Vascular Surgery (AAA)
Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm
Mini-Elective
Spring 2015

Course Dates: January 15, 22, February 12, 19*
Thursdays, 1:00-2:00 PM

Maximum Students: 8

Class Year: MS1 and MS2

Course Director: Ulka Sachdev, MD
Assistant Professor of Surgery
Course Director

Contact Information: Kathy Haupt, Medical Student Coordinator
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Description:
There are three one-hour sessions and one half-day operating room observation in this elective course. There will be a required reading assignment (10-15 pages) before each session. In the first session, there will be a general introduction into the problem of AAA. This lecture will discuss the pathogenesis of AAA, the findings on history and physical examination, the variations in AAA, the morbidity and mortality associated with the disease and surgical correction, and the genetic inheritance pattern of this disease. During the second session presentation will be given of the diagnostic tools used to find AAA and characterize it including ultrasound, CT scan, MR, and angiography. The student will have the opportunity to visit the non-invasive vascular laboratory to see a diagnostic ultrasound performed. The third session covers thoracoabdominal aortic aneurysms, including indications for repair, open surgical management, and newer endovascular options for the repair of this complex clinical entity.

*The final session will be an opportunity for students to go into an operating room to view an endovascular aneurysm repair. The scheduling of this will not necessarily follow the day and time of the previous three weeks. Operating cases need to be adjusted for various reasons. These cases will also take place at the VA or Shadyside Hospital. It may be necessary to schedule this part of the experience on a subsequent day agreeable to the surgeon and students’ schedules. Arrangements for this observation will not be scheduled until the week prior when operative cases are known.

Objectives:
- To understand the pathogenesis of aneurysm disease of the aorta.
- To identify patients at increased risk for AAA.
- To learn the use of the common diagnostic tools to determine if an AAA is present.
- To appreciate when to repair an AAA.
- To comprehend the difference in risks and benefits between open and endovascular repair of an AAA.
- To see an AAA repair.
REQUIREMENTS: Complete pre-session reading and participate actively in all sessions

PRE-REQUISITES: None

COURSE OUTLINE:

Session I – Thursday, 1/15/15
1:00pm, (room to be determined)
(Faculty to be determined)
“Introduction to Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA)”

READING ASSIGNMENT:
Vascular Surgery by Robert B. Rutherford, M.D.
Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms: Pgs 477-485; 1408-1440

Session II – Thursday, 1/22/15
1:00pm, (room to be determined)
(Faculty to be determined)
Presbyterian Vascular Laboratory
“AAA Diagnostic Tools”

Reading Assignment in Rutherford: Pgs 1412-1414

Session III – Thursday, 2/12/15
1:00pm, (room to be determined)
(Faculty to be determined)
“Thoraco-AAA”

Reading Assignment in Rutherford: Pgs 1490-1509

Session IV – TBD
VAMC or Shadyside Hospital Operating Room
Observation of an Endovascular Aneurysm Procedure