

Clinical visit to Charite University Hospital, Campus Clinic Virchow Berlin, Germany

I am currently completing my last year (of four) of fellowship in Gynecological Oncology at Karolinska University Hospital Stockholm . As part of my education I had the opportunity to visit a “center of excellence” for some months. Charite University Hospital Campus Clinic Virchow is famous for aggressive cytoreductive surgery in ovarian cancer why I chose to do my hospitation there.

To experience another institution and organization is always valuable. Regarding surgical skill I am happy to say that aggressive cytoreduction is already part of our standard surgery for ovarian cancer so there was no difference and nothing “new” to learn. Interestingly the background population differ a lot from ours, not surprisingly , since the health care system differs a lot. Indications/contraindications for surgery varies a lot from our algorithm and more often than at our institution the patient can chose surgical options after written informed consent. The patient selection is immense, why there is a need of understanding the background population when comparing different institutions statistics.

The amount of ongoing research and tireless leadership of the head of the department was inspiring.

What I can bring home to Sweden is that we need to keep the Nordic model of health care intact i.e keep private interested out of cancer care. Our self confidence needs a boost, we are better than we think. We really need to understand the importance of networking and produce research .

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