

Bioethics

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Hippocratic Oath: value over the centuries

- Hippocrates = the “Father of Medicine,”
- An ancient Greek physician who lived according to outstanding moral values & ethical medical practice
- ✓ Found that health & prevention of disease depends on certain laws of nature.
- ✓ Established an **Ethical code of conduct** for all who practiced medicine
- ✓ Separated medicine from religion for the first time in the history

Hippocratic Oath: value over the centuries

- Although the oath has been subject to much debate over the centuries, both in terms of its content & its author, it remains one of the most quoted documents in the history of medicine
- Parts of his code are being used by medical students today & it forms the base of the 'Nightingale's pledge'

The Oath

- I will prescribe regimens for the good of my patients according to my ability and my judgment and never do harm to anyone.
- I will give no deadly medicine to any one if asked, nor suggest any such counsel; and similarly I will not give a woman a pessary to cause an abortion.
- But I will preserve the purity of my life and my arts.
-etc

Florence Nightingale

- Born in a wealthy English family, in Florence, Italy, on May 12, 1820 & become a nurse at age of 25
- Known as “The Lady with the Lamp”
- Demonstrated a deep concern for the poor & suffering

The Florence Nightingale Pledge

- The modified Hippocratic Oath is called the Florence Nightingale Pledge as a token of esteem for the **Founder of Modern Nursing**
- The pledge is taken by all the nurses who have completed the training program before entering to their practice.

The Nurses Pledge

- I solemnly pledge myself before God and in the presence of this assembly to pass my life in purity and to practice my profession faithfully
- I will abstain from what ever is deleterious and mischievous and will not take or knowingly administer any harmful drug
- I will do all in my power to maintain and elevate the standard of my profession and will hold the confidence in all personal matters committed to my keeping and all family affairs coming to my knowledge in the practice of my calling.
- With loyalty, I will endeavor to aid the physician in his work and devote myself to the welfare of those committed to my care.

قسم التمريض

" بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم "

أقسم بالله العظيم , أن أعتني بكل مريض, توكل الي مهمة العناية به, بغض النظر عن أية فروقات مرتبطة بأهله أو عقله أو جنسيته أو ديانته, أو انتمائه الفكري, أو السياسي, أو حالته الاجتماعية.

وأقسم بالله العظيم , أن أبذل ما أملكه من علوم ومهارات, وأخلاق, للحفاظ على حياة المريض, وتقديم يد العون والمساعدة له ما استطعت, وأن أحفظ أسراره المؤتمن عليها.

وأقسم بالله العظيم أنني سابدل ما في وسعي للأخذ بأسباب التقدم والارتقاء العلمي والمهني, التي من شأنها العمل على رفع مستوى مهنتي, التي أعتز بالانتماء اليها, ,وان أتعاون ايجابيا مع الطاقم الصحي وفي مختلف الميادين.

وأنا على معرفة تامة, ويقين كامل بكافة الألتزامات , التي أحملها وأؤمن بها.

Beyond Hippocrates

- Bioethics as a field is relatively new
- Emerged in the late 1960s
- When Hippocrates wrote his now famous dictum (First, do no harm), he was focusing on one of the core issues still facing human medicine, namely, the role & duty of the physician

History Bioethics: 1960s

- Bioethics was a distinct field of academic study that has existed only since the early 1960s.
- Developments & use of technology in medicine raised ethical dilemmas:
 - ✓ Organ transplantation,
 - ✓ kidney dialysis,
 - ✓ respirators,
 - ✓ intensive care units (ICUs)
 - ✓ techniques for performing abortions

History Bioethics: 1970s

- Academic bioethics was born with the creation of the first "bioethics center"
- The Institute of Society, Ethics and the Life Sciences. Founded by Daniel Callahan. 1970
- The Kennedy Institute of Ethics, Georgetown University in 1971

What is Bioethics?

