

PG Curriculum

Course contents:

It is difficult to give a precise outline of the Course Contents for post graduate training. A postgraduate is supposed to acquire not only the professional competence of a well-trained specialist but also academic maturity, a capacity to reason and critically analyze scientific data as well as to keep himself abreast of the latest developments in the field of Pathology and related sciences. The study of Anatomic Pathology includes all aspects of Pathology as encompassed in the branches of General and Systemic Pathology. Only the broad outlines are provided.

A. COGNITIVE DOMAIN :

A) General Pathology:

Normal cell and tissue structure and function:

- The changes in cellular structure and function in diseases.
- Causes of disease, its pathogenesis, reaction of cells, tissues, organ systems, and the body to various sub lethal and lethal injuries.
- Cellular adaptation, cell injury, and cell death.
- Mechanism, morphology and examples of cell injury, necrosis, apoptosis, autophagy, and newer forms of cell death including necroptosis and pyroptosis.
- Sub cellular and cellular responses and adaptation to injury.
- Intracellular and intercellular accumulations, pathological calcification, and cell aging.

Acute and chronic inflammation:

- Vascular and cellular events in acute inflammation, chemical mediators, outcome, and morphological patterns of acute inflammation.
- Chronic inflammation with special reference to granulomatous inflammation.
- Systemic effects and effects of deranged inflammation.
- Tissue renewal and repair: Regeneration healing and fibrosis.
- Control of normal cell proliferation and tissue growth, mechanism of tissue regeneration, repair by healing and fibrosis.
- Extracellular matrix and cell matrix interactions.

Hemodynamic disorders, thromboembolic disease, and shock:

- Edema, hyperemia, congestion, and hemorrhage.
- Normal Hemostasis, thrombosis, DIC, embolism, infarction, and shock.

Genetic Disorders:

- Principles of genetics, normal karyotyping.
- Mutations, Mendelian disorders, disorders with multifactorial inheritance cytogenetic disorders involving autosomes and sex chromosomes.
- Single gene disorders with nonclassic inheritance.
- Diagnosis of genetic disorders involving molecular and genetic techniques.

Neoplasia :

- Definition, nomenclature, and biology of tumor growth
- Molecular basis of cancer with special reference to carcinogenic agents and molecular basis of multistep carcinogenesis.
- Epidemiology and clinical features of tumors.
- Grading, staging and laboratory diagnosis of cancer.

Infectious Diseases

- Pathology and general principles of microbial pathogenesis, special techniques for diagnosing bacterial, fungal, parasitic, and viral infections.

Environmental and nutritional pathology

- Common environmental and occupational exposures leading on to diseases.
- Nutritional deficiencies and obesity related disorders.

Disease of Infancy and Childhood

- Congenital anomalies, birth injuries, diseases of neonates, inborn errors of metabolism, tumor, and tumor like lesions of infancy and childhood.

Immunopathology :

- Innate immunity- Role of phagocytic cells, complement, mast cells & humoral mechanisms.
- Specific Acquired Immunity- Details about antibody production & action, Brief principles about memory, Ag specificity & vaccination.
- Cell involved in Immune response- T- Lymphocytes, B-lymphocytes, macrophages, dendritic cells, and natural-killer cells.
- Cytokines with details about their properties and functions.
- Structure and function of histocompatibility molecules and disease association.
 - Disorders of the immune system.
 - All hypersensitivity reactions.
 - Autoimmune disorders with special reference to SLE, Rheumatoid arthritis, Sjogren's syndrome, systemic sclerosis, polyarteritis nodosa and other vasculitides, Mixed connective tissue disorders and inflammatory disorders.
 - Immunodeficiency syndrome – Acquired with emphasis on AIDS.
 - Amyloidosis including pathogenesis, special stains & clinical correlation.
 - Transplant rejection in detail.
 - Graft vs Host Disease.

