DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY

DISTRIBUTION OF SYLLABUS FOR THEORY PAPERS

Paper I : Basic sciences as applied to the subject (general pathology,

pathophysiology, immunopathology, and molecular biology).

Paper II: (Systemic pathology – surgical and cytopathology).

Paper III : (Hematology, transfusion medicine and laboratory medicine

including instrumentation and quality control).

Paper IV: Recent advances in the subject.

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DEPARTMENT OF PATHOLOGY

SYLLABUS FOR MD PATHOLOGY

A) General Pathology:

Normal cell and tissue structure and function:

- The changes in cellular structure and function in diseases.
- Causes of disease, its pathogenesis, reaction of cells, tissues, organ systems, and the body to various sub lethal and lethal injuries.
- Cellular adaptation, cell injury, and cell death.
- Mechanism, morphology and examples of cell injury, necrosis, apoptosis, autophagy, and newer forms of cell death including necroptosis and pyroptosis.
- Sub cellular and cellular responses and adaptation to injury.
- Intracellular and intercellular accumulations, pathological calcification, and cell aging.

Acute and chronic inflammation:

- Vascular and cellular events in acute inflammation, chemical mediators, outcome, and morphological patterns of acute inflammation.
- Chronic inflammation with special reference to granulomatous inflammation.
- Systemic effects and effects of deranged inflammation.
- Tissue renewal and repair: Regeneration healing and fibrosis.
- Control of normal cell proliferation and tissue growth, mechanism of tissue regeneration, repair by healing and fibrosis.
- Extracellular matrix and cell matrix interactions.

Hemodynamic disorders, thromboembolic disease, and shock:

- Edema, hyperemia, congestion, and hemorrhage.
- Normal Hemostasis, thrombosis, DIC, embolism, infarction, and shock.

Genetic Disorders

- Principles of genetics, normal karyotyping.
- Mutations, Mendelian disorders, disorders with multifactorial inheritance cytogenetic disorders involving autosomes and sex chromosomes.
- Single gene disorders with nonclassic inheritance.
- Diagnosis of genetic disorders involving molecular and genetic techniques.

Neoplasia

- Definition, nomenclature, and biology of tumor growth
- Molecular basis of cancer with special reference to carcinogenic agents and molecular basis of multistep carcinogenesis.
- Epidemiology and clinical features of tumors.
- Grading, staging and laboratory diagnosis of cancer.

Infectious Diseases

 Pathology and general principles of microbial pathogenesis, special techniques for diagnosing bacterial, fungal, parasitic, and viral infections.

Environmental and nutritional pathology

- Common environmental and occupational exposures leading on to diseases.
- Nutritional deficiencies and obesity related disorders.

Disease of Infancy and Childhood

• Congenital anomalies, birth injuries, diseases of neonates, inborn errors of metabolism, tumor, and tumor like lesions of infancy and childhood.

Immunopathology

- Innate immunity- Role of phagocytic cells, complement, mast cells & humoral mechanisms.
- Specific Acquired Immunity- Details about antibody production & action, Brief principles about memory, Ag specificity & vaccination.
- Cell involved in Immune response- T- Lymphocytes, B-lymphocytes, macrophages, dendritic cells, and natural-killer cells.
- Cytokines with details about their properties and functions.
- Structure and function of histocompatibility molecules and disease association.
- Disorders of the immune system.
- All hypersensitivity reactions.
- Autoimmune disorders with special reference to SLE, Rheumatoid arthritis, Sjogren's syndrome, systemic sclerosis, polyarteritis nodosa and other vasculitides, Mixed connective tissue disorders and inflammatory disorders.
- Immunodeficiency syndrome Acquired with emphasis on AIDS.
- Amyloidosis including pathogenesis, special stains & clinical correlation.
- Transplant rejection in detail.
- Graft vs Host Disease.

B) Systemic Pathology:

The study of normal structure and function of various organ systems and the etiopathogenesis, gross and microscopic alterations of structure of these organ systems in disease and functional correlation with clinical features.

Blood vessels, lymphatic and veins

- Normal morphology, congenital anomalies, atherosclerosis, hypertensive vascular disease.
- Inflammatory and neoplastic diseases of all the vessels.

