Training in Gyane Oncology in Europe

Armenia

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Basic Medical Training System for Ob&Gyn Specialty
The medical education in University is around 6 years. There are Armenian, Russian and English Faculties. Each year, we have a lot of students from different countries (Syria, Lebanon, Iran, India, USA, Russia, Georgia, etc). Armenia signed a Bologna declaration and from 2005 we have simultaneously a classed in the Medical school which study according their rules. First 3 years include basic medical sciences, 4th and 5th years clinical period and last year is (6th) called as clinical course. After medical school, graduates are called as general practitioner (GP). There are around 15 university hospitals where you can start the medical training (residentship) after a final University examination (MCQ and Oral) pass. Depending on his/her score of all exams, he/she can start training in Ob&Gyn speciality in a university or governmental hospital. Ob&Gyn training in Armenia is around 4 years. The fellowship in gynaecological oncology, endocrine gynaecology reproductology, surgical gynaecology will be following. First year trainees, work in obstetrics and gynaecology wards and he/she is responsible for the preoperative patients preparations and postoperative follow up of the patients and also, normal uncomplicated deliveries. Second year trainees assist in gynaecologic operations as a second assistant and manage all the uncomplicated deliveries by him/herself and complicated deliveries under the supervision of the specialist. Third year trainees assist the chief resident in gynaecologic operations, gyn.oncologic operations and caesarean sections and perform emergency C-section. Third year trainees are also responsible fro the gynaecologic and obstetric emergencies which admitted to the ER. Forth year trainees are called as chief resident; they can perform all the gynaecologic and obstetric operations, uncomplicated diagnostic, operative laparoscopic and hysteroscopy operations by him/herself.

Training in Gynaecological Oncology

Until now official gyn.oncology fellowship has not been exist in Armenia. From the year 2010 onwards, the fellowship for gynaecological oncology will be following. We have Armenian Oncology Society which was established in 1983 and there are nearly 150 active members of the society (surgeon, gynaecologists, medical oncologists, urologist, etc). If an Ob&Gyn specialist wants to have a career as a gyn. oncologist, generally these trainees try to enter as a young doctor " fellow" near these seniors known as gynaecologist-oncologists. However, to find an open position within this university is extremely difficult. After residentship, future training is available (PhD, postdoctoral, ect). Any doctor who will start his/her research program needs to attend classes in Lab. safety, Biostatistics, Language, Computers, etc.

Surgical Experience
Almost all residents have adequate number of surgical experience in their training. Also, short exchanges between institutions and hospitals add to the present experience of trainees. Laparatomies and vaginal operations are performed in almost all gynaecological and gyn-oncological centres. However, laparoscopic experiences are limited to some centres. Robotic surgeries are very new in our country and not developed.

Research
Almost all residents, during the residentship, can write 3-4 manuscripts during their training. The number of gyn -oncological publications is not very high in Armenia, but young doctors try to work hard and involved fully in different gyne- oncological research processes. However, the number of translational molecular researches and animal studies is not sufficient enough.

Congressses
During last 2 years, we have several local and international meetings and congresses in Armenia. There are around 15 local small meetings annually in gynaecology and in gynaecological oncology. A national congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology is performed biannually. In September 2009 ESGO workshops will take place in Yerevan, Armenia. The residents and young doctors are usually attending to almost all of these congresses. Attendance rates to international congresses are also considerably high.

Problems
We need to improve the system of gyn. oncologist training, and an officially accepted fellowship program and sub specialization in gynaecological oncology for young doctors in Armenia. We need to improve the theoretical and practical knowledge of general gynaecologists in gynaecological oncology. More doctors should involve in local and international Gynaecological Oncology Society. We need more experience on laparoscopy and robotics surgery. Also we need to improve and update our protocols for radiation and chemotherapy. The laboratory studies are not sufficient. We have good job opportunities but most young doctors want to be located centrally in big cities. CME accreditation system is still in a process of development, but we have been already a member of UEMS an institution which are giving credits in Europe. For improving the theoretical, practical knowledge, training system, updated protocols and guidelines, we need collaboration and continuous connection with doctors and colleagues from different countries.