B) Systemic Pathology:

The study of normal structure and function of various organ systems and the etiopathogenesis, gross and microscopic alterations of structure of these organ systems in disease and functional correlation with clinical features

Blood vessels, lymphatic and veins

- Normal morphology, congenital anomalies, atherosclerosis, hypertensive vascular disease.
 - Inflammatory and neoplastic diseases of all the vessels.

Heart

- Normal morphology, its blood supply and effect of aging on heart.
- Ischemic, Hypertensive, valvular, congenital heart diseases.
- Cardiomyopathies
- Myocardial disorders
- Pericardial diseases.
- Tumors of the heart.

Lungs and Mediastinum

- Congenital anomalies
- Obstructive and restrictive pulmonary diseases
- Diseases of vascular origin
- Infections of Lung
- Infections of Mediastinum
- Tumors of lung
- Lung transplantation
- Diseases of pleura
- Thymus – Developmental, autoimmune, and inflammatory disorder and tumors.

Head and Neck

- Oral cavity: - inflammatory disease, Preneoplastic lesions and tumors.
- Diseases of teeth and supporting structures.
 - Upper airways and ear – congenital anomalies, infections, and tumors.
 - Salivary glands – Infections autoimmune disorders and tumors.

Gastrointestinal Tract

- Congenital anomalies, infections, inflammatory and vascular disorders and tumors of esophagus, stomach, small and large intestines, appendix, and anal canal.
- Diseases of the peritoneum, Omentum and Mesentery Retroperitoneum.
- Inflammatory and neoplastic lesions.

Liver

- Normal morphology with general features of hepatic disease including LFTs.
- Infectious, autoimmune drug induced metabolic and circulatory disorders of liver.
- Hepatic diseases associated with pregnancy, neonates, organ and bone marrow transplantation.
- Liver transplantation pathology.
- Cysts, Nodules, and tumors of liver.

Biliary tract

- Congenital anomalies, injuries, Infection, inflammation, of Gallstones and tumors of gall bladder and extra hepatic bile ducts. Pancreas.
- Congenital anomalies, pancreatitis, and neoplasms of pancreas.

Kidney

- Clinical manifestations of renal diseases
- Congenital anomalies
- Diseases affecting glomeruli, tubules, interstitium and blood vessels.
- Cystic diseases of kidney
- Nephrolithiasis

- Tumors of kidney
- Kidney Transplant pathology

Lower urinary tract and male genital system

- Congenital anomalies, inflammation and tumors of bladder, ureter, urethra, penis, testis, epididymis, and Scrotum.
- Inflammation, enlargement, and tumors of prostate.

Female genital tract

- Physiology, cytology and histology of female genital tract, menstrual disorders, and hormonal abnormalities.
- Congenital anomalies, inflammation, preneoplastic and neoplastic lesions of vulva, vagina, cervix, uterus, fallopian tubes, ovaries and mesonephron.
- Gestational and placental disorders.

Breast

- Inflammations, benign epithelial lesions, and tumors of the breast.
- Diseases of male breast.

Endocrine System

- Normal hormonal levels and functions of all the endocrine glands.
- Hypo and hyperactivity of glands of endocrine system i.e., pituitary, thyroid, parathyroid, pancreas, adrenals, and pineal gland.
 - Autoimmune diseases, inflammations and tumors affecting these glands,
 - Neuroendocrine tumors,

Skin and Subcutaneous tissue

- Disorders of pigmentation and melanocytes,
- Inflammatory, vesiculobullous, and infectious disease,
- Proliferative lesions and Tumors of the epidermis, dermis, and skin appendage. **Musculoskeletal system**

- Bone Modelling, growth, and development, genetic and acquired abnormalities in bone cells, matrix and structure, fractures, necrosis and infections of bones, tumors and tumorlike lesions,
- Joints: Arthritis, tumor, and tumor-like lesions.

- Soft tissue: Tumors and tumor-like lesions.

