well as the ability to call effectively on other resources in the system to provide optimal health care. Residents are expected to:

Objectives:

- Describe the responsibility of the individual physician to the patient, the practice and the overall health care system.
- Describe the concepts of cost containment and cost-effectiveness and learn the relative cost to the patient and society of studies and treatments requested.
- Describe methods for ensuring that the practitioner and the practice group use scarce resources in a sound, thoughtful and cost-effective manner.
- Develop necessary skills required for the independent practice of neurological care.
- Understand the role of the physician's order, appropriate history and the electronic medical record as they pertain to inpatient neurological care.
- Understand how to utilize available resources in the hospital and via electronic media to improve patient care and outcomes.

EVALUATION: Residents will be evaluated by the fulltime faculty attendings working with the resident in the Headache and General Neurology clinics.