- Later used to refer a study of the ethical issues arising from health care, biological & medical sciences
- It is a major area in applied ethics
- Medical ethics & nursing ethics are more concerned with the ethics of the health care professionals & their relationship with the patient
- Bioethics has a broader scope

Some historical examples

- Abortion
- Contraception
- Kidney dialysis machine (Who had the priority?)
- Organ transplant, artificial ventilator, & brain death
- *In vitro* fertilization (IVF)
- Cloning & stem cell research
- Genetic engineering

Main topics in Bioethics

- Death and dying
 - Pre-birth Issues
 - Issues in human reproduction
 - Human cloning
 - Stem cell research
 - The new genetics
 - Resources allocation
 - Organ transplant
 - Doctor-patient relationships
 - Experimentation with human subjects & animals
- (These are only some examples!!!!)

Example: Human Reproduction Technologies (HRT)

- Contraception: sex without procreation
- Human Reproductive Technologies (HRTs): procreation without sex

Example: Human Reproduction Technologies (HRT)

Types of HRTs:

- Artificial insemination by husband (AIH)
- Artificial insemination by donor (AID)
- *In vitro* fertilization (IVF)
- Egg donation
- Embryo donation
- Surrogacy تأجير الارحام

Ethical considerations

- Procreation rights of infertile couples
- It is unnatural
- Inequality and exploitation
- Selling babies?
- The moral status of extra embryos left over from IVF
- Definition of parent-child relation
- Integrity of the family
- Best interests of the child

More examples...

Human Cloning

- Two techniques:
 - ✓ Embryo splitting
 - ✓ Nuclear substitution
- Embryo splitting
 - ✓ The clone is usually used for tests of abnormality, & will be destroyed subsequently

More examples...

Nuclear Substitution تبدال النووي

- ✓ What is the relationship between the nuclear donor & the clone?
 - The same person?
 - (Technologically-aided & birth delayed) identical twins?
 - Siblings?
 - Parent-child?

More examples...

- Should a **homosexual** be allowed to use the technology to obtain his/her own child?
- Is it moral alright for parents to clone their beloved children who die young?
- Should it be used as an infertility treatment or gene therapy if it is safe?

Stem Cell Research

- Stem cells: undifferentiated, multi-potent, precursor cells, capable of developing into virtually any body tissue.
- Three types of stem cells:
 - ✓ Embryonic stem cells (ESC)
 - ✓ Fetal stem cells
 - ✓ Adult stem cells

Stem Cell Research

- Three main sources:
 - ✓ Adult bone marrow
 - ✓ Miscarried or aborted embryos/fetus; extra embryos left over from IVF
 - ✓ Embryos from therapeutic cloning
- Potential Treatments:
 - ✓ They may be used to replace damaged organ tissues (e.g., cardiac tissues), repair irreversible injuries (e.g., spinal cord injuries), or cure diseases (e.g., Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases)
- Embryonic stem cells is most promising for treatment & therapeutic cloning can avoid the problem of immunological incompatibility

Ethical issues

- Destroying an embryo to harvest Embryonic Stem Cell (ESC) is equivalent to killing a child to obtain his organs
- Left-over from IVF are already there
- Therapeutic cloning: The embryo is not created for reproduction
- How about the wellbeing of many patients who may be cured by ESC research?

The New Genetics

- Gene testing
 - ✓ Create unnecessary psychological distress
 - ✓ Discrimination by employers and insurance companies
 - ✓ Confidentiality and Privacy
 - ✓ Social stigmatization
- Prenatal Screening
 - ✓ Sex selection: Gender discrimination and imbalance of sex ratio unless it is done solely for therapeutic purpose.
 - ✓ Discrimination: Lives of the disable are not worth living.

Who has the final authority in medical decision making?

- The patient, the family or the individual?
- Three models:
 - ✓ Individualism
 - ✓ Familism
 - ✓ Medical Paternalism

Organ Transplant and Resources Allocation

- On what criteria should organs be allocated to patients for transplantation?
- What is a just distribution of healthcare resources?

Home Assignment

- What values you hold about life, health, illness, & death????
- How do your values influence the nursing care you provide?

Instructions:

- ✓ One Page
- ✓ Printed
- ✓ In Arabic