Peripheral nerves and skeletal muscles

- General reactions of motor units.
 - Inflammatory, infectious, hereditary, metabolic, and traumatic neuropathies.
 - Atrophy, dystrophy, myopathies of the skeletal muscles.
 - Diseases of neuromuscular junction.
 - Tumors of peripheral nerves and skeletal muscles.

Skull and Central Nervous System

- Degenerative, metabolic, toxic, demyelinating, infectious, cerebrovascular malformations, and traumatic injuries.
- Tumors.

Eye and Orbit

- Infections, inflammatory, congenital diseases and neoplasms of orbit, eyelid, conjunctiva sclera, uvea, cornea, retina, and optic nerves.

C) Hematology and Transfusion medicine

The study of Hematology includes all aspects of the diseases of the blood and bone marrow. This would involve the study of the normal, and the causes of diseases and the changes thereof. **Biology of stem cell and Hematopoiesis**

- Overview of stem cell biology and cellular biology of hematopoiesis.
- Transcription factors and humoral regulation in normal and malignant hematopoiesis.
- Interaction between hematopoietic stem cells, progenitor cell and stromal compartment of bone marrow
- Stem cell homing & mobilization.

Erythroid maturation, differentiation, and abnormality

- Pathobiology of human erythrocyte & Hemoglobin Anemia.
- Approach to anemia in adults and children in: Clinical correlation & diagnostic modalities.
- Classification of anemias (Morphological, pathophysiological, and based on erythropoiesis i.e., proliferative vs non-proliferative).
- Iron deficiency anemia including iron metabolism and differential diagnosis from other microcytic hypochromic anemias.
- Disorder of iron metabolism including iron overload.
- Anemia of chronic disorders with special reference to infections, collagen vascular disorders, inflammation etc.
- Megaloblastic anemia and other causes of megaloblastosis.
- Definition, approach, and classification of hemolytic anemia.
- Lab diagnosis of Hemoglobin disorders and hereditary anemia like Thalassemia and related hemoglobinopathies, sickle cell anemia.
- Hemoglobin associated with altered Oxygen affinity.
- Red blood cell enzymopathy, membrane disorder, autoimmune hemolytic anemia, nonimmune hemolytic anemia, paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria.
- Approach to Pancytopenia/ Cytopenia.
- Bone marrow failure syndrome.
- Porphyria.

WBC disorders, complement and immunoglobulin biology

- Normal granulopoiesis.
- Acquired and congenital disorders of phagocytosis (neutrophil, monocyte, eosinophil, and macrophages).
- Disorder of leukocyte number, function, and morphology.

Storage disorder

Hematological responses to Infections

- Viral disorders - Infectious mononucleosis, Hepatitis, and dengue.
- Parasitic infections - Malaria, Kala azar.

Hematological malignancies

- Conventional & molecular cytogenetic and immunohistochemical basis of hematological malignancies.
- Classification (WHO, ICC).

- Their basis and diagnostic approach to various hematological malignancies.
- Pathophysiology, prognostic factors, cytochemistry, cytogenetics of various leukemias.
- Pathophysiology and classification of MDS, MPN/MDS, myeloproliferative disorders.
- Pathophysiology of Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, Clinical staging of Hodgkin's lymphoma.
- Role of molecular cytogenetics and immunohistochemistry in Hodgkin's and Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and lymphoproliferative disorders.
- AIDS related and Transplant related lymphomas.
- Plasma cell dyscrasias and gammopathies. Mastocytosis.
- Role of chemotherapy and antineoplastic agents based on molecular mechanism of hematological malignancies, clinical use of hematopoietic growth factors.

Hematopoietic stem cell transplantation

- Role and indications of HST, immunodeficiency state, hematological Malignancies and Non-hematological disorders.
- Practical aspect of umbilical cord stem cells transplantation.
- Peripheral stem cell collection.
- Role of stem cell in tissue repair.
- Complications of Hematopoietic stem cell transplant.
- Gene therapy and genetic engineering.

