

# GENERAL SURGERY – DEFINITION

The specialty of General Surgery requires specialized "**Knowledges**" and "**Knowledges and Experiences**" in managing congenital and acquired diseases and injuries in most organ systems, which are treated by surgical methods, including all operative and other interventions.

The specialty covers acute and nonacute diseases and injuries and acute and elective procedures in patients of all ages.

The surgeon must have acquired and must maintain specialized "**Knowledges**" and "**Knowledges and Experiences**" (precisely defined in an additional catalogue) relating to the diagnosis, preoperative, operative and postoperative management in the following areas of primary responsibility:

- Abdominal wall and abdominal organs,
- Alimentary tract,
- Thoracic wall and organs,
- Minimal invasive surgery, especially laparoscopic and thoracoscopic procedures
- Head and neck, including vascular, endocrine, congenital and oncological disorders, particularly tumors of the skin, salivary glands, thyroid, parathyroid and oral cavity.
- Surgical oncology, including coordinated multidisciplinary management of the cancer patient,
- Endocrine system,
- Breast, skin and soft tissue,
- Vascular system, excluding the intracranial vessels, the heart and those vessels intrinsic and immediately adjacent thereto,
- Urogenital tract,
- Comprehensive management of all forms of trauma, including musculo-skeletal traumata. Responsibility for the coordination of all phases of treatment is one of the main components of surgery,
- Care of critically ill patients with underlying conditions including coordinated multidisciplinary management,
- Rigid and flexible endoscopy of alimentary tract, diagnostic and therapeutic,
- Methods for gastrointestinal function diagnosis, especially manometry, pH-metry and anorectal function diagnosis
- Diagnostic and interventional radiology and sonography.

The focus is on diagnosis and treatment. Diagnosis and treatment comprises all non-instrumental and instrumental techniques including flexible endoscopy, radiology, sonography, computer tomography and magnetic resonance imaging.

The General Surgeon must be capable of employing endoscopic techniques both for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes and must have the opportunity to gain knowledge and experience of evolving technological methods.

The General Surgeon must be also capable of interpreting all types of surgery-related radiological examinations.

The General Surgical activity covers the pre-, peri- and postoperative period and follow-up of patients. The specialty also includes individual and general preventive activities, rehabilitation, palliation and management of pain, especially in oncologic patients.

The specialty particularly focuses on managing diseases and injuries of the esophagus, stomach, intestines, rectum and pelvic floor, abdominal wall, biliary tract, liver, spleen and pancreas, thyroid gland, parathyroid gland, adrenal glands, mammary glands, vessels, skin and subcutis.

Also included are the most common problems and interventions listed under the goals for orthopedics, gynecology and obstetrics, urology, plastic surgery, hand surgery, child and adolescent surgery, maxillofacial surgery, neurosurgery, traumatology, vascular, thoracic cardiac and transplant surgery.

The "Knowledges" and "Knowledges and Experiences" required by General Surgery relate closely to other related specialities and general surgeons collaborate with all other surgical specialities and a variety of non-surgical specialties like e.g. anaesthesia, intensive care medicine, emergency medicine, radiology, neurology, paediatrics, internal medicine, geriatrics, rehabilitation medicine, gynecology and obstetrics.

General Surgery involves the necessary knowledge and expertise leading to referral to specialised centers when this is indicated and possible, and where it is not possible because of time or geographical considerations, to possess the multi-specialty experiences and skills to carry out these interventions safely.

Additionally, General Surgeons are expected to have a knowledge of anatomy, physiology and biochemistry which enable them to understand the effects of common surgical disease and injuries upon the normal structure and function of the various systems of the body. They are expected to have a knowledge of cell biology which enable them to understand normal and disordered function of tissues and organs. They should have an understanding of the pathogenesis of the common correctable congenital abnormalities. They are expected to know the actions and toxic effects of drugs commonly used in perioperative and intraoperative care and in the management of critically ill surgical patients. They must also have an understanding of general pathology including the principles of immunology and microbiology in relation to surgical practice.

The surgeon must be trained in the economics of health care, in the assessment of research methods and scientific publications and be given the option of research in a clinical and relevant field of further training in another related specialty.

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