

Overall, my first rotation went very well. At first, I was nervous about meeting Dr. Hurwitz. I wanted to make a good impression on him and his medical staff so that they would trust me with patients. I also wanted to make a good impression so that if I made a mistake, I'd have the chance to try again.

This rotation was unique because we only used paper charts. Every time a patient came we had to find the chart, then bring the patient into the room. First I would confirm the name and date of birth, then ask the patient why they are here. Dr. Hurwitz preferred the case be presented to him verbally rather than an extensively written HPI. I found myself focusing on how I was going to present the patient rather than developing a list of differentials, treatment and plan. For example, as I'm walking back to Dr. Hurwitz's office, I'm trying to remember the facts "3 year old, cough x 3 days, no fever" while including relevant exam findings. This is something I'm looking forward to improving in my upcoming emergency medicine rotation.

A memorable patient for me was a 14 day old girl brought in by her mother and father for a weight check. This same patient was brought in a week earlier and was diagnosed with physiological jaundice. The parents were concerned if the baby was gaining weight. When I weighed the baby, I let them know she had gained weight and the parents were very relieved. I didn't use much clinical skill in that situation, but I learned how to communicate with the parents to make them feel somewhat comfortable in a difficult situation. I was able to use this same empathy with other patients and their parents. This made them more open to me when I was getting my HPI. This is something I can use in other rotations and when I am in the field.

I've learned that it is important to do a head to toe physical, especially on a neonate. There was an instance where the patient was brought in for a fever, but after removing the patient's diaper, there was about a 4mm linear erythematous rash that not even the mother had noticed.

My biggest weakness during this rotation was my medical knowledge. I knew that I would feel like this so I was doing ROSH questions throughout the 5 weeks. While I learned a lot, sometimes Dr. Hurwitz or PA Chaya would ask me a question that I didn't know the answer to. To improve on this I will keep doing 20 ROSH or Kaplan questions daily.

I look forward to my next rotation and to see what I will learn next.