

Consultative Cardiology Objectives

Knowledge

- The elements of an effective consultation
- Techniques for enhancing compliance and adherence to consultative recommendations
- Pre-operative evaluation of cardiovascular operative risk
- Assessment of abnormalities in serological determinants of cardiac injury, particularly in the peri-operative patient
- Evaluation of chest pain, especially in post-operative patients
- Assessment of newly-detected or changing heart murmurs
- Assessment of cardiac physical findings, electrocardiographic changes and arrhythmias in pregnancy, labor and delivery
- Assessment and management of tachyarrhythmias, particularly in the peri-operative patient
- Evaluation of possible infectious endocarditis in hospitalized patients with new cardiac findings
- Management of unstable ischemia and infarction outside of the CCU setting
- Management of uncontrolled hypertension in the hospitalized patient
- Assessment and management of ischemic risk factors, particularly the dysmetabolic syndromes
- Medical management of peripheral arterial, venous and lymphatic disease

Teaching Methods

- **In-patient consultation:** Fellows triage, supervise, or directly perform the initial consultative evaluation of patients at Stanford Hospital (SHC) or the VA Palo Alto Health Care System (VAPAHCS), as requested by the services of Medicine, Surgery and Obstetrics-Gynecology. Consultative evaluation is comprised of a thorough cardiovascular evaluation which is recorded in a detailed note. Subsequent presentation to the attending senior cardiologist provides the opportunity for in-depth discussion of pathophysiology, differential diagnosis, physical examination, and review of pertinent objective data, including electrocardiographic recordings.
- **Guided Reading:** The fellows are provided with opportunities to amplify their direct observations in consultative cases with appropriate materials drawn from textual sources and current cardiovascular literature.
- **Teaching rounds:** Daily didactic sessions are conducted with medical students, medical residents and cardiovascular fellows. These sessions include in-depth discussions of the cardiac physical examination, natural history of cardiac diseases, cardiovascular physiology and pharmacology, and electrocardiographic interpretation.

Methods of Evaluation

- Direct observation by the attending faculty.
- Chart review by faculty.
- At the end of each rotation, the fellow's progress is reviewed by the Division Faculty.

References

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