Heart

- Normal morphology, its blood supply and effect of aging on heart.
- Ischemic, Hypertensive, valvular, congenital heart diseases.
- Cardiomyopathies
- Myocardial disorders
- Pericardial diseases.
- Tumors of the heart.

Lungs and Mediastinum

- Congenital anomalies
- Obstructive and restrictive pulmonary diseases
- Diseases of vascular origin
- Infections of Lung
- Infections of Mediastinum
- Tumors of lung
- Lung transplantation
- Diseases of pleura
- Thymus Developmental, autoimmune, and inflammatory disorder and tumors.

Head and Neck

- Oral cavity: inflammatory disease, Preneoplastic lesions and tumors.
- Diseases of teeth and supporting structures.
- Upper airways and ear congenital anomalies, infections, and tumors.
- Salivary glands Infections autoimmune disorders and tumors.

Gastrointestinal Tract

- Congenital anomalies, infections, inflammatory and vascular disorders and tumors of esophagus, stomach, small and large intestines, appendix, and anal canal.
- Diseases of the peritoneum, Omentum and Mesentery Retroperitoneum.
- Inflammatory and neoplastic lesions.

Liver

- Normal morphology with general features of hepatic disease including LFTs.
- Infectious, autoimmune drug induced metabolic and circulatory disorders of liver.
- Hepatic diseases associated with pregnancy, neonates, organ and bone marrow transplantation.
- Liver transplantation pathology.
- Cysts, Nodules, and tumors of liver.

Biliary tract

- Congenital anomalies, injuries, Infection, inflammation, of Gallstones and tumors of gall bladder and extra hepatic bile ducts. Pancreas.
- Congenital anomalies, pancreatitis, and neoplasms of pancreas.

Kidney

- Clinical manifestations of renal diseases
- Congenital anomalies
- Diseases affecting glomeruli, tubules, interstitium and blood vessels.
- Cystic diseases of kidney
- Nephrolithiasis
- Tumors of kidney
- Kidney Transplant pathology

Lower urinary tract and male genital system

- Congenital anomalies, inflammation and tumors of bladder, ureter, urethra, penis, testis, epididymis, and Scrotum.
- Inflammation, enlargement, and tumors of prostate.

Female genital tract

- Physiology, cytology and histology of female genital tract, menstrual disorders, and hormonal abnormalities.
- Congenital anomalies, inflammation, preneoplastic and neoplastic lesions of vulva, vagina, cervix, uterus, fallopian tubes, ovaries and mesonephron.
- Gestational and placental disorders.

Breast

- Inflammations, benign epithelial lesions, and tumors of the breast.
- Diseases of male breast.

Endocrine System

- Normal hormonal levels and functions of all the endocrine glands.
- Hypo and hyperactivity of glands of endocrine system i.e., pituitary, thyroid, parathyroid, pancreas, adrenals, and pineal gland.
- Autoimmune diseases, inflammations and tumors affecting these glands,
- Neuroendocrine tumors.

Skin and Subcutaneous tissue

- Disorders of pigmentation and melanocytes,
- Inflammatory, vesiculobullous, and infectious disease,
- Proliferative lesions and Tumors of the epidermis, dermis, and skin appendage.

Musculoskeletal system

- Bone Modelling, growth, and development, genetic and acquired abnormalities in bone cells, matrix and structure, factures, necrosis and infections of bones, tumors and tumorlike lesions.
- Joints: Arthritis, tumor, and tumor-like lesions.
- Soft tissue: Tumors and tumor=like lesions.

Peripheral nerves and skeletal muscles

- General reactions of motor units.
- Inflammatory, infectious, hereditary, metabolic, and traumatic neuropathies.
- Atrophy, dystrophy, myopathies of the skeletal muscles.
- Diseases of neuromuscular junction.
- Tumors of peripheral nerves and skeletal muscles.

Skull and Central Nervous System

- Degenerative, metabolic, toxic, demyelinating, infectious, cerebrovascular malformations, and traumatic injuries.
- Tumors.

Eve and Orbit

• Infections, inflammatory, congenital diseases and neoplasms of orbit, eyelid, conjunctiva sclera, uvea, cornea, retina, and optic nerves.

