



Gynecologic Oncology: Cancer Surgery in the Female Reproductive System



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Rachel Redfield, rachelr0002@yahoo.com

Psychology, Pre-Medicine

Earth, Life, and Time

SERVICE SITE:

Baylor Medical Center of Dallas
3409 Worth St.
Dallas, TX 75246

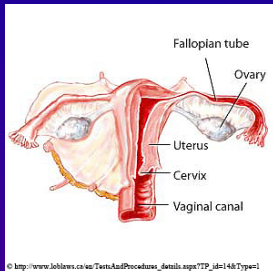
Under the direct supervision of Claude Allen Stringer, M.D;
Chief of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Building: Charles A. Sammons Cancer Center at Dallas

MISSION:

Dr. Stringer and his partners' mission is to ensure that their female patients are receiving necessary care. Their team is also a strong support group before patients treat cancer and after the patients have gone through the necessary procedures.

The purpose of my practicum is to experience the activities that occur in a Gynecologic Oncology clinic by observing daily routines, clinical appointments, physical examinations, surgeries, and follow-ups as well as physician-patient interaction.



IMPACT:

This project was very influential and informative for me as a student with little experience in the medical field. I was able to witness physician-patient interaction, which is one of the main reasons why I want to become a doctor. I have become more comfortable interacting with patients and have a greater appreciation for the stress dealt by both patients and doctors.

I learned a lot about the anatomy of the female reproductive system. The physicians I worked with were constantly quizzing me about the body parts that I was seeing first hand during surgery.

I have gained insight to my future as a doctor. My interest in women's health has increased since this experience. I also learned that I am able to handle gruesome surgeries. Being a mature person is very important in dealing with what most would feel are awkward situations with patients. *Many patients told me that I make them feel more comfortable, which is a great compliment.*

I am so thankful that I was able to see surgeries in this area of medicine because as a woman, I can relate in many ways.



Vulvar Cancer



Ovarian Tumor

ACTIVITIES:

*I watched over 20 surgeries and witnessed many more clinical appointments with Dr. Stringer and his colleagues.

*These surgeries included:

- Total Abdominal hysterectomy (TAH)
 - o Meaning the uterus and cervix are removed.
- Bilateral Salpingo-Oophorectomy (BSO)
 - o Meaning ovary and fallopian tubes are removed.
- Vulvectomy
 - o Meaning vulva is partially or completely removed
- Laparoscopic Surgeries
 - o Meaning minimal incisions
- Staging

*The cancer I saw included:

- Ovarian cancer
- Endometrial cancer
- Uterine cancer
- Cervical cancer
- Vulvar dysplasia

* I witnessed clinical check-ups on women before and after surgery.

* I viewed vaginal fluids under a microscope to determine certain cancer stages.

* I attended tumor board lectures with physicians and residents.

* I also attended guest speaker events including a research report on the psychology behind post partum depression.

FUTURE WORK:

My observational internship at Baylor Medical center has inspired me to take up more internships to explore other areas of the medical field. I am very interested in oncology so I would love another internship in this field.

This summer I am planning on becoming an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). This opportunity will give me experience in the emergency aspect of medicine.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

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