

Fellowship in Oral Oncology

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Fellowship in Oral Oncology

Detailed Course Module Document

1. Program Overview

Name	:	Fellowship in Oral Oncology
Duration	:	1 Year (Full - Time)
Intake	:	3 seats per academic year (1 st Jan to 31 st Dec)
Location	:	Rohilkhand Cancer Institute
Mode	:	On-campus with clinical training and research

Program Objective:

To provide structured and didactic training with specific emphasis on surgical hands-on in all aspects of Oral Oncology and Reconstructive Surgery enabling fellows to accurately diagnose, treat and rehabilitate patients.

2. Eligibility Criteria

- MS / DNB in either of the following disciplines: Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery or General Surgery
- MDS in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
- Registered with the appropriate medical council/license to practice.
- Good academic record and demonstrated interest in Oral Oncology.
- Candidates with any prior disciplinary issues or ethical violations are not eligible.

3. PROGRAM EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES (PEOs)

The fellow should be able to:

- PEO1: Independently diagnose and perform oral cancer surgeries including reconstruction.
- PEO2: Lead oral cancer units in a hospital setting.
- PEO3: Participate actively in multidisciplinary tumour boards and clinical meetings.
- PEO4: Conduct meaningful research, audits, and contribute to academic work publications.
- PEO5: Demonstrate role in Screening and prevention of Oral Cancer.

4. PROGRAM OUTCOMES (POs)

Upon successful completion of the program, the fellow will be able to:

- PO1: perform procedures that aid in diagnosis of oral cancer patients such as biopsies (incisional, excisional, punch), endoscopies.
- PO2: Interpret appropriate radiological, histopathological investigations required for formulating treatment plan for oral cancer cases.
- PO3: effectively perform surgeries for oral cancer management, including Head and Neck Reconstruction.

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- PO4: Effectively communicate with clinical teams and present findings at tumour boards
 - PO5: Plan adjuvant/ neoadjuvant treatment in form of radiotherapy/ chemotherapy and follow up of these patients
 - PO5: Maintain quality control and standard operating procedures in line with NABH.
 - PO6: Participate in academic teaching and mentoring of postgraduates.
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5. PROGRAM SPECIFIC OUTCOMES (PSOs)

- PSO1: Diagnose cancers related to oral cavity, salivary glands, paranasal sinuses and cutaneous malignancies of face.
 - PSO2: Evaluate the overall general condition of the patient
 - PSO3: Prepare comprehensive treatment plan for the patient including reconstruction.
 - PSO4: Properly rehabilitate the patient to improve the functional outcome of the patient.
 - PSO5: Conduct audits, maintain logbooks, and contribute to quality improvement work.
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6. COURSE OUTCOMES (COs)

At the end of the course, the fellow will be able to:

- CO1: Diagnose the patient by clinical, radiological and histological examination of the patient
 - CO2: Formulate a proper treatment plan appropriate for the patient.
 - CO3: Perform surgeries for the management of Oral cancer including primary, neck and reconstruction
 - CO4: Plan adjuvant/neoadjuvant treatment in form of radiotherapy/ chemotherapy and follow up of these patients
 - CO5: Understand and implement rehabilitation techniques to maximise the functional outcome.
 - CO6: Draft a research/academic work and publish an original research paper in indexed journal.
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7. COURSE CONTENT MODULES

Module 1: Introduction to Oral Cancer

- Tumour biology, Oral Carcinogenesis and Field Cancerisation
- Etiology, Epidemiology, Histopathology of Oral cancer
- Oral Cancer screening

Module 2: Oral Potentially Malignant Disorders

- Oral Submucous Fibrosis
- Leukoplakia
- Erythroplakia

Module 3: Diagnosis of Oral cancer

- Clinical Evaluation
- Imaging

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- Diagnostic Adjuncts for Oral cancer detection
- Biopsy

Module 4: Management of Primary

- Buccal Mucosa
- Lip
- Alveolus
- RMT
- Hard Palate
- Floor of Mouth
- Tongue

Module 5: Management of Neck

- Management of N0 neck
- Management of N+ neck
- Sentinel Node biopsy

Module 6: Reconstruction

- Skin grafts
- Local Flaps
- Free flaps

Module 7: Rehabilitation

- Speech
- Swallow
- Dental Rehabilitation
- Pain and Palliation

Module 8: Tumour Boards & Clinical Correlation

- Weekly tumour boards
- Adjuvant and Neoadjuvant therapy

Module 9: Research Methodology

- Study design, data analysis, poster/paper writing

Module 10: Teaching & Professional Skills

- Presentations, CME coordination, ethics, communication

8. Curriculum Structure

8.1 Theory Syllabus

- Cancer genetics, epidemiology, etiology
- Mechanism of carcinogenesis, Field cancerisation
- Principles of Radiation therapy, Chemotherapy
- Head and Neck Radiology
- Tumour Classification and Grading: WHO classifications, grading systems
- Histopathology of oral cavity tumours
- Various principles of Biopsy, FNAC, cytology
- Surgical principles for management of Oral Cancer including principles of ablative surgery and reconstructive surgery.
- Management of neck
- Sentinel node biopsy
- Adjuvant, Neoadjuvant treatment – radiotherapy, chemotherapy