C) Hematology and Transfusion medicine

The study of Hematology includes all aspects of the diseases of the blood and bone marrow.

This would involve the study of the normal, and the causes of diseases and the changes thereof.

Biology of stem cell and Hematopoiesis

- Overview of stem cell biology and cellular biology of hematopoiesis.
- Transcription factors and humoral regulation in normal and malignant hematopoiesis.
- Interaction between hematopoietic stem cells, progenitor cell and stromal compartment of bone marrow.
- Stem cell homing & mobilization.

Erythroid maturation, differentiation, and abnormality

- Pathobiology of human erythrocyte & Hemoglobin Anemia.
- Approach to anemia in adults and children in: Clinical correlation & diagnostic modalities.
- Classification of anemias (Morphological, pathophysiological, and based on erythropoiesis i.e., proliferative vs non-proliferative).
- Iron deficiency anemia including iron metabolism and differential diagnosis from other microcytic hypochromic anemias.
- Disorder of iron metabolism including iron overload.
- Anemia of chronic disorders with special reference to infections, collagen vascular disorders, inflammation etc.
- Megaloblastic anemia and other causes of megaloblastosis.
- Definition, approach, and classification of hemolytic anemia.
- Lab diagnosis of Hemoglobin disorders and hereditary anemia like Thalassemia and related hemoglobinopathies, sickle cell anemia.
- Hemoglobin associated with altered Oxygen affinity.
- Red blood cell enzymopathy, membrane disorder, autoimmune hemolytic anemia, nonimmune hemolytic anemia, paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria.
- Approach to Pancytopenia/ Cytopenia.
- Bone marrow failure syndrome.
- Porphyria.

WBC disorders, complement and immunoglobin biology

- Normal granulopoiesis.
- Acquired and congenital disorders of phagocytosis (neutrophil, monocyte, eosinophil, and macrophages.
- Disorder of leukocyte number, function, and morphology.

Storage disorder

Hematological responses to Infections

- Viral disorders Infectious mononucleosis, Hepatitis, and dengue.
- Parasitic infections Malaria, Kala azar.

Hematological malignancies

- Conventional & molecular cytogenetic and immunohistochemical basis of hematological malignancies.
- Classification (WHO, ICC).
- Their basis and diagnostic approach to various hematological malignancies.
- Pathophysiology, prognostic factors, cytochemistry, cytogenetics of various leukemias.
- Pathophysiology and classification of MDS, MPN/MDS, myeloproliferative disorders.
- Pathophysiology of Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, Clinical staging of Hodgkin's lymphoma.
- Role of molecular cytogenetics and immunohistochemistry in Hodgkin's and Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and lymphoproliferative disorders.
- AIDS related and Transplant related lymphomas.
- Plasma cell dyscrasias and gammopathies.
- Mastocytosis.
- Role of chemotherapy and antineoplastic agents based on molecular mechanism of hematological malignancies, clinical use of hematopoietic growth factors.

Hematopoietic stem cell transplantation

- Role and indications of HST, immunodeficiency state, hematological Malignancies and Non-hematological disorders.
- Practical aspect of umbilical cord stem cells transplantation.
- Peripheral stem cell collection.
- Role of stem cell in tissue repair.
- Complications of Hematopoietic stem cell transplant.
- Gene therapy and genetic engineering.

Prenatal diagnosis of genetic hematological

diseases Hemostasis & Thrombosis

- Megakaryocyte and platelet structure.
- Molecular basis of platelet function, activation.
- Role of blood vessel, coagulation system and fibrinolytic system in hemostasis.
- Clinical and lab evaluation of bleeding and coagulation disorders.
- Clinical & diagnostic aspects of factor deficiencies including hemophilia, von Willebrand disease, DIC, Vitamin K deficiency.
- Thrombotic and non-thrombotic purpura.
- Hereditary and acquired platelet disorders and its management.
- Thrombophilia (Inherited & acquired).

• Lab evaluation and management of hypercoagulable states.

