Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery: Core EPA #19

Assessing and managing patients with mucosal squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck

a. Providing surgical management for patients with mucosal squamous cell carcinoma (SC)

Key Features:
- This EPA focuses on the full spectrum of care for patients with mucosal squamous cell carcinoma: patient assessment, surgical management and/or ongoing care. The observation of this EPA is divided into four parts
- The patient assessments include flexible diagnostic endoscopies as they relate to tumour staging and treatment planning
- The procedural aspects at the junior level of Core include rigid endoscopy, and at the senior level of Core include neck and mucosal dissections
- Ongoing care includes follow-up, further surgical treatment, multimodal treatment and/or end of life/supportive care

Assessment plan:

Part A: Patient Assessment
Supervisor does assessment based on direct or indirect observation

Use Form 1. Form collects information on:
- Site: nasopharynx; oral cavity; oropharynx; larynx; hypopharynx
- Advanced disease: yes; no

Collect 3 observations of achievement
- 3 different sites; at least one oropharynx
- At least one advanced case
- At least 2 different assessors

Part B: Procedure- Rigid Endoscopy
Supervisor does assessment based on direct observation

Use Form 2. (O-score criteria)
Collect 2 observations of achievement
Part C: Procedure – Dissection
Supervisor does assessment based on direct observation

Use Form 2. (O-score criteria) Form collects information on:
- Type of procedure: neck dissection; mucosal dissection

Collect 4 observations of achievement
- at least 2 neck dissection
- at least 2 mucosal dissection

Part D: Follow-up
Supervisor does assessment based on direct or indirect observation

Use Form 1. Form collects information on:
- Type of follow-up plan: ongoing follow-up; further surgical treatment; multimodal treatment; end of life/supportive care

Collect 4 observations of achievement
- At least one multimodality treatment
- At least one total laryngectomy with voice restoration
- At least one end of life/supportive care

Relevant milestones (Part A):

1. **F ME 1.4.2** Apply knowledge of tumorigenesis of benign neoplasms and cancers of the head and neck
2. **C ME 1.4.2** Apply a broad base and depth of knowledge in clinical and biomedical sciences to the medical and surgical management of the breadth of patient presentations in Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery
3. **C ME 1.4.4** Apply a broad base and depth of knowledge in clinical and biomedical sciences as they apply to the therapeutic techniques/procedures relevant to Oto - HNS
   - Principles of different oncologic treatment modalities, including surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy and immunotherapy
   - Principles of laser microsurgical resection, cryotherapy, robotic surgery and/or electrosurgery
4. **C ME 2.2.4** Identify risk factors pertaining to individual cases of head and neck neoplasia
5. **C ME 3.4.1** Competently perform core Oto - HNS procedures in a timely manner
   - Upper aerodigestive flexible endoscopies with or without biopsy as it relates to tumour staging and treatment planning
6. **C COM 1.4.1** Respond to patients’ non-verbal communication and use appropriate non-verbal behaviours to enhance communication with patients
C COM 1.5.1 Recognize when strong emotions (such as anger, fear, anxiety, or sadness) are impacting an interaction and respond appropriately

C COM 1.5.3 Manage emotionally charged conversations

C COM 2.2.1 Manage the flow of challenging patient encounters, including those with angry, distressed, or excessively talkative individuals

C COM 3.1.1 Provide information on diagnosis and prognosis in a clear, compassionate, respectful, and objective manner

C COM 5.1.1 Adapt record keeping to specific guidelines of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery and the clinical context

C COL 1.2.2 Recognize, value, and utilize the expertise of interprofessional team members

F COL 1.2.3 Consult as needed with other health care professionals, including but not limited to other physicians or surgeons

C COL 1.3.2 Liaise with intersecting health professions

F COL 1.3.3 Communicate effectively with physicians and other colleagues in the health care professions

Relevant milestones (Part D):

C ME 2.3.1 Establish goals of care, which may include achieving cure, improving function, slowing disease progression, treating symptoms, and palliation, in collaboration with patients and their families

C ME 2.4.1 Develop, implement, and document management plans that consider all of the patient’s health problems and context in collaboration with patients and their families and, when appropriate, the interprofessional team

C ME 2.4.5 Provide timely and adequate responses to complications and undesired side effects of treatment

C ME 4.1.2 Establish plans for ongoing care

C ME 4.1.3 Accurately identify situations that necessitate consultation of other health professionals to assist in the management of disorders encountered in Oto-HNS

C ME 4.1.5 Address end-of-life issues in patients with head and neck cancer

C COM 2.1.3 Actively listen and respond to patient cues

C COM 3.1.1 Provide information on diagnosis and prognosis in a clear, compassionate, respectful, and objective manner

C COM 3.1.2 Convey information related to the patient’s health status, care, and needs in a timely, honest, and transparent manner

C COM 4.3.1 Use communication skills and strategies that help the patient and family make informed decisions regarding their health

F COL 1.2.3 Consult as needed with other health care professionals, including but not limited to other physicians or surgeons

C COL 1.2.1 Recognize, value, and utilize the expertise of interprofessional team members
13  **C COL 1.2.2** Liaise with intersecting health professions
14  **C COL 1.3.1** Provide timely and necessary information to colleagues to enable effective relationship-centered care
15  **F COL 1.3.3** Communicate effectively with physicians and other colleagues in the health care professions
16  **TTP HA 1.1.2** Work with patients to improve their timely access to diagnostic and therapeutic care