

# Ethical Dilemmas in Medical practice

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# Medical Ethics

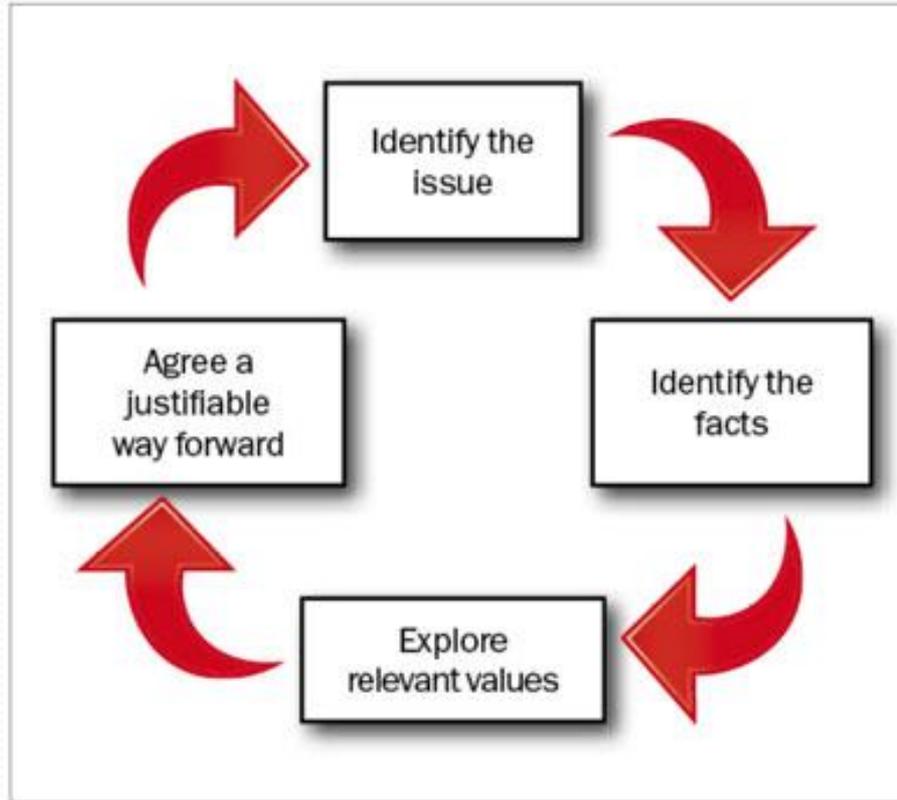
- Autonomy
- Beneficence
- Non- maleficence
- justice

- In ethical as well as in medical decision making, doctors and patients are expert.
- Patients \_ experts in the experience of illness and in their own views and values
- Doctors \_ professional expertise
- Bringing together \_ part of art of consultation

# Ethical cycle

- Medical Education is full of cycles
- Promote reflective practice and facilitate learning from practical experience

## THE ETHICAL CYCLE



# 1. Identify the ethical issues and dimensions of the consultations

- Ethically aware

## 2. Identify the relevant facts

- Evidence- based medicine

### 3. Explore the relevant values

- Values of patient and their family
- Own values and those of the profession
- Also need to be aware of the value of the practice and what the law says

## 4. Decide a justifiable way forward with patient

- Shared decision

# Etical Dilemma

- For patients
- For family members
- For medical staff members
- For physicians

## Case 1:

- You have to see the case of dying patient who comes from the culture in which it is considered wrong to tell patients that they are dying.
- How would you respond to a family request to conceal the truth from a dying patient?

- Diagnosis is the property of the patient
- patient has the right to know the diagnosis as the first person to know.
- If he wanted to conceal the information, the caring physician should not tell it even to the family.
- But there are exceptions to the rule.

