What training Does a General Surgeon Have?

Like All Surgical Specialties, General Surgeons undertake a minimum of 5 to 6 years of post-graduate residency training. About half go on to complete additional fellowship training in areas of subspecialty within General Surgery (eg. Trauma, Transplantation, Colorectal, Minimally Invasive Surgery).

Where do General Surgeons Work?

General Surgeons supply acute care surgical coverage to all tertiary care facilities in the province. General Surgeons work in smaller communities, cities and regional referral centres. General Surgery is a core component of training in medical schools and in the training of other surgical disciplines. General Surgeons are an integral part of each of our province’s medical schools.

Future Challenges

General Surgery a specialty with a rapidly aging demographic. Nationally, we face an impending workforce crisis as our older members retire.

We face challenges in recruitment to our specialty as the nature of our work requires a significant proportion of after hours and weekend work.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact us:

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What does “General” Surgery mean?

General Surgery is the parent of all surgical disciplines, however, it does not act as a pre-requisite for those disciplines, but is a specialty unto itself. The majority of surgical procedures performed by our specialty are performed by General Surgeons, exclusively, and are not part of the training provided to other surgical specialties. The specialty remains broad based, covering multiple organ systems. “General surgical practice includes, but is not limited to: gastrointestinal surgery, surgery of the colon, rectum and anus, surgery of the liver, pancreas and biliary tree, endocrine surgery, repair of hernias of all sizes and locations, transplantation, trauma and critical care, diseases of the breast, cancer surgery, endoscopy, laparoscopic and minimally invasive surgery, head and neck, vascular, chest, genitourinary surgery and surgery of the skin and its appendages.” (Canadian Association of General Surgeons, Board of Directors)

Why might I need a General Surgeon?

Emergency Surgery

From procedures as commonplace as removal of the appendix or gallbladder, to treatment of complex abdominal infections requiring surgical intervention, General Surgeons perform the greatest number of emergency surgical procedures of any specialty.

Cancer Surgery

General surgeons are the providers of surgical care in some of the most common types of cancer including breast and colorectal. We also provide specialized care in some of the most complex cancers to treat, including liver, pancreas, stomach and soft tissue malignancies.

Trauma Care

General Surgeons are the lead surgical specialty in the care of multi-system trauma, including motor vehicle collisions, industrial accidents, gunshot and stab wounds.

On The Cutting Edge

Transplantation

Members of Our Specialty are involved in one of Canada’s premiere transplantation programs, including the world renowned work being done in the field of islet cells.

Minimally Invasive Surgery

Our specialty is at the forefront of providing care to patients, in a less invasive manner, using advanced techniques in laparoscopic surgery to perform surgeries through tiny incisions, that once required large incisions and long hospital stays.

Cancer Surgery

Through multidisciplinary collaboration and ongoing research, our members are working to improve outcomes in cancer surgery, particularly in the fields of breast, colorectal and hepatobiliary-pancreatic.