



تَوِير

# MEDICAL ETHICS

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medical ethics

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وَقُلْ هُوَ رَبِّي رَبِّي عَلِيمًا



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# Medical Ethics



## Subject 5

1

# Principle of Medical Ethics

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## PRINCIPLES OF ETHICS



**AUTONOMY**



**BENEFICENCE**



**NONMALEFICENCE**



**JUSTICE**

# Principles of Medical Ethics



- Autonomy → استقلال المريض
- Beneficence الفوائد
- Non-maleficence عدم الأذى
- Social Justice العدالة الاجتماعية.

# The Principle of Beneficence

# BENEFICENCE

➤ Beneficence is an action that is done for the benefit of others.

لمصلحة الآخرين

➤ Beneficent actions can be taken to help prevent or remove harms or to simply improve the situation of others.

①

أهميتها ←

②

③

➤ Physicians are <sup>يُمتنع</sup> expected to refrain from causing harm, but they also have an obligation to help their patients.

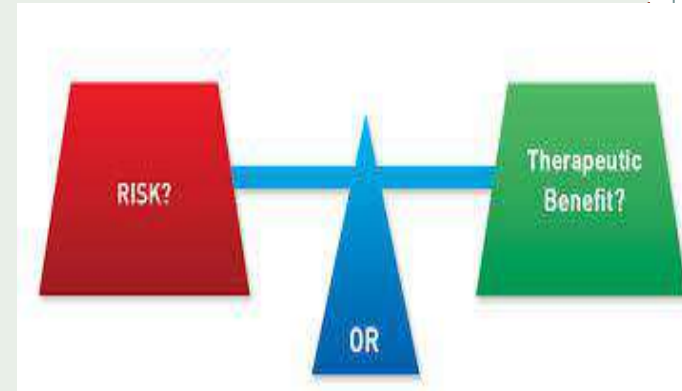
➤ However, the **goal of medicine** is to promote the welfare of patients, and physicians possess skills and knowledge that enable them to assist others.

تعزيز رفاة المرضى

Due to the nature of the relationship between physicians and patients, **doctors do have**

**an obligation to** : الطبيب ملزم بتطبيق الأمور التالية لضمان علاقة ناجحة مع المريض:

- 1) prevent and **remove harms**,
- 2) weigh and **balance possible benefits against possible risks** of an action.



- 3) protecting and defending the **rights of others**,

- 4) **rescuing** persons who are in danger,

- 5) helping individuals with disabilities.

حماية

الرفاع عن



استغفر الله والوقت النبوية

## *Examples of beneficent actions:*

الإنعاش

- ❖ Resuscitating a **drowning victim**,
- ❖ providing **vaccinations** for the general population,
- ❖ encouraging a patient to quit (stop) **smoking** and start an exercise program,
- ❖ talking to the community about **disease prevention**



## 1. Patient's driven constraints

- Normally **motivated by health interests**.
- Conflicts arise when patient's aim diverge from doctor.
- **Patients reject treatment** but they **must understand fully**, implication of their decisions.

يرفضوا العلاج

**Treatment Refusal**: Doctors should consider:

- Patient's **competence** أن يكون المريض واعياً
- Enough information to be provided
- Voluntary effort

## **Physicians act**

ماذا تفعل أنت كطبيب إذا رفض المريض العلاج؟

أهمية الاستماع

- **Listening** - Demonstrates a commitment to care & trust worthiness
- **Correct misunderstandings** and misconceptions
- Refusal is **fully informed**

تصحح المفاهيم الخاطئة

مثل لما يرفض المريض دخول المستشفى وانت توضح لهم المخاطر، وتخرجوا عنك مسؤوليتهم.

## 2. Practitioner-driven constraint & medical responsibility

الممارس والمسؤولية الطبية

- Patients request medical services, which doctor consider unnecessary.
- Use of EBM (Evidence Based Medicine) guidelines not in the best interest for patients.

استخدام إرشادات EBM (الطب المبني على الأدلة) ليس في مصلحة المرضى.

## 3. External constraints

القيود الخارجية

- **Lack of resources** - e.g. waiting list for investigations, referral and treatments.
- **Access to specialist's care takes a long time** leading to ethical issues - eg. **patients dying while waiting for treatment**, paying patients(private) by passing public patients for treatment.
- Need to **consider rights of others**

ضرورة مراعاة ظروف الآخرين



## The Principle of Nonmaleficence

The principle of nonmaleficence asserts an obligation not to inflict harm intentionally.  
“first do no harm”



**( if you can't do any good, don't harm )**

• Physicians must refrain from providing ineffective treatments or acting with hate toward patients.

