

Surgical Pathology Learning Goal and Objectives

The goal of the surgical pathology portion of the anatomic pathology clerkships is to provide the student the opportunity to develop skills in the preparation, gross description, and dissection of surgical specimens via hands-on training.

By the end of the anatomic pathology clerkships, the student should be able to:

1. Outline the standards that the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) and the College of American Pathologists (CAP) require for submitting surgical pathology specimens.
2. Assure correct specimen accessioning.
3. Obtain pertinent clinical information and data required for prosection from the requisition, medical records, consultation with the pathologist(s) and other clinical providers, etc.
4. Identify common situations that require expedited processing of a pathology specimen.
5. Discuss the common indications for intraoperative consultation.
6. Describe gross anatomic features and specimens clearly and concisely in the form of dictation.
7. Identify, under pathologist supervision, tissue to be submitted for frozen section diagnosis, prepare frozen sections competently (e.g., with care, skill, and efficiency, etc.), and effectively manage problems with suboptimal frozen sections.
8. Demonstrate competency (e.g., care, skill, efficiency, etc.) at prosection for routine and complex surgical specimens.
9. Obtain biological specimens such as blood, tissue, and toxicology material for analysis.
10. Perform special procedures such as Faxitron imaging and tumor triage.
11. Manage workflow effectively in the gross room.
12. List procedures for locating a missing specimen such as a block, slide, or tissue.
13. Demonstrate proficiency at taking gross photographs of pertinent findings.
14. Explain the basic principles of informatics in anatomic pathology and effectively utilize the Laboratory Information System (LIS) and local computer network.
15. Perform other related job functions as needed such as laboratory maintenance, administrative tasks, and assisting with conference preparation.