Wednesday, June 19, 2019

To all current Breast Surgical Oncology Fellowship Program Directors

Dear Breast Surgical Oncology Fellowship Program Directors,

On behalf of the Training Committee, we would like to alert you of the changes to the Breast Fellowship Program Requirements and Curriculum, effective August 1, 2019.

In Summer of 2018, a task force from the Training Committee was convened to evaluate the current Breast Fellowship Program Requirements and Curriculum that was approved in September 15, 2014 and went into effect on July 1, 2015. The current task force members were Steve Chen, MD, Kandice Ludwig, MD, Laura Rosenberger, MD, Preeti Subhedar, MD, and Eric Manahan, MD, MBA, FACS. Dr. Manahan served as the ASBrS liaison to the Training Committee.

Aggregate logged cases across all approved Breast Fellowship programs were reviewed from academic years 2015-2016, 2016-2017, and 2017-2018. Furthermore, axillary lymph node dissections (ALND) were analyzed in greater depth to identify the mean and median per program.

The task force brought their recommendations forth to the Training Committee and the following recommendations were made and approved by the SSO’s Training Committee, Breast Program Directors subcommittee, Executive Council:

- Maintain the requirements for hands on/observed ultrasound experiences and for percutaneous procedures
- Increase minimum requirement for “Level 1, 2 completion axillary node dissection” from five (5) cases per year to ten (10) cases per year.
- Add genetics consultations as a required category with a minimum of 3 observed consultations per year.
- Add “Oncoplastic closure; mobilization of glandular tissue flaps (beyond a simple layered cavity closure)” procedure into the Breast Op Log for tracking purposes.
- Add categories of coding and billing and issues surrounding breast feeding to the curriculum topic list.

Additionally, while no changes in the current requirements were made to the mastectomy category, the Training Committee will begin tracking mastectomy as three separate categories: traditional, skin sparing, and nipple sparing. The Training Committee will review the mean and median in each category annually and re-evaluate if changes should be made to the mastectomy minimum requirements to make them more specific. The current requirements are that a...
fellow must complete a minimum of forty (40) mastectomies within any of the three types of procedures (traditional, skin sparing, and nipple sparing).

If you or your program has any questions regarding these changes, please feel free to contact the Training Committee chair or vice-chair, Sarah McLaughlin, MD and John Mullen, MD and/or SSO staff at fellowship@surgonc.org.

Sincerely,

Sarah A. McLaughlin, MD
Chair, SSO Training Committee

John T. Mullen, MD
Vice-Chair