التعامل بكرهية مع المريض

• it can be considered “**negligence**” if you impose a careless or unreasonable risk of harm upon another.

إهمال

• This principle, however, **offers little useful guidance to physicians** since many **beneficial therapies also have serious risks.**

القليل من

التوجيه المفيد

• بعض العلاجات لها مخاطر محتملة.



• The risks of treatment (Harm) must be understood considering the potential benefits.

• The relevant ethical issue is whether the benefits outweigh the burdens “calculated **risk – benefit**”

➤ Many consider that the main or primary consideration : is **more important not to harm your patient**, than to do them good.

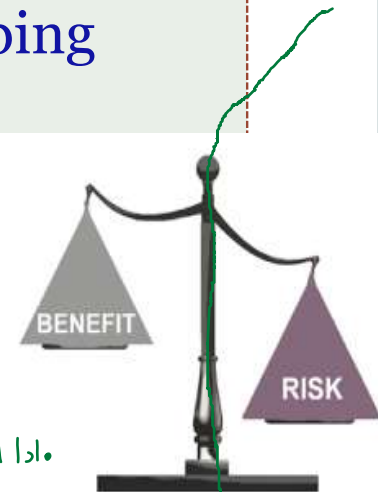
الممارسين المتحمسين

➤ This is partly because enthusiastic practitioners are prone to **using treatment** that they **believe will do good**, without first having evaluated them adequately to **ensure they do no harm**.

بعض الممارسين الجرد يستخدموا العلاج اللي يعتقدوا إنه مفيد دون ما يتأكدوا من مخاطره

➤ So a physician should go further **than not prescribing medications they know to be harmful** - he or she should not prescribe medications **unless s/he knows that the treatment is unlikely to be harmful**; or at the very least, that **patient understands the risks and benefits**, and that the likely benefits outweigh the likely risks.

• اذا الدواء له اثار سلبية وقدمته طريقتك على الاقل خبره



1. Stopping a medication that is shown to be harmful.
2. Refusing to provide a treatment that is not effective.

❖ In practice, however, many **treatments** <sup>تحمل</sup> carry some risk of harm.

❖ In some circumstances, e.g. in desperate situations where the outcome without treatment will be fatal, <sup>مميته</sup> risky treatments that stand a high chance of harming the patient will be justified, as the **risk of not treating is also very likely to do harm**.

❖ So, the principle of *Non-Maleficence* is not absolute, and balances against the principle of *beneficence* (doing good), as the effects of the two principles together often give rise to a **double effect** (further described in next section).

• في بعض الحالات يكون الدواء ضروري حتى لو كان ذو آثار سلبية ليس مطلقاً

## Double effect <sup>beneficence, Nonmaleficence</sup> effects of the two principles together



■ *Double effect* fo sepyt owt ot srefer consequences which may be produced by a single action.

■ in medical ethics it is usually regarded as the combined effect of beneficence and non-maleficence .

■ A common example of this phenomenon is the use of morphine or other analgesic in the dying patient.

→ المورفين يقلل الألم  
على الرغم من أنه  
يؤثر على الجهاز التنفسي.

← المريض المحتضر

Such use of morphine can have the beneficial effect of **minimizing the pain and suffering** of the patient, while simultaneously having the **maleficent effect** of hastening the fate of the patient through suppression of the respiratory system.



## The Principle of Autonomy

Autonomy is a general indicator of health.

Many diseases are characterized by loss of autonomy, in various manners.

الحكم الذاتي

This makes autonomy an indicator for both personal well-being, and for the well-being of the profession.

\*\*\*Mental incompetency= no autonomy

### Autonomy

The capacity to think ,decide and act on the bases of thought and decision freely & independently ,without let or hindrance.

It includes:

1- Telling the truth.