Human blood group antigen and antibody and Immuno-hematology

- Selection of donor and screening..
- Principle, indication and storage of red blood cells, WBC, platelet, and plasma transfusion.
- Various methods of component separation and plasma derivatives with special reference to Fresh frozen plasma, cryo-precipitates, platelet concentrate, single donor plasma, albumin, and Immunoglobulin.
- Graft Rejection, GVH diseases, Transfusion Reactions, Blood grouping & cross matching.
- Blood bank audit.
- Apheresis

Hematological manifestations of systemic diseases

 Liver disorders, renal disorders, infections, cancers, parasitic diseases, AIDS, pregnancy, and surgical patients.

Spleen and its disorders

D) Laboratory Medicine (Clinical Pathology including Parasitology)

- Principles of testing, indications, values with ranges in normal and diseased states in relation to:
 - Liver function tests
 - Renal function tests
 - Endocrine function tests
 - o Body fluid analysis including stool, urine, semen, CSF, etc.
- Principles of laboratory automation, trouble shooting, and quality assurance.

D) Special techniques

The student is expected to acquire a general acquaintance of techniques and principles and to interpret data in the following fields:

- Immunopathology,
- Electron microscopy,
- Histochemistry,
- Immunohistochemistry,
- Cytogenetics and in-situ hybridization,
- Molecular Biology,
- Digital Pathology and image analysis,

- Maintenance of records,
- Information retrieval, use of Computer and Internet in medicine.

E) Instrumentation and automation

- Principles, indications, working, maintenance, and troubleshooting of equipment used in various laboratories:
 - Histopathology laboratory Histopathology tissue processor, microtome, water batch, embedding station, Stainer, IHC Stainer, ultramicrotome, etc.
 - o Microscopes Immunofluorescence, FISH, Confocal, Electron, etc.
 - Cytopathology Laboratory Centrifuge, Cytocentrifuge, Cytospin apparatus, liquid-based cytology, etc.
 - Hematology Laboratory automated cell counter, flow cytometer, coagulometer,
 HPLC, Electrophoresis apparatus, immunoblot, etc.
 - Clinical Pathology –Photoelectric colorimeter, Spectrophotometer, pH meter,
 Centrifuge, Electrophoresis apparatus, ELISA Reader, chemiluminescence, etc.
 - o Digital pathology Whole slide scanners
 - o Molecular pathology PCR, Sanger sequencer, NGS sequencers, etc.
- Automation in Pathology.
- Good lab practices and safety, record maintenance of capital equipment and consumables, purchase specifications, approximate costs of reagents and equipment, maintenance of store logbooks, etc.

F) Quality assurance program

- Internal and external quality assurance methods.
- Intra assay variations, batch variations, validation of chemicals and instruments.

G) Establishment Act and Rules and regulations formed by Govt. or regulatory bodies

H) Biomedical Waste management

- Disposal methods for each specimen, reagents, instruments, autoclaving techniques, recycling of products and e-waste.
- I) Biostatistics, Research Methodology and Clinical Epidemiology
- J) Ethics and Medico legal aspects relevant to Pathology
- K) Current topics and recent advances in pathology

B. PSYCHOMOTOR DOMAIN

Demonstrate following predominant Psychomotor domain competencies		
Sr. No.	Competency	Perform under
		supervision/ perform
		independently/
		Observation only
I.	HISTOPATHOLOGY (SURGICAL PATHOLOGY)	
1.	Given the clinical and operative data, identify and systematically and	Independently
	accurately describe the chief gross anatomic alterations in the	
	surgically removed specimens and be able to correctly diagnose	
	common lesions received on an average day from the surgical service	
	of an average teaching hospital	
2.	Perform a systematic gross examination of the tissues including the	Independently
	taking of appropriate tissue sections and in special cases as in intestinal	
	mucosal biopsies, muscle biopsies and nerve biopsies, demonstrate the	
	orientation of tissues in paraffin blocks.	
3.	Identify and systematically and accurately describe the chief histo-	Independently
	morphological alterations in the tissue received in the surgical	
	pathology service. He/she should also correctly interpret and correlate	
	with the clinical data to diagnose routine surgical material received on	
	an average day.	
4.	Identify common problems in histopathology processing techniques	Independently
	(poor fixation, delayed fixation, poor staining, etc.,) including	
	automated tissue processing machine troubleshooting and rectify	
	common problems	
5.	Operate and maintain common equipment in the histopathology	Perform under
	laboratory such as microtome, water bath, cryostat, tissue processor,	supervision
	auto Stainer, etc.	
6.	Process a tissue, make a paraffin block and cut sections of good quality	Perform under
	on a rotary microtome	supervision
7.	Stain paraffin sections with hematoxylin and eosin stain and common	Independently
	special stains needed for diagnosis	
8.	Cut a frozen section, stain and interpret the slide in correlation with the	Independently
	clinical data provided	

