# THE PATIENT – DOCTOR RELATIONSHIP

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# **BEING SICK**



Cardinal Mazarin at the Deathbed of Eustache Le Sueur Alexandre - Evariste Fragonard, first half of 19<sup>th</sup> century

- $\checkmark$  Loss of control
- $\checkmark$  Alteration of social roles
- ✓ Vulnerability
- ✓ Loss of bodily integrity
- ✓ Intrusion
- ✓ Cultural Beliefs

#### THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE IS THE HISTORY OF THE HUMAN CIVILIZATION







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**INDIA** 



**MESOPOTAMIA** 



EGYPT

#### THE HISTORY OF MEDICINE IS THE HISTORY OF THE HUMAN CIVILIZATION



### 2600 BC

- Master Physicians
  - can be afforded by the very wealthy
- Pharoah Djozer's Physician
  - Adviser
  - Architect on some Pyramids
  - Healer







Imhotep *Jj m ḥtp He who comes in peace* 

# Imhotep

#### 500 BC Becomes God of Medicine



### ASCLEPIUS: Sun of God Apollo



### Hammurabi's Code 1760 BC















[1] <u>Honor the physician with the honor due him</u>, according to your need of him, <u>for the Lord created him</u>; [2] for healing comes from the Most High, and he will receive a gift from the king. [3] <u>The skill of the</u> <u>physician lifts up his head</u>, and in the presence of great men he is admired.

The Wisdom of Sirach Sir.38 [1-3]













# **1. Theocratic Medicine**





#### St Achilleos Church, Kozani

#### Galenos & Hippokrates, Ravenna

# **1. Theocratic Medicine**









# 2. Social Responsibility of Medicine



Άρτσιμπαλντ Τζ. Κρόνιν (1896 – 1981) The Citadel The book (1937) The Citadel The movie (1938)



Prometheus Bound, Peter Paul Rubens 1618. The Philadelphia Museum of Art, Pennsylvania.

#### 2. Social Responsibility of Medicine

...αν κάποιος αρρώσταινε δεν είχε κανένα φάρμακο να πιει, να φάει, να αλειφθεί. Χωρίς αντίδοτο μαράζωνε, πριν έρθω εγώ, ο Προμηθέας, να τους δείξω πώς να αναμειγνύουν ακίνδυνα φάρμακα που τις αρρώστιες όλες θεραπεύουν....

Αισχύλου, Προμηθεύς Δεσμώτης

#### κοινωνική συνιστώσα της αξίας του φαρμάκου:

Το φάρμακο δίνει ισχύ σε εκείνον που το έχει στην κατοχή του και όχι σε εκείνον που πρέπει να το λάβει. Εκείνος που το έχει στην κατοχή του, είναι και εκείνος που αποφασίζει σε ποιόν θα το δώσει. Με σημερινή ορολογία, θα ονομάζαμε το φαινόμενο αυτό ως ανισότητα στην πρόσβαση (access) του φαρμάκου.

### Hammurabi's Code 1760 BC



"...to cause justice to prevail in the land, to destroy the wicked and the evil, to prevent the strong from oppressing the weak ...

... to further the welfare of the people ...

... I brought health to the land... I restrained them that the strong might not oppress the weak, and that they should give justice to the orphan and the widow.... "

# **The Principles of Biomedical Ethics**



- ✓ Autonomy of the Patient
- ✓ Beneficence
- ✓ Non-maleficence
- ✓ Justice



### Fairness Care for the most vulnerable



Non-malifecence:

Do not harm Harm-benefit analysis



### 3. Beneficence:

### Paternalistic Medicine

**BENEFICENCE:** 

Always Do Good or

Perform an action beneficial for the patient



The doctor in the center of decision making

## 3. Paternalistic Medicine

- Traditional form of doctor-patient relationship
- Doctor takes on role of parent
- Doctor is the expert and patient is expected to cooperate
- > Tightly controlled interviewing

style aimed at reaching an organic diagnosis

- Passive patient and a dