

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**Year 3 Core Clinical Rotation: OTOLARYNGOLOGY – HEAD & NECK SURGERY (1 week)**

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**COURSE OVERVIEW**

The one-week Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery block is part of the Anesthesia / Emergency Medicine / Ophthalmology / Otolaryngology rotation. The otolaryngology portion takes place at the otolaryngology clinics at the University Health Network, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, St. Michael’s Hospital, and Mount Sinai Hospital. This year, some students will be completing their week rotation in a community site such as Michael Garron Hospital, North York General Hospital, Humber River Hospital, Markham-Stouffville Hospital, William Osler Hospital (Etobicoke Site), or The Scarborough Hospital. Each hospital develops and distributes a site-specific schedule of teaching sessions and clinical experience in the outpatient clinics. The remainder of the time will be spent on the wards, in the operating room, in seminars and self-directed learning with otoscopy and nasal packing simulators and online cases. The rotation includes a series of online seminars, covering common and important topics in otolaryngology – head & neck surgery including hearing loss, vertigo, epistaxis, rhinosinusitis, emergencies, and head and neck malignancies. Students are also given a paediatrics otolaryngology seminar, an Otosim seminar, and an audiology lecture at the Hospital for Sick Children.

In clinic, students will be responsible for taking complete otolaryngologic histories and performing relevant head & neck examinations on patients, as well as formulating differential diagnoses and plans of management which will be presented to preceptors.

Attendance in the operating room is available to students and may be arranged at their academy with the site director at the beginning of their rotation.

Students are not expected to take call, but may do so if interested. Call may be arranged with the otolaryngology residents at each hospital/academy.

**ASSESSMENT**

Evaluations are based on performance on a written exam in multiple-choice question format (80%) and preceptor evaluations (20%). The written exam is given on the final day of the combined four-week Otolaryngology / Ophthalmology / Anesthesia block. The written exam is 90 mins in duration and is separate from the ophthalmology and anesthesia examinations. In order to obtain credit in the otolaryngology – head & neck surgery course, students must receive a grade greater than 60% on both the written examination and preceptor evaluation.

Students must also receive a satisfactory professionalism evaluation (credit/no credit) and complete all case log requirements (credit/no credit) in order to pass the otolaryngology clerkship course.

For details, including grading regulations, see **the course website on the U of T portal (<http://portal.utoronto.ca> – registered users only), and the program policies related to examination and assessment (<http://www.md.utoronto.ca/policies>).**

## THE CURRICULUM: Clerkship (Years 3 & 4)

NB: In order to receive credit for Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery, students must also complete the required evaluations of teachers and of the course, as specified in the course outline, in conformity with the [Principles and Expectations for Student Completion of Teacher and Course Evaluations in UME](#).

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

**GOALS:** By the end of the otolaryngology – head & neck surgery clerkship rotation, the clinical clerk will demonstrate the foundation of knowledge of medical conditions involving the ears, nose, neck, and upper aerodigestive tract necessary for the practice of otolaryngology from the perspective of the primary care physician. In addition, the clinical clerk will demonstrate the skills necessary to perform a thorough head and neck examination.

The otolaryngology clerkship course follows the CanMEDS guidelines through both didactic and clinical teaching. The course also provides an opportunity to develop collaborator and manager skills through interprofessional collaboration with nursing, audiology, and speech-language pathology services.

#### A. GENERAL COMPETENCIES

By the end of the otolaryngology clerkship, the clinical clerk will be able to:

##### [Medical Expert]

- Demonstrate the ability to evaluate and manage common ear, nose and throat problems presenting to the primary care physician
- Demonstrate the ability to rapidly recognize airway and head and neck oncologic emergencies that require immediate referral to an otolaryngologist
- Demonstrate a focused history and physical examination for patients presenting with common ear, nose and throat symptoms.
- Develop plans for investigations (diagnostic imaging and audiometry) and interpret those investigations.
- Develop a differential diagnosis and management plan.

##### [Communicator]

- Communicate effectively and empathetically with patients and their families.
- Demonstrate thorough and clear documentation and charting, with concise recording of pertinent positive and negative findings.
- Demonstrate the ability to counsel and educate patients and families.
- Demonstrate the ability to present a patient case in a clear, concise and complete manner.

##### [Collaborator]

- Establish and maintain effective working relationships with colleagues and other health care professionals commonly treating otolaryngology patients (nursing, audiology, speech language pathology).
- Demonstrate knowledge of community resources available to the otolaryngologist.

##### [Leader]

- Demonstrate appropriate and cost-effective use of investigations and treatments.
- Develop organizational skills and efficiency in managing patients and maintaining patient flow.
- Develop an understanding of the factors contributing to resource issues in the otolaryngology clinic.

**[Health Advocate]**

- Demonstrate an awareness of the underlying psychosocial and socioeconomic problems that contribute to otolaryngologic problems.
- Identify opportunities for primary and secondary prevention strategies (smoking cessation, alcohol intake, etc.).

**[Scholar]**

- Access and critically appraise the literature relevant to otolaryngology.
- Understand the many unique learning and teaching opportunities available in otolaryngology.

**[Professional]**

- Recognize and accept his or her limitations and know when to ask for help.
- Protect information provided by or about patients, keeping it confidential, and divulge it only with the patient's permission except when otherwise required by law.
- Be reliable and responsible in fulfilling obligations.
- Recognize situations where common medical errors may occur in the otolaryngology clinic.

**B. EDUCATIONAL CORE OBJECTIVES**

**I. Skills**

By the end of the Otolaryngology Clerkship rotation, the student should be able to demonstrate basic proficiency in the following skills.

**Clinical Examination Skills:**

1. Head and neck examination
2. Thyroid examination
3. Oral examination
4. Cranial nerve examination
5. Balance testing

**Technical Skills:**

1. Otoscopy
2. Nasal packing (simulation)

**II. Problem based**

By the end of the Otolaryngology Clerkship rotation, the student should understand the following concepts and/or be able to demonstrate an approach to patients presenting to the Emergency Department (based on real or simulated encounters) with the following problems or conditions:

1. Hearing Loss
2. Vertigo
3. Nasal Obstruction
4. Epistaxis
5. Neck Mass
6. Stridor

## TEXTBOOKS/LEARNING RESOURCES

### Required Reading

The Otolaryngology course syllabus, available on the Portal in the Lecture Notes section, contains the core material on which the written examination is based. Clerks must also review the interactive cases posted on the portal site.

### Recommended Readings (Textbook):

Toronto Notes, Comprehensive Medical Reference and Review for MCQE 1 and USMLE 2 Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery Chapter

Physical exam videos before starting your rotation:

<http://otolaryngology.utoronto.ca/ascm-ii-resources>

Online resources:

- <https://mediasrc.bcm.edu/documents/2013/ec/otolaryngology-core-curriculum.pdf>
- <http://www.ghorayeb.com/pictures.html>
- <http://www.martindalecenter.com/MedicalAudio.html>
- [www.entcanada.org](http://www.entcanada.org) and follow the link for “Undergraduate Education.”
- Download the LearnENT app from the App store for Iphone users.