9.	Standardize and validate new antibodies for immunohistochemistry	Independently
	with understanding of controls, clones, and dilutions	
10.	Perform immunohistochemistry on paraffin sections using manual	Independently
	method	
11.	Identify common problems in immunohistochemistry procedure	Independently
	(artifacts, inadequate retrieval, section floating, IHC failure, etc.,) and	
	rectify such problems	
12.	Decide on the appropriate immunohistochemical panels for diagnosis,	Independently
	prognosis and predictive purposes in common disease conditions based	
	on standard recommendations and interpret their results	
13.	Write histopathology reports, including synoptic reports, wherever	Independently
	needed, following protocols and international standards. The reports	
	should be succinct and lucid, with clinical notes and advice, as	
	necessary.	
II	CYTOPATHOLOGY	
1.	Perform fine needle aspiration of superficial lumps and make good	Independently
	quality smears including collection of material for cell block	
	preparation and decide on the type of fixative and stain in a given case	
2.	Prepare and stain good quality smears for cytopathological	Independently
	examination	
3.	Provide appropriate guidance to colleagues performing procedure such	Independently
	as a biopsy or an imaging guided biopsy including on-site microscopic	
	assessment of specimen adequacy.	
4.	Decide on the technique of collection, preservation, transport and	Independently
	concentration of various exfoliative cytology specimens (such as	
	filters, centrifuge, liquid-based cytology, cytospin, etc.)	
5.	Perform on-site adequacy assessment in image guided sampling	Independently
	procedures and decide on sample triage for routine diagnosis (type of	
	preparation, stain, etc.) and ancillary tests including microbiological	
	and molecular tests	
6.	Diagnose common cases received in a routine cytopathology	Independently
	laboratory and categorize them into negative, inconclusive and	
	positive, using the correct technique of screening and dotting the slides	

	for suspicious cells, correctly identify the type of tumor, if present, and	
	the presence of organisms, fungi and parasites, if present	
7.	Perform preparations (cytospin smears, liquid-based cytology, cell	Observation only
	blocks, etc.) of common cytological samples using equipment such as	
	centrifuge, cytocentrifuge and liquid based cytology apparatus	
III	HEMATOLOGY	
1.	Perform venipuncture for peripheral blood collection and decide on	Independently
	appropriate collection tubes, storage, and anticoagulant based on	
	indication	
2.	Prepare good quality peripheral blood smears, stain and report	Independently
	peripheral blood counts and other findings including reticulocyte and	
	platelet counts on cell counter and manually	
3.	Perform bone marrow aspirates and biopsy, prepare good quality	Perform under
	smears and imprints	supervision
4.	Perform bone marrow aspirate staining including stain for iron	Independently
5.	Perform cytochemical characterization of leukemia with special stains	Perform under
	on bone marrow aspirates	supervision
6.	Perform and interpret coagulation profile including PT, APTT and	Independently
	FDP	
7.	Perform and interpret sickling test and osmotic fragility test	Independently
8.	Describe accurately the morphologic findings in the peripheral and	Independently
	bone marrow smears, identifying and quantitating the morphologic	
	abnormalities in disease states and arriving at a correct diagnosis in at	
	least common cases referred to the Hematology clinic, given the	
	relevant clinical data	
9.	Given the clinical data, interpret the results of	Independently
	i. Red cell indices	
	ii. Plasma hemoglobin	
	iii. Hemosiderin in urine	
	iv. Hemolytic anemia profile including HPLC, Hb electrophoresis	
	etc.	
	v. Hemoglobin and serum protein electrophoresis	
	vi. Clotting time and other point of care tests for bleeding	