2- Informed consent. الموافقة المسبقة

3- Confidentiality. السرية

# The Principle of Autonomy

The patients have the right to:

# have **full information** and self determination

# free will and accord  
الارادة الحرة      الاتفاق

# intentional participation in treatment

# respect and dignity maintained  
الحفاظ على الكرامة



# Truth telling

عدم معرفتهم بتشخيص → زيادة الحزن

➤ Increase knowledge , increase sorrows. Cancer سيء، مثل

إذا تجاوزتها

• عياب قول الحقيقة يدمر العلاقات

➤ If you override it you endanger doctor/patient relationship (based on trust) .

الإفصاح الصادق والكامل

➤ Obligation to full and **honest disclosure** of patients' secrets or information.

• قول الحقيقة يساعد على نجاح التشخيص ← علاج أكثر فعالية

➤ At times there are good reasons for overriding the truth telling principle :

• أسباب عدم قول الحقيقة في بعض الحالات:-

- patients are not in a position to know the truth.
- patients do not want the truth if the news is bad.

➤ Some cultures do not place a great emphasis on informing the patient of the diagnosis, especially when cancer is the diagnosis.

➤ American culture rarely used truth-telling especially in medical cases, up until the 1970s.

حتى السبعينات ، أمريكا لم تركز على قول الحقيقة

➤ In American medicine, the principle of informed consent now takes priority over other ethical values, and patients are usually at least <sup>\*</sup>asked <sup>\*</sup>whether they want to know the <sup>\*</sup>diagnosis.



• At times there are good reasons for overriding the truth telling principle. i.e., Patients do not want the truth if the news is bad.

• There has been a sudden shift in public opinion concerning the obligations of doctors to tell the truth to their patients. *تحول مفاجئ*

• It was common practice for doctors to lie to their patients - i.e. when they believed that lying to their patients would be in their patients' best interests – but few people now regard this as acceptable.

*القليل من الناس يعتقدون ان اخفاء الحقيقة عنهم امر مقبول، حتى لو كان لمصلحتهم.*

## IMPORTANCE OF TRUTH-TELLING

more truth → more trust

1. Truth is **integral to all communication** because, we depend on it to **make informed decisions.**

من أهم خصائص التواصل؛ لأننا نعتمد عليها لاتخاذ القرار.

2. This is because he would not have the tools to make an informed decision; or **he would be making a decision based on false information.**

3. A commitment to truth demonstrates a **respect for persons as equals** rather than **tools to be manipulated.**

يُظهر الالتزام بالحقيقة احترام الأشخاص باعتبارهم متساوين وليس أدوات يمكن التلاعب بها

4. Truthfulness in **communication builds trust.**

# The Principle of Confidentiality السرية

## ➤ Confidentiality

to applied commonly is patient and doctors between conversations

• أهم ما تكون في المحادثات بين الطبيب والمريض

➤ This concept is commonly known as **patient-physician privilege.**

➤ Legal protections prevent physicians from revealing their discussions with patients ,only in certain situations ( **exceptions** ).

Ex: Drugs and crimes ←

# The Principle of Confidentiality

الولاء



■ Based on loyalty and trust

■ Maintain the confidentiality of all personal, medical and treatment information

السرية في كل المعلومات

■ Information to be revealed with consent and for the benefit of the patient

الكشف عن المعلومات بموافقة المريض فقط

■ Except when ethically and legally required

■ Disclosure should not be beyond what is required

الكشف عن المعلومات ضمن المطلوب

## Exceptions to the rules:

الاستثناءات

➤ many situations require physicians to **report gunshot wounds to the police**

\* السائقين ذوي الإعاقة

\* مسألة

➤ physicians is required to **report impaired drivers to the Department of Motor Vehicles** .

\* الجهة المسؤولة

➤ Confidentiality is also challenged in cases involving the **diagnosis of a sexually transmitted disease** in a patient who refuses to reveal the diagnosis to a spouse, and

• يجب إبلاغ الروح في حالة وجود مرض  
• يتقل عن طريق الجنس .

➤ when keeping confidentiality would **harm others**

e.g. **child abuse**

• في حالة كان الاحتفاظ بالمعلومات  
يسبب الأذى مع الآخرين .

## Other exceptions to Medical Confidentiality

■ Patient gives written and valid consent for disclosure of information to other, relatives or participating professionals.

• موافقة خطية من المريض  
للكشف عن المعلومات

■ Where undesirable to seek patients consent, information can be given to a close relative

spouse , Parents ← مثل

■ Ordered by Court بأمر من المحكمة

■ Public interest

■ Approved Research

البحوث المعتمدة  
خصوصًا بالأفراس النادرة

## Practical Obstacles to the Practice of Confidentiality

العوائق العملية أمام ممارسة السرية

1. modern medical treatment often involves many **medical professionals** amongst whom **information relevant to the course of treatment** must be shared.

