Rotating Neurosurgery Residents in Neuropathology - Goals and Expectations

Prior to start of rotation residents email CV to Karen Weber and set up appointment to meet with Rotation Director.
Residents can meet with Karen Weber to review the web site and be oriented to the service and Biosafety issues followed by meeting with the Fellow for further service orientation.
Each resident is assigned a desk or study area in the Neuropathology Rotating Resident’s Room.

The neurosurgery resident rotation in neuropathology is a 3 month self-study elective designed to consolidate and extend the residents knowledge of diseases of the nervous system.

GOALS

A complete list of Educational Objectives can be found at http://neuro.pathology.pitt.edu/training/objectives.htm.

On completion of the rotation residents will be able to demonstrate competence in:

The functional neuroanatomy of the brain and spinal cord.
Diagnostic features of the major CNS tumors, including clinical presentation, radiologic findings, microscopic morphology, therapeutic approach and prognosis.
Pathophysiology and pathologic anatomy of the major diseases of the nervous system including cardiovascular, infectious, autoimmune, neurodegenerative and developmental.
The role of diagnostic neuropathology including why and when to use intraoperative consultations in the clinical management of patients with neurologic symptoms including neuromuscular disease.

ACTIVITIES

Supervised self-study of texts, web-based didactic material, specimen collections and primary literature.
Attendance of all diagnostic, clinical management and teaching conferences of the division as well as daily case reviews during the standard work week (M-F 8:00-6:00).

EXPECTATIONS

Preview next day OR schedules, define neurosurgical patients that may need intraoperative consults, review clinical and laboratory information, download relevant radiology images, generate differential diagnosis and present to attending neuropathologist.
Present at least one biopsy case at each weekly neuropathology diagnostic QA conference. (Summarize the pertinent clinical history, present key radiologic findings, capture and discuss images of the key microscopic findings and discuss the differential diagnosis.~10 mins.) (Total 8 cases)

Assume primary responsibility for the dissection and pathologic description of at least one autopsy brain per week. (Total 8 cases)

One 10 minute presentation / paper summary on a research or clinical topic related to neuropathology.

Read one general neuropathology text (e.g. Prayson) (~25 pages / day)
Complete 12 web quizzes. (The associated web-course lectures may be found helpful but are not required.)

Review virtual slide study set

Complete all 5 unknown slide tests

At end of rotation you should be able to:
  Review routine neurosurgical cases and perform intraoperative consultation
  Make competent smears, touch preps and frozen
  Create a differential diagnosis for clinical and MRI findings of common neuropathology entities
  Create a differential diagnosis for histopathological findings of common neuropathology entities: Glioma, metastases, meningioma, reactive conditions
  Create diagnostic evaluation panel for clinical differential diagnosis of common neuropathology entities: Glioma, metastases, meningioma, reactive conditions
  Know molecular analysis of common neuropathology entities
  Know how to use neuropathology texts to discover methodology for evaluation of uncommon neuropathological entities.
  Perform gross review of autopsy brain, appropriately sample and create neuropathology report