INTRODUCTION TO MEDICAL ETHICS

Block 1.1
Year 2016-17

Dr Imran Sabri
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# TEAM: Medical Ethics

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What you see?
Intended Learning Outcomes

- **Introduction and Definition of Medical Ethics**
- **To discuss the Basic Islamic Concepts and Terminology**
- **To discuss the Scope of Ethics in Medical Practice**
- **To recognise in short, the theories and basic principles of Medical Ethics:**

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What is ethics

Moral principles that govern the conduct of an individual or a group by which are judged as right or wrong.

Medical ethics: Moral Principles that apply values and Judgments to the practice of Medicine.

Or Identification, analysis, and resolution of moral issues that arise in the health care of individual patients.
Figure 1.1 An overview of the branches of applied ethics and bioethics.
Case Scenario

A Resident in her obstetrics and gynecology rotation was faced with a case of a 28yr-old pregnant woman of 13 weeks gestational age, who is already a mother of three healthy children. The woman was diagnosed with ovarian cancer stage 2. The oncologists made a recommendation to the obstetric team to terminate the pregnancy to initiate chemotherapy.
L-1: Introduction to Medical Ethics

Medical ethics is a system of Moral Principles that apply values and Judgments to the practice of Medicine.

In deals with

1. Doctor-doctor relationships,
2. Doctor-patients relations,
3. Doctor-state relationships.
Healthcare practitioner is a qualified person who directly provides or helps in providing healthcare to patients, whether in the form of diagnostic, curative, or rehabilitative services that affect health condition.
Honour of the Healthcare Professions

- Islam has made the preservation and conservation of human life rank second after preservation of religion.

- Allah SWT has said "Because of that, We decreed upon the children of Israel that whoever kills a soul unless for a soul or for corruption done in the land - it is as if he had slain mankind entirely. And whoever saves one - it is as if he had saved mankind entirely." (Al-Ma“idah, 5:32)
Basic Islamic Concepts and Terminology

Quran:
- Muslim’s holy book [Code of Conduct].
- All Muslim scholars have unanimously agreed that the Quran is the main source of legislation.
**Basic Islamic Terms**

**Sunnah**: whatever prophet Mohammed (PBUH) said, did, approved or disapproved doing.

**Hadith**: Whatever the messenger of Allah (PBUH) said is called Hadith

**Ijtihad**: Solution of ethical dilemma by ulema under the light of Quran and sunnah.
Basic Islamic Terms

- **Al-Mazahib**: Islam is an “evidence-based religion”. As Legislative rulings (Fatwas) and judgments are all based on source [al-daleel], (the evidence). The most powerful evidence is Quran.

- **Islamic Laws (Sharia) and Religious Rulings (Fatwa)**: it refers to the overall Islamic system for religious, moral and legal regulations related to the human life.
Basic Principles: ABCD

1. **Autonomy**
2. **Beneficence: Doing Well**
3. **Confidentiality**
4. **Do Not Harm: Non-Maleficence**
5. **Equality and Fairness: Justice**
6. **Truth telling**
7. **Preservation of Life**
AUTONOMY

- “Self rule” - Physicians must respect a patient’s right to make decisions regarding his medical care.
- Competent, informed patients have the right to choose treatment and refuse any unwanted medical interventions.
- “Right of patients to make decisions without any influence“.
Beneficence:

- Physicians must act in the best interests of their patients.
Confidentiality: Secrecy
Confidentiality:

- Physicians must maintain the confidentiality of medical information.

- **Confidentiality/Secrecy:** Keeping the patient secrets whatever you came to know about your patient as a part of medical treatment.

- **Breach of Confidentiality** is deliberate disclosure of information

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Do no harm

- The principle of non-maleficence directs physicians to “do no harm” to patients.
Equality:

- The principle of distributive *justice* deals with issues of treating patients equally.
Fairness

- The principle of procedural **justice** requires that the process for making decisions for patients be fair and just.
No Matter what is outcome
REWARD FOR DOCTORS FOLLOWING ETHICS/LAW
Books Recommended

1. *Students Handbook of Medical Ethics: Y1 [College Manual]*
2. *Code of Ethics for Healthcare Practitioners [SCHS]*
4. *Cambridge textbook of Bioethics* by Peter A. Singer and A.M. Veins
References


THANK YOU
ANY QUESTIONS
Any Further Clarification

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