

A Framework for Uro-Oncology Excellence

Uro-oncology is a highly specialized and complex field that requires coordinated input from multiple disciplines, including urologists, medical oncologists, radiation oncologists and radiologists. While multidisciplinary team (MDT) discussions and peer-reviewed decision-making represent the gold standard of care, the high patient volume at SIUT presents logistical challenges, making it impractical to conduct such reviews for every individual case.

This underscores the need for standardized treatment protocols and an effective triage system to identify complex or atypical cases that warrant detailed MDT evaluation. Such an approach ensures optimal resource utilization while maintaining high standards of care.

Multidisciplinary tumor boards (MTBs) are central to this process, providing a structured platform for consensus-driven decision-making. They minimize individual bias, improve clinical efficiency, and play a critical role in capacity building by promoting evidence-based practices and training future healthcare professionals.

SIUT convenes its multidisciplinary tumor board every Tuesday at 8:15 AM sharp, with participation from peripheral centers in Sukkur and Quetta, and plans underway to include Nawabshah. While MTBs have long been a part of SIUT's clinical practice, specialty-specific tumor boards were formally introduced 12 years ago to enhance case-specific focus and streamline expertise.

In addition to internal collaboration.

Each weekly tumor board at SIUT covers a diverse range of uro-oncology cases—commonly involving the kidney, bladder, prostate, and testis. These meetings are inclusive of all relevant specialties across participating centers, ensuring collaborative and comprehensive discussions. To maintain the quality and integrity of the process, the following principles are strictly observed:

- a. **Patient Confidentiality:** All case discussions adhere to strict confidentiality and ethical standards.
- b. **Structured Case Presentation:** Residents present the clinical details under the supervision of their respective consultants.
- c. **Radiological Review:** All relevant imaging is reviewed with a radiologist present to ensure accurate interpretation and discussion.
- d. **Pathology Input:** A pathologist attends each session to provide expert insights into histopathological findings.

Evidence-Based Approach: Presentations must include relevant medical literature and adhere to current clinical guidelines.

These measures ensure that each case receives a robust, multidisciplinary evaluation, directly benefiting patient care while fostering continuous learning for all participants.

SIUT's multi-city tumor board model, integrating expertise from Karachi, Sukkur, and Quetta, represents a significant advancement in the delivery of uro-oncological care. All discussions are informed by current evidence, shaped by expert consensus, and aligned with international best practices particularly the NCCN and EAU guidelines—ensuring uniformity, quality, and excellence across all centers.