Practical skills and their application by IVth year students in Oncology course

Organizational and methodological

- 1. Filling up of documents of evidence for oncology patients
- Notification of oncology patients of primary diagnosis
- Follow-up chart
- Abstract from clinical chart
- Filling up records for oncology patients with advanced disease (stage IV)
- 2. Organization of medical conferences for advanced stage disease oncology patients

Diagnostic skills

- 1. General inspection of skin and nutritional state (cachexia) to exclude skin cancer, melanoma, cancer of the lip, thyroid gland and soft tissue tumors.
- 2. Inspection of the oral cavity to exclude cancer of the oral cavity
- 3. Breast palpation, palpation of peripheral lymph nodes (to exclude hematological malignancies and metastases, i.e. Virchow metastasis)
- 4. Palpation and percussion of the abdomen to exclude intraperitoneal (stomach, colon, liver, gall bladder), retroperitoneal (pancreas, kidney, adrenals) malignancies, liver metastases, peritoneal canceromatosis, ascites
- 5. Percussion and auscultation of the thorax in pulmonary and mediastinal malignancies
- Rectal digital examination to diagnose rectal cancer and Blummer-Schnitzler metastases in gastric cancer
- 7. Vaginal manual examination to diagnose Cruckenberg metastases in gastric cancer

Interpretation of laboratory data

- 1. Blood count anemia, leukopenia, increase in ESR that change in most tumors but are not pathognomonic for some localizations. Changes in protein metabolism (hypo- and disproteinemia in pyloric stenosis, dysphagia in cancer of the cardia and esophagus). Changes in water and saline metabolism in the above mentioned GI disorders and renal cancer.
- 2. Interpretation of X-ray films in pulmonary, gastric, esophageal and colon cancer.
- 3. Interpretation of mammograms.
- 4. Interpretation of urograms, angiograms, pneumocystograms and polycystograms.
- 5. Interpretation of scintigraphy of the liver, spleen, kidney, thyroid gland.
- 6. Interpretation of section tomography and CT.
- 7. Interpretation of ultrasound examination.

- 8. Interpretation of thermography
- 9. Performing fine needle biopsies of visual tumors (thyroid gland, breast, peripheral lymphatics) for cytology evaluation.
- 10.Brush biopsies for visual tumors with destruction (skin, breast, lip, oral cavity)

Tactical skills

- 1. Determining the clinical group and treatment tactics for the patient.
- 2. Evaluation of blood count results and therapy for patients with chemotherapy-related complications.

These clinical skills are discussed and practiced by students during their seminars in clinical conditions (in-patient or out-patient). The degree of knowledge is evaluated during the learning process.

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