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Medical Advancement and Innovative Technology

10:45 Room 428

Endoscopic Ultrasonography – Advanced Pancreatico-biliary Fellowship in the United Kingdom

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Endoscopic ultrasonography (EUS) is an established tool for the evaluation of gastrointestinal tract wall, pancreatico-biliary, mediastinal and para-aortic pathologies. It is also used in guiding tissue acquisition via fine needle biopsy or aspiration. Interventional EUS is used for transluminal drainage of pseudocyst or abdominal fluid collection, providing access to bile ducts or pancreatic duct and celiac plexus block and neurolysis in cancer patients. The demand for safe and high-quality EUS for patient-centred care is growing substantially. Thus, the clinical application of EUS has expanded significantly over the past decade. Furthermore, as more therapeutic procedures are done by EUS, a formal and structured training in high volume centre is essential.

Under the Medical Training Initiative (MTI) scheme offered by the Royal College of Physicians (RCP), the author underwent a six-months advanced pancreatico-biliary fellowship in the Freeman Hospital, Newcastle Upon Tyne, United Kingdom. This is the only tertiary referral centre for all diagnostic and therapeutic EUS in North East England – the unit performs in excess of 1,200 EUS annually and is one of the biggest units in the United Kingdom. The author acquired hands-on EUS training under the guidance and direct supervision of experienced consultants in the centre. EUS was performed for EUS guided tissue acquisition, acute or chronic pancreatitis, management of pancreatic pathology such as pancreatic cancer and pancreatic cystic lesions, as well as biliary lesions such as biliary dilatation or stricture, CBD stones and cholangiocarcinoma. Therapeutic procedures such as transluminal drainage of peripancreatic fluid collections and coeliac plexus block were also done.

In order to maximise training experience and exposure, the author actively participated in clinical audits of EUS and ERCP protocols, took part in research on EUS and ERCP topics, and presented the work in the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Pancreatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland. All these activities have widely extended the author's experience in the field.

With the availability of diagnostic and therapeutic EUS, better service quality can be provided. An alternative and safer way of tissue acquisition rather than surgical or percutaneous means can be achieved.

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