	vii.	G6PD enzyme estimation	
	viii.	Platelet function tests including platelet aggregation and	
		adhesion and PF3 release	
	ix.	Russell's viper venom time (RVVT)	
	х.	Coagulation Factor assays	
	xi.	Serum Fibrinogen	
	xii.	Screening for coagulation factor inhibitor, Bethesda Assay,	
	xiii.	Fibrin Degradation Products (FDP), D-Dimers	
	xiv.	Monitoring of anti-coagulant therapy	
	XV.	Thrombophilia profile (Lupus anticoagulant (LAC),	
		Anticardiolipin Antibody (ACA), Activated Protein C	
		Resistance (APCR), Protein C (Pr C), Protein S (Pr S) and	
		Antithrombin III (AT III))	
	xvi.	Serum ferritin, Serum iron and total iron binding capacity	
10.	Interp	ret flow cytometry findings in the immunophenotyping of	Independently
	leuken	nia, CD34 enumeration, CD 3/CD 19 enumeration, PNH work	
	up, etc	.	
11.	Interp	ret results of cytogenetics and molecular diagnostics in the work	Independently
	up of l	nematological diseases	
12.	Prepar	re samples as appropriate for the indication, and operate	Observation only
	equipn	ment such as automated cell counter, flow cytometry,	
	coagu	lometers, HPLC and electrophoresis apparatus	
IV	LABC	RATORY MEDICINE	
1.	Plan a	strategy of laboratory investigation of a given case, given the	Independently
	releva	nt clinical history and physical findings in a logical sequence,	
	with a	rational explanation of each step; be able to correctly interpret	
	the lab	poratory data of such studies, and discuss their significance with	
	a view	to arrive at a diagnosis.	
2.	Perfor	m urine analysis including physical, chemical and microscopic,	Independently
	exami	nation of the sediment as well as by Dipstick methods.	
3.	Perfor	m macroscopic and microscopic examination of feces and	Independently
	identif	by the ova and cysts of common parasites.	

under	
Independently	
y	
(see	

	improvised autopsies may be discussed by each candidate during the	
	entire duration of the course)	
2.	Provide Provisional and Final Anatomic Diagnosis report, major	Independently
	findings correctly and systematically at autopsy, and the Autopsy	
	Protocol as per prescribed instructions.	
VII	MOLECULAR BIOLOGY	
1.	Interpret results of Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR), real time PCR,	Independently
	Sanger Sequencing in a given clinical context.	
2.	Interpret results of in-situ hybridization (fluorescent and chromogenic)	Independently
	in a given clinical context	
3.	Prepare sample by appropriate methods and perform Polymerase	Observation only
	Chain Reaction (PCR), real time PCR, Sanger Sequencing, and	
	in-situ	
	hybridization including troubleshooting	
VIII	IMMUNOPATHOLOGY	
1.	Interpret direct/ indirect immunofluorescence results in the context of	Independently
	common diseases of the skin, medical renal diseases and autoimmune	
	diseases	
2.	Prepare sample by appropriate methods and perform indirect	Perform under
	immunofluorescence on a frozen section from skin/ renal biopsy	supervision
IX	ELECTRON MICROSCOPY	
1.	Interpret transmission electron microscopy results in common non-	Independently
	neoplastic and neoplastic diseases	
2.	Prepare specimen by appropriate methods and process tissue for	Observation only
	electron microscopy, interpret semi-thin sections and view ultra-thin	
	sections under electron microscope	
X.	DIGITAL PATHOLOGY	
1.	Navigate and annotate whole slide scanned images	Independently
2.	Select and scan slides for digitalization and perform basic image	Observation only
	analysis functions such as length measurements, enumeration, etc.	
XI.	TEACHING	
1.	Demonstrate different methods of teaching-learning and assessments	Independently
2.	Engage and teach undergraduates and paramedical staff in the form of	Independently
	small group teaching and demonstrations	

3.	Engage in peer teaching in the form of presenting seminars and journal	Independently
	clubs and be able to use different modes of teaching including	
	PowerPoint projections and charts	
XII.	RESEARCH	
1.	Write the thesis (and/or a scientific paper) in accordance with the	Independently
	prescribed instructions, as expected of international standards	