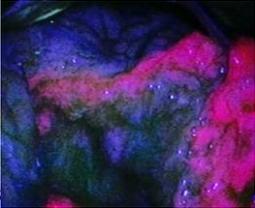


NANSIG neuroscience elective review

Reviewed by:

Name: Abdurrahman Islim

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Destination	Department of Neurosurgery, The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust/ Department of Neurosurgery, Alder Hey Children's Hospital
Time spent	3/2 weeks
Supervisor	Mr Michael D Jenkinson/ Mr Conor Mallucci
General overview	<p>The Walton Centre is the only specialist hospital in the UK dedicated to providing neurology, neurosurgery, spinal and pain management services. The department of neurosurgery serves a population of approximately 3.5 million across the North West, North Wales and the Isle of Man. Care for paediatric patients is provided at Alder Hey.</p> <p>My time at Walton was primarily spent between outpatient clinics and theatres. As Mr Jenkinson's services are dedicated mainly to brain tumour patient, the majority of cases observed were meningiomas, gliomas and there were some uncommon pathologies as well such as subependymomas, pineal tumours and lymphomas. Prior to seeing a patient in clinic, we'd discuss the case, review the available CT/MRIs and talk through differentials and management options. My theatre experience was good as well having been allowed to scrub in and assist a few times. The most exciting of these cases was an awake craniotomy for a gentleman with a left frontal glioma. The tumour was in an eloquent area (very much close to Broca's area), so to maximize resection the patient was given 5-Aminolevulinic acid (5-ALA) beforehand. This allows the surgery to be carried out under fluorescent violet/blue light which causes the tumour cells to light up.</p>  <p>Having the patient awake allows for cortical mapping which enables maximal resection whilst avoiding vital structures. Both of these aspects were very interesting to see and talk about seeing that there was some time to kill (waking the patient up took about an hour!).</p> <p>Having never experienced paediatric neurosurgery prior to this elective, I was really looking forward to spending some time at Alder Hey; and it did not disappoint. Again most of my time was spent between clinics and theatres. Shunting for hydrocephalus comprises most of the work and as such it would always make an appearance on the theatre list. The 2 most interesting cases were those of craniofacial correction of scaphocephaly and pterional craniotomy and resection of a craniopharyngioma. The latter was an excellent anatomical demonstration being able to visualise the internal carotids and optic nerves and chiasm. Clinics were very similar in structure to the ones at the Walton.</p> <p>Overall, the combination of Walton/Alder Hey provided me with a good overview of adult/paeds neurosurgery and it inspired me to continue to gain as much neurosurgical experience as possible.</p>
Research opportunities	If enthusiastic enough can get involved in ongoing studies or writing up case reports.
Social opportunities	Liverpool is a great city with so many social opportunities.

Any other comments ?	Excellent banter
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NANSIG neuroscience elective destination review

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Email:

Destination	
Time spent	
Supervisor	
General overview	
Research opportunities	
Social opportunities	
Any other comments?	