RCGP Curriculum

Supercondensed Curriculum Guide

HAEMATOLOGY

Role of the GP

- Diagnose and manage haematological disorders
- Consider symptoms that are within the range of normal and differentiate them from underlying pathology
- Shared care management plans with secondary care.

Knowledge and Skills Self-Assessment Guide

Symptoms and Signs

- Bleeding, bruising, petechiae and purpura
- Bone pain or pathological fractures
- Fatigue, weight loss, pallor, recurrent miscarriage
- Hyper viscosity symptoms (headache, visual loss, acute thrombosis)
- Jaundice (e.g. secondary to haemolysis)
- Lymphadenopathy, splenomegaly and hepatomegaly.

Knowledge and Skills Self-Assessment Guide

Common and Important Conditions

- Anaemia and its causes including from deficiencies, sideroblastic, haemolytic and chronic disease
- Anticoagulants: indications, initiation, management and reversal/withdrawal
- Clotting disorders and its causes including genetic, infective and disseminated intravascular coagulation
- Common abnormalities of blood films and their management
- Enlarged lymph node(s) +/- splenomegaly and its causes
- Haematological malignancies such as leukaemias, lymphomas, multiple myeloma
- Heamochromatosis
- Haemoglobinopathies such as Thalassaemia, Sickle Cell Disease
- Haemolytic diseases including management of rhesus negative women in pregnancy, autoimmune and transfusion haemolysis
- Lymphatic disorders such as primary lymphoedema
- Myelodysplasia and aplastic anaemia
- Myeloproliferative disorders such as polycythaemia rubra vera, thrombocytosis
- Neutropenia: primary and secondary including chemotherapy and drug-induced
- Pancytopenia and its causes
- Polycythaemia: primary and secondary such as to hypoxia, malignancy.

HAEMATOLOGY

Knowledge and Skills Self-Assessment Guide

Examinations and Procedures

- Appropriately obtaining blood samples and requesting selected and targeted tests
- Near patient testing for anticoagulation.

Knowledge and Skills Self-Assessment Guide

Investigations

- Normal haematological parameters and interpretation of laboratory investigations
- Antenatal screening for inherited haematological disorders (e.g. thalassaemia, sickle cell).

How this might be tested in MRCGP

AKT

- Appropriate use of different anticoagulation therapies
- Interpretation of haematinic results
- Investigation of venous thromboembolism.

SCA

- Woman investigated for tiredness has macrocytic anaemia and hypercholesterolaemia
- Child develops purpuric rash on their legs (photo supplied) and three days of mild abdominal and joint pains
- Teenager has persistent and worsening sore throat for five days and then develops abdominal pain and lymphadenopathy.

WPBA

- Case Discussion on the management of a patient with persistent thrombocytopenia who is otherwise well
- Audit of practice data on the appropriateness and value of requests for ‘routine’ haematology laboratory tests
- Learning log about the care of an elderly man who lives alone and has just been diagnosed with chronic lymphocytic leukaemia.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES (Examples)

Core Content

- **Communication and Consultation**
  - Shared-decision making about investigations and referral (e.g., anaemia)
  - Risk-benefit conversations (e.g., anticoagulation)
  - Explaining haematological results/ diagnoses
  - Breaking bad news (e.g., haematological malignancy)
- **Comorbidity**
  - Interaction with other disease processes (e.g. a malignancy can cause polycythaemia, which can cause a venous thromboembolism)
- **Health Promotion**
  - Lifestyle changes (e.g., smoking cessation post-stroke)
  - Immunisation uptake
- **Medico-legal/ Ethical**
  - Genetic testing and screening
- **Prescribing**
  - Anticoagulants- decision aids
  - Iron, B12 and folate replacement
  - Medications that can cause haematological problems (e.g., neutropenia).

Primary care

- Daily, practice and out-of hours, seeing common haematological problems (e.g., anaemia, thrombocytopenia)
- Requesting, interpreting, communicating and actioning blood test results, including knowing when to be concerned
- Audit (e.g., appropriateness of requests for haematology laboratory tests in practice).

Acute Care

- A&E (e.g., acute bleed)
- Acute presentations to Primary Care (e.g., suspected lymphoma)
- Responding to urgent haematology blood results phoned through by the laboratory to the GP practice (e.g., severe anaemia).

Community

- Anticoagulation clinic
- Cancer specialist nurses
- Charities/ voluntary sector organisations (e.g., rare haematological conditions).

Other Specialties

- Cardiology
- Genetics
- Paediatrics
- Obstetrics
- Oncology.