• تبادل المعلومات بين المهنيين في أماكن العلاج أمر مهم.

2. Another is that information about patients is increasingly **stored on large electronic databases**, the security of which is impossible to guarantee absolutely.

• الآن المعلومات تخزن على المنصات الإلكترونية. فالسرية غير مضمونة.

# Should patients have access to their notes?

هل ينبغي للمريض  
معرفة الملاحظات

## Against

- Layman unable to cope with data  
المواطن العادي
- Opinions (not facts) may **cause anxiety**  
الآراء قد تسبب القلق
- Third party information

## With

- Data belongs to patient
- Accuracy improved by sharing



# Informed Consent

موافقة مسبقة

القبول الطوعي للتدخل الطبي

■ **Definition:** A patient's **willing acceptance** of a medical intervention **after adequate disclosure** from their doctors of **the nature of the intervention, risks, benefits and alternative treatment options**

• القبول الطوعي يكون بعد معرفة المريض كامل المعلومات من الطبيب.

## ■ What constitutes informed consent?

الافصاح

ما الذي يشكل موافقة؟

■ **Disclosure:** information to allow reasonable person to decide

■ **Understanding:** comprehension of the information given

طوعي

بدون ضغط أو حوافز لقبول العلاج

■ **Voluntary:** no coercion (pressure) or incentive to accept or deny a treatment

■ **Agreement:** verbal or written (preferred) to discussed intervention

شفهية أو مكتوبة

## Informed consent

■ **Informed consent** in ethics usually refers to the idea that a person must be **fully informed** about and **understand** the **benefits and risks** of their choice of treatment.

■ An **uninformed** person is at risk of mistakenly making a choice not reflective of his or her values or wishes.

↑ uninformed → ↑ mistakenly choice

■ Patients can elect to make their own medical decisions or can **delegate decision-making authority** to another party .

يمكن للمريض أن يتخذ القرار بنفسه أو يفوض غيره. ← إذا كان عاجزاً

■ If the patient is **incapacitated**, typically by having a person appointed by the patient or their next of kin make decisions for them .

■ The value of informed consent is **closely related to the values of autonomy and truth telling**. ترتبط بقول الحقيقة والاستقلالية.

In medical, consent is most important in followings:

1. Examination of patient
2. Examination of person for medico legal purpose
3. Involvement of patients in student's examinations . مشاركة المرضى في امتحانات الطلاب
4. Involvement of patients in researches. فحص ما بعد الوفاة.
5. Postmortem examination and removal of tissues and organs for transplantation.

# The Principle of Justice

Requires that people be treated fairly.

Actions are **consistent**, **accountable** and **transparent**

متناسقة مسؤول

بشفافية

**not to discriminate on** age, sex, religion, race, position or rank

المنصب

الرتبة

greater good of society

respect of the Law

العدالة في توزيع المهام والمنافع.

Equity in distribution of burden & benefits

# How to allocate scarce healthcare resources?

كيفية تخصيص موارد الرعاية الصحية الشحيحة؟

All people have **equal right** to receive treatment , but there is **unequal needs**.

Resources should be distributed **according to**

**the needs.** → according

- age
- disease

الفئة المعروفة

\* **Disadvantaged groups** (( Cinderella group of population ))

i.e. **children, women at childbearing age &**

**elderly**

They are more susceptible to diseases and infections, such as: trauma

• أكثر عرضة للإصابة بالأمراض

benefit > cost "efficacy"

• **Cost –benefit analysis???**

Health center or organs transplant center

?????

# Resolution of Ethical Dilemmas

عندما تواجهنا المعضلات الطبية  
والأخلاقية كيف نحلها  
ونقل من آثارها السلبية.

- Principles
- Ethical codes
- Clinical judgment
- Reasoned analysis
- Ethical committees
- Ethical tests

- Declarations
- Oaths & Pledges
- Commonsense
- Debate
- Ethical Consults
- The Law

إلى كل مُحبط ؛  
الفشل بدايةٌ لمسيرة النجاح  
لا تيأس و تفائل .

Insta:naif\_br\_hadi