

Anaesthetics

Programme Director - Chetan Patel

There are 18 consultant anaesthetists at the Queen Victoria Hospital with supporting staff in the operating theatres, high dependency unit and in the Burns Centre.

The department has pioneered and developed special expertise in dealing with patients with abnormal airways due to facial deformity, and techniques to lower blood pressure and reduce bleeding during delicate surgery.

Clinical Experience

The work involves exposure to all aspects of anaesthetic management of the specialties mentioned above. In particular, airway management involving fibreoptic intubation and trans-tracheal jet ventilation, brachial plexus blocks for hand surgery, TIVA/TCI, burns management and major reconstructive plastic surgery. The 2 modules covered are plastics / burns and maxillofacial / dental. There is also an opportunity to do a management module which is being developed at present.

Rota

1:8 with prospective cover. Trainees work a shift system which is EWTD compliant, Band 2A.

Teaching

Protected teaching takes place every Monday between 10.00 and 12.00. The 6 month programme includes presentations by consultants and covers all aspects of clinical work carried out at the QVH and also covers some aspects of hospital management. Prior to the teaching at 08.45 there is an hour long session rotating between journal club, M+M, audit and a business meeting each month. Every 2 months there is a joint hospital audit meeting and we host an annual QVH study day for the south coast trainees.

Research Opportunities

There is a popular year 5 anaesthetic research fellow post every year which allows the trainee to become involved in all aspects of research, from developing new research proposals, literature searching, writing protocols, submitting ethics and grant applications, patient recruitment and submitting papers to journals. It also provides the trainee an opportunity to attend appropriate courses in research methodology. Other trainees may also have the opportunity to get involved with ongoing projects.