
Sexual Medicine and Andrology Unit – Clinical and Academic Activities

Hospital das Clínicas – University of São Paulo (HC-FMUSP)

The Sexual Medicine and Andrology Unit at HC-FMUSP offers a structured and clinically grounded observership experience, focused on real-world practice in male sexual health and infertility within a high-volume tertiary academic center.

Over a three-week period, visiting physicians are exposed to integrated clinical care, surgical decision-making, and academic discussions, with emphasis on case-based learning.

1. Weekly Academic and Clinical Case Conference

A central component of the program is the **weekly unit meeting**, integrating academic and clinical activities:

- **Journal Club**
Critical appraisal of a recent article from a peer-reviewed indexed journal, presented by fellows or residents and discussed with attending physicians.
- **Surgical Case Review**
 - Review of cases operated in the previous week
 - Preoperative discussion of upcoming surgical cases
 - Joint participation of sexual medicine and male infertility teams

These sessions emphasize:

- Evidence-based decision-making
- Critical interpretation of literature
- Refinement of surgical indications and strategies

2. Sexual Medicine Outpatient Clinic

Following the weekly meeting, visitors participate in a high-volume outpatient clinic, conducted in a multi-room setting.

Clinical exposure includes:

- Preoperative and postoperative evaluation
- Longitudinal follow-up under medical management
- Discussion of complex cases with fellows and residents, including severe erectile dysfunction, complex Peyronie's disease, testosterone replacement therapy, penile fibrosis and survivorship care

The clinic provides strong exposure to:

- **Intracavernosal injection (ICI) training**
- **Pharmacologically induced erection for curvature assessment in Peyronie's disease** Treatment escalation strategies

- Patient counseling and expectation management
 - Real-world variability in disease presentation
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3. Surgical Program – Sexual Medicine

Surgical exposure includes **two dedicated operating rooms per week**.

Procedures include:

- Peyronie’s disease correction:
 - Plication
 - Grafting techniques
 - Penile prosthesis implantation with adjunctive straightening maneuvers (e.g., multiple tunical incisions)
 - Penile prosthesis implantation for refractory ED
- Lower-complexity procedures:
 - Circumcision (postectomy)
 - Hydrocelectomy
 - Vasectomy

Visitors are also exposed to **complex reconstructive cases**, including:

- Severe penile fibrosis (post-priapism or advanced Peyronie’s disease)
- Implantation after prior prosthesis removal due to infection
- Challenging corporal reconstruction scenarios

Intraoperative discussions focus on:

- Surgical strategy adaptation
 - Technical nuances
 - Management of difficult anatomy and complications
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4. Male Infertility Program

Outpatient Clinic (Tuesday morning)

Dedicated infertility clinic including:

- Evaluation of male patients and couples
- Diagnostic workup and treatment planning
- Integration with assisted reproduction services

Exposure includes:

- Hormonal and seminal evaluation
- Indications for sperm retrieval

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- Counseling on reproductive strategies
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Procedures and Surgical Activity

The infertility program includes **approximately 1.5 operating room days per week**.

Visitors may observe:

- **Sperm retrieval techniques:**
 - Sperm retrieval procedures – MESA, PESA e TESA, TESE, micro-TESE
 - Occasional electroejaculation
 - **Microsurgical procedures:**
 - Varicocelectomy
 - Vasectomy reversal – vaso-vaso and vaso-epididimostomy
 - Microsurgical denervation of the spermatic cord
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5. Integrated Clinical Reasoning and Teaching Environment

Throughout all activities, visitors are actively engaged in:

- Case-based discussions
- Clinical reasoning alongside fellows and residents
- Real-time decision-making

The program prioritizes:

- Practical, case-driven learning
- Understanding of indications over procedural exposure alone
- Critical thinking in complex scenarios and how to handle challenging surgical cases

In addition, visitors are welcome to attend the **weekly General Urology Department meeting held on Thursday mornings**, which includes rotating topics covering the broader spectrum of urology. These sessions are attended by faculty, fellows, and residents from across the department and typically involve case discussions, lectures, and updates on diverse urologic subspecialties. This provides visitors with valuable exposure to the academic environment of the department as a whole and fosters interdisciplinary interaction beyond the scope of sexual medicine and andrology

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