- common for family members to want to protect their loved ones from bad news
- but this is not always what the patient himself would want.
- It would be reasonable to tell family members that withholding information can be very bad because it creates a climate of dishonesty between the patient and family and medical caregivers
- also, that the only way for patient to have a voice in the decision making is for him to understand the medical situation.
- Ask patient how he wants to handle the information in front of the

## Case 2

- In HDU, you and healthcare team think it is time to withdraw life support and let nature take its course, yet the dying patient's family insist that you “do everything possible” to keep the patient alive.
- How would you solve the problem?

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- Conflicts with caregivers
  - Forgoing life-sustaining treatment
  - Do not attempt resuscitation (DNAR) orders

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- Doing everything might cause the patient pain and discomfort without offering any benefit.

- Answer to this patient's family would be a firm no.
- While the patient has a right to the medication, the physician has an equal right to refuse to prescribe treatment which is termed "medically futile."
- The patient's family should be given a type of presentation that will convince let nature take its course .

- This process may need a physician's time, verbal expertise and a bit of patience.
- The same principle also applied for un-necessary investigation like CT head for minor headache and CS for good time of birth.
- “Non-malificence over rule the autonomy of the patient.”

## Case 3

- A patient refuses treatment for a life-threatening condition. Discuss the ethical issues involved.

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- Refusal of treatment

- the duty of the doctor
- Is it crucial the doctor fully informs the patient of the benefits of the treatments and the risks associated with not having the treatment?
- the concept of patient's autonomy\_ then doctors must respect the decision made by a patient.
- However, patient autonomy is not absolute
  - particularly if a patient is not competent

- Beneficence and non-maleficence often link together and this is no exception.
- The most beneficial thing to do may be to provide the patient with the treatment they need.
- However, if this is against the patient's wishes this might do more harm than good.
- Whatever the patient's decision may be, doctors must continue to provide the best care in the patient's best interests.

## Case 4

- A woman enters the emergency room with stomach pain.
- She undergoes a CT scan and is diagnosed with an abdominal aortic aneurysm, a weakening in the wall of the aorta which causes it to stretch and bulge
- The physicians inform her that the only way to fix the problem is surgically, and that the chances of survival are about 50/50.
- They also inform her that time is of the essence, and that should the aneurysm burst, she would be dead in a few short minutes.

- The woman is an erotic dancer; she worries that the surgery will leave a scar that will negatively affect her work; therefore, she refuses any surgical treatment.
- Even after much pressuring from the physicians, she adamantly refuses surgery.

- Feeling that the woman is not in her correct state of mind and knowing that time is of the essence, the surgeons decide to perform the procedure without consent.
- They anesthetize her and surgically repair the aneurysm.
- She survives, and sues the hospital for millions of dollars.

- Do you believe that the physician's actions can be justified in any way?
- Is there anything else that they could have done?
- Is it ever right to take away someone's autonomy? (Would a court order make the physicians' decisions ethical?)
- What would you do if you were one of the health care workers?

## Case 5

- You had to see a 40 year old Daw Su, whose mother Daw Nu who had acute coronary syndrome and diabetes , admitted to your ward 3 days ago had accidental fall from bed in ward and trauma to her right eye causing blindness.
- You need to explain her daughter Daw Su.
- Daw Su was angry and said she will sue the hospital. How will you manage?

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- Conflict and conflict-solving

- Managing conflict,
- Facing angry client, keeping calm self.
- Slowing down the client by saying sorry for the event and you can sympathise the emotion of a mishap of a family member.
- Mentioning the team is taking action how it happen and not to happen it again to other patient, incident report and patient safety procedure.

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- System will contact the client as soon as the incident is clear.
  - But may avoid the term “I apologize” because it will admit specific individual’s fault and taking responsibility.

# Reference

- <https://www.scu.edu/ethics/focusareas/bioethics/resources/cases...>
- Dr Chit Soe. Ethical problems ppt.

# Ethics of artificial intelligence

- the part of the ethics of technology specific to robots and other artificially intelligent beings.
- It is typically divided into roboethics, a concern with the moral behavior of humans as they design, construct, use and treat artificially intelligent beings,
- machine ethics, which is concerned with the moral behavior of



# THANK YOU