

**SUNNYBROOK BREAST & MELANOMA  
ROTATION SPECIFIC COMPETENCIES/OBJECTIVES  
INTERMEDIATE LEVEL (PGY3 RESIDENT)**

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## Summary

The goal of this rotation is to afford intermediate-level residents the best possible opportunity to develop the foundational knowledge and skills necessary to assess the need for, and safely deliver, surgical care to patients with breast cancer and melanoma. We strive to make this rotation evidence-based with consistent exposure to complex multidisciplinary care.

### 1. Medical Expert/Knowledge/Technical Skills

**By the end of the rotation the resident will be able to:**

1. Demonstrate an understanding of relevant breast, axilla, and groin anatomy,
2. Demonstrate appropriate knowledge of normal physiology / pathobiology of breast cancer and melanoma
3. Demonstrate an approach to the workup and management of benign and malignant breast diseases, including fibroadenoma, Phyllodes tumour, DCIS, LCIS, invasive breast cancer, locally advanced breast cancer and metastatic breast cancer.
4. Use the appropriate investigations for the patient, e.g. mammography, ultrasound, core biopsy, MRI.
5. Recognize the indications for radiotherapy, chemotherapy, hormonal therapy, neoadjuvant therapy and palliation for advanced breast disease.
6. Describe the indications and contraindications for lumpectomy, mastectomy and sentinel lymph node biopsy in the context of a breast lesion.
7. Analyze and integrate relevant pathological, imaging and clinical data to formulate diagnoses and therapeutic strategies (lumpectomy vs mastectomy, extent of nodal dissections) including referrals to genetics team, medical and radiation oncologists, plastic surgeons (breast reconstruction), or psychology when appropriate.
8. Provide sound rationale for surgical intervention.
9. Demonstrate an approach to the workup and management of a pigmented lesion.
10. Describe indications and contraindications for use of wide local excision and sentinel lymph node biopsy in melanoma patients
11. Understand the rationale for and foundations of skin flaps and skin grafts
12. Demonstrate an approach to the management of lymphedema
13. Demonstrate appropriate preoperative planning and preparation, including patient marking, imaging display and completion of the peri-operative checklist.
14. Recognize post-operative complications and create appropriate management plans. Provide appropriate post-operative patient care and generally recognize and manage post-operative complications, including management of wound healing, bleeding, infections, post-op pain, lymphedema and psychosocial issues
15. Recognize urgent situations and respond with prompt intervention and appropriate communication

### **Technical Skills**

16. Demonstrate comfort with surgical anatomy, indications, contraindications and conduct of the operation
17. Recognize principles of cosmetically favorable incision placement and the benefits and drawbacks of various options
18. Recognize planes and conduct an atraumatic dissection
19. Be time and motion efficient
20. Slow down in appropriate circumstances, recognize unexpected findings and respond appropriately
21. Recognize the need to intervene in critically ill patients
22. Manage stresses of the operating room environment appropriately
23. Carry out a sentinel lymph node biopsy, lumpectomy, simple mastectomy
24. Perform axillary and groin lymph node dissections with assistance
25. Carry out a punch biopsy, incisional biopsy, excisional biopsy, and wide local excision for a pigmented lesion.

## **2. Communicator**

### **By the end of the rotation the resident will be able to:**

1. Deliver bad news in a compassionate and sensitive manner that takes into account the patient's unique psychological and social needs.
2. Obtain informed consent, including an effective explanation of the rationale for the recommended surgical approach and its possible complications.
3. Exhibit a sensitive and culturally appropriate style of communicating with patients and their families.
4. Explain and discuss all aspects of a patient's treatment and care plan in lay terms.
5. Communicate effectively with patients and families.
6. Use voice, body language, translators to good effect.
7. Provide clear and thorough explanation of diagnosis and plan for cancer treatment.
8. Complete appropriate documentation that is organized and on time (e.g. discharge summaries, consult notes, death certificates).
9. Create OR notes for routine procedures that are cohesive, with appropriate detail of important issues, completed in a timely fashion

## **3. Collaborator**

### **By the end of the rotation the resident will be able to:**

1. Effectively and appropriately consult other physicians and health care professionals.
2. Contribute effectively to interdisciplinary team activities, including patient review working rounds and tumor boards.
3. Effectively provide and receive information.
4. Handle conflict situations effectively.
5. Consult and collaborate effectively with other physicians and a multidisciplinary team of expert health care professionals to provide optimal patient care, education and research.
6. Recognize and understand the roles and expertise of other health professionals.
7. Effectively present cases at rounds.
8. Interact courteously and professionally with team members
9. Demonstrate competency with briefing, checklist and debriefing

#### **4. Manager**

**By the end of the rotation the resident will be able to:**

1. Use healthcare resources appropriately and efficiently.
2. Demonstrate effective time management skills and punctuality.

#### **5. Health Advocate**

**By the end of the rotation the resident will be able to:**

1. Understand and promote the recommendations for breast cancer screening in Ontario.
2. Discuss with patients the way to minimize breast cancer recurrence when appropriate (e.g. exercise, weight reduction)
3. Discuss the importance of screening for melanoma and strategies to minimize melanoma recurrence (e.g. avoidance of excessive ultraviolet light exposure, sunscreen use).
4. Promote the standard of care in the surgical management of breast disease and melanoma.

#### **6. Scholar**

**By the end of the rotation the resident will be able to:**

1. Demonstrate a scholarly attitude towards lifelong learning
2. Critically appraise relevant current literature on the surgical management of breast cancer and melanoma.
3. Demonstrate effective self-directed learning in-terms of reading around cases, asking questions, and recognizing need for life-long learning.
4. Appropriately research and present topics for teaching rounds.

#### **7. Professional**

**By the end of the rotation the resident will be able to:**

1. Demonstrate respect for colleagues, more junior trainees and other members of the healthcare team.
2. Demonstrate empathy, cultural sensitivity, honesty and compassion while performing high quality patient care.
3. Demonstrate insight into strengths and weaknesses and receive critical feedback appropriately.
4. Demonstrate respect for the medical code of conduct and ethical practice
5. Maintain appropriate boundaries, including appropriate draping for a physical examination and appropriate presentation of a case to a group in the presence of the patient