



ADVANCED MEDICINE

LECTURE SEVEN : PRINCIPLE OF GENERAL MEDICINE

Sawa University

جامعة ساوة الاهلية

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قسم تقنيات التخدير

Fourth Stage

المرحلة الرابعة

Lecture seven

Theoretical

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M.Sc. medicine

General medicine, often referred to as internal medicine, is a medical specialty that focuses on the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of a wide range of illnesses affecting adults. Unlike specialties that focus on specific organs or systems, general medicine encompasses a broad spectrum of diseases, from chronic conditions like diabetes and hypertension to acute infections and systemic disorders.

Medical diagnosis and treatment

Medicine is mainly focused on the art of diagnosis and treatment with medication. The diagnostic process involves gathering data, generating one or more diagnostic hypotheses, and iteratively testing these potential diagnoses against dynamic disease profiles to determine the best course of action for the patient

Gathering data

Data may be gathered directly from the patient in medical history-taking and physical examination. Previous medical records including laboratory findings, imaging, and clinical notes from other doctors is also an important source of information; however, it is vital to talk to and examine the patient to find out what the patient is currently experiencing to make an accurate diagnosis. History and physical examination are a vital part of the diagnostic process.

Internists often can perform and interpret diagnostic tests like EKGs and ultrasound imaging (Point-of-care Ultrasound – PoCUS).

Internists who pursue sub-specialties have additional diagnostic tools, including those listed below.

- 1. Cardiology:** angioplasty, cardioversion, cardiac ablation, intra-aortic balloon pump
- 2. Critical care medicine:** mechanical ventilation
- 3. Gastroenterology:** endoscopy and ERCP
- 4. Nephrology:** dialysis
- 5. Pulmonology:** bronchoscopy

Generating diagnostic hypotheses

Determining which pieces of information are most important to the next phase of the diagnostic process is of vital importance. It is during this stage that clinical bias like anchoring or premature closure may be introduced. Once key findings are determined, they are compared to profiles of possible diseases. These profiles include findings that are typically associated with the disease and are based on the likelihood that someone with the disease has a particular symptom. A list of potential diagnoses is termed the "differential diagnosis" for the patient and is typically ordered from most likely to least likely, with special attention given to those conditions that have dire consequences for the patient if they were

Communication

Communication is a vital part of the diagnostic process. The Internist uses both synchronous and asynchronous communication with other members of the medical care team, including other internists, radiologists, specialists, and laboratory technicians. Tools to evaluate teamwork exist and have been employed in multiple settings.

Communication to the patient is also important to ensure there is informed consent and shared decision-making throughout the diagnostic process

Treatment

Treatment modalities generally include both pharmacological and non-pharmacological, depending on the primary diagnosis. Additional treatment options include referral to specialist care including physical therapy and rehabilitation. Treatment recommendations differ in the acute inpatient and outpatient settings . Continuity of care and long-term follow-up is crucial in successful patient outcomes

Ethics

Inherent in any medical profession are legal and ethical considerations. Specific laws vary by jurisdiction and may or may not be congruent with ethical considerations. Thus, a strong ethical foundation is paramount to any medical profession.

Medical ethics guidelines in the Western world typically follow four principles including **beneficence, non-maleficence, patient autonomy, and justice**. These principles underlie the doctor–patient relationship and the obligation to put the welfare and interests of the patient above their own.

Doctor–patient relationship

The relationship is built upon the doctor's obligations of competency, respect for the patient, and appropriate referrals while the patient requirements include decision-making and provides or withdraws consent for any treatment plan. Good communication is key to a strong relationship but has ethical considerations as well, including proper use of electronic communication and clear documentation.

Treatment and telemedicine

Providing treatment including prescribing medications based on remote information gathering without a proper established relationship is not accepted as good practice with few exceptions. These exceptions include cross-coverage within a practice and certain public health urgent or emergent issues.

The ethics of telemedicine including questions on its impact to diagnosis, doctor-patient relationship, and continuity of care have been raised. However, with appropriate use and specific guidelines, risks may be minimized and the benefits including increased access to care may be realized.

Financial issues and conflicts of interest

Ethical considerations in financial include accurate billing practices and clearly defined financial relationships. Doctors have both a professional duty and obligation under the justice principle to ensure that patients are provided the same care regardless of status or ability to pay. However, informal copayment forgiveness may have legal ramifications and the providing professional courtesy may have negatively impact care.

QUIZ



What is the diagnostic tools?

Any questions?

*Thank
You*