- Oral Cancer patient rehabilitation including management of mucositis, xerostomia, dental management
- Pain and palliation
- Research Methodology: Study design, biostatistics, ethics in research

8.2 Practical Training

- Clinical oral oncology (management of primary and neck)
- Reconstructive surgery
- Training in ancillary specialties such as radiation oncology and medical oncology
- Patient rehabilitation
- Cancer screening and prevention
- Tumour board participation and case presentations

9. Teaching and Learning Methods

- Didactic lectures and seminars
- Case-based learning
- Interactive tumour board discussions
- Hands-on surgical training
- Research presentations
- Regular formative assessments

10. Clinical Exposure

- Diagnosis and interpretation of radiological and histological investigations
- Surgical procedures including management of neck, primary and reconstruction
- Rehabilitation of patients
- Participation in multidisciplinary tumour boards
- Exposure to medical oncology and radiotherapy departments
- Interaction with radiologists, pathologists for integrated diagnosis

11. Research Project

- Each fellow will undertake 1-2 original academic works related to any field of Oral oncology under course director.
- Encouragement to publish original research in indexed journals.

12. Assessment and Evaluation

- Continuous formative internal assessment via case discussions /log book/etc (30%)
- Final examination comprising (40%)
 - Theory exam (essay and short notes)
 - Practical/viva voice exam (case presentations – long and short)
- Academic work submission (30%)

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13. Code of Conduct Policy

- Fellows must maintain professional ethics in all academic and clinical activities.
 - Timely attendance and active participation are mandatory.
 - Disclosure of any conflict of interest related to diagnostics, research, or patient care is required.
 - Fellows involved in unethical behaviour or malpractice may face disciplinary action.
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14. Career Opportunities

- Consultant Oral oncosurgeon in cancer centres and hospitals
- Academic faculty positions in medical/dental colleges
- leadership roles in hospitals / cancer centres
- Cancer research scientist positions
- Opportunities in pharmaceutical and biotech companies focusing on oncology diagnostics

15. Training Schedule:

- Cadaveric Dissections
- Dedicated Lectures and seminars
- Allotment of Dissertation
- Surgical planning and assistance in surgery
- Stepwise surgical dissections

Stage 1: Cadaveric dissections

- Pre-op clinical evaluation, pre-op investigations
- Radiographic analysis
- Surgical treatment Planning
- Tumour board participation

Stage 2: Surgical Observations

- Assistance in surgery
- Stepwise dissection and reconstruction in cases (Observation)

Stage 3: Post-operative care

- Post-surgery patient care and planning
- Stepwise dissection and reconstruction in cases (perform Independently)

Stage 4: Post-surgical planning (Adjuvant therapy)

- Exposure to chemotherapy
- Exposure to Radiotherapy

16. Faculty Profiles:

- Dr. Arjun Agarwal, Mch (Surgical oncology) –Prof & Head, Department of Surgical Oncology, Rohilkhand Medical College & Hospital - Course Director
- Dr Aamir Malick Saifi, MDS (OMFS), Fellowship Oral Oncology Associate professor, Department of OMFS, Institute of Dental Sciences

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- Dr Ashish Kamathan, Mch (Surgical Oncology) – Assistant Professor, Department of Surgical Oncology, Rohilkhand Medical College & Hospital
 - Dr Laxman Pandey, MD (Radiation Oncology) , Department of Radiation Oncology, Rohilkhand Medical College & Hospital
 - Dr Siddharth Arora, MD (Radiation Oncology) , Department of Radiation Oncology, Rohilkhand Medical College & Hospital
 - Dr Cheena Garg, MD (Pathology), UICC fellowship Oncopathology
 - Dr Mohit Gambhir, Interventional radiologist, Rohilkhand Medical College & Hospital
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17. Conflict of Interest & Ineligibility

To maintain the academic integrity and ethical standards of the Fellowship in Oral Oncology, the following candidates shall not be eligible to apply:

I. Employment/Age Conflicts

- Individuals already holding a full-time appointment that prevents them from fulfilling full-time academic responsibilities during the fellowship.
- Candidates enrolled in any other fellowship, residency, or academic program simultaneously.
- Candidates who already have enough work experience in Oral oncology as a faculty/staff member shall be ineligible.

II. Professional Misconduct

- Applicants who have faced disciplinary action, suspension, or license cancellation by a medical council or any competent regulatory authority.

III. Financial or Ethical Conflict

- Candidates with ongoing legal or ethical investigations related to patient misdiagnosis, or clinical fraud.
- Any applicant with declared or undeclared financial interest in may pose a bias in training or evaluation.

IV. Academic Dishonesty

- Prior record of plagiarism, data falsification, or unethical research conduct disqualifies participation

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