Prenatal diagnosis of genetic hematological diseases

Hemostasis & Thrombosis

- Megakaryocyte and platelet structure.
- Molecular basis of platelet function, activation.
- Role of blood vessel, coagulation system and fibrinolytic system in hemostasis.
- Clinical and lab evaluation of bleeding and coagulation disorders.
- Clinical & diagnostic aspects of factor deficiencies including hemophilia, von Willebrand disease, DIC, Vitamin K deficiency.
- Thrombotic and non-thrombotic purpura.
- Hereditary and acquired platelet disorders and its management.
- Thrombophilia (Inherited & acquired).
- Lab evaluation and management of hypercoagulable states.

Human blood group antigen and antibody and Immuno-hematology

- Selection of donor and screening..
- Principle, indication and storage of red blood cells, WBC, platelet, and plasma transfusion.
- Various methods of component separation and plasma derivatives with special reference to Fresh frozen plasma, cryo-precipitates, platelet concentrate, single donor plasma, albumin, and Immunoglobulin.
- Graft Rejection, GVH diseases, Transfusion Reactions, Blood grouping & cross matching.
- Blood bank audit.
- Apheresis

Hematological manifestations of systemic diseases

- Liver disorders, renal disorders, infections, cancers, parasitic diseases, AIDS, pregnancy, and surgical patients.

Spleen and its disorders

D) Laboratory Medicine (Clinical Pathology including Parasitology)

- Principles of testing, indications, values with ranges in normal and diseased states in relation to:
 - * Liver function tests
 - * Renal function tests
 - * Endocrine function tests
 - * Body fluid analysis including stool, urine, semen, CSF, etc.
- Principles of laboratory automation, trouble shooting, and quality assurance.

E) Special techniques

The student is expected to acquire a general acquaintance of techniques and principles and to interpret data in the following fields:

- Immunopathology,
- Electron microscopy,
- Histochemistry,
- Immunohistochemistry,
- Cytogenetics and in-situ hybridization,
- Molecular Biology,
- Digital Pathology and image analysis,
 - Maintenance of records,
 - Information retrieval, use of Computer and Internet in medicine.

F) Instrumentation and automation

- Principles, indications, working, maintenance, and troubleshooting of equipment used in various laboratories:
 - * Histopathology laboratory – Histopathology tissue processor, microtome, water bath, embedding station, Stainer, IHC Stainer, ultramicrotome, etc.
 - * Microscopes – Immunofluorescence, FISH, Confocal, Electron, etc.
 - * Cytopathology Laboratory – Centrifuge, Cytocentrifuge, Cytospin apparatus, liquid-based cytology, etc.
 - * Hematology Laboratory – automated cell counter, flow cytometer, coagulometer, HPLC, Electrophoresis apparatus, immunoblot, etc.
 - * Clinical Pathology – Photoelectric colorimeter, Spectrophotometer, pH meter, Centrifuge, Electrophoresis apparatus, ELISA Reader, chemiluminescence, etc.
 - * Digital pathology – Whole slide scanners
 - * Molecular pathology – PCR, Sanger sequencer, NGS sequencers, etc.
- Automation in Pathology.
- Good lab practices and safety, record maintenance of capital equipment and consumables, purchase specifications, approximate costs of reagents and equipment, maintenance of store logbooks, etc.

G) Quality assurance program

- Internal and external quality assurance methods.
- Intra assay variations, batch variations, validation of chemicals and instruments.

H) Establishment Act and Rules and regulations formed by Govt. or regulatory bodies

I) Biomedical Waste management

- Disposal methods for each specimen, reagents, instruments, autoclaving techniques, recycling of products and e-waste.

J) Biostatistics, Research Methodology and Clinical Epidemiology

K) Ethics and Medico legal aspects relevant to Pathology

L) Current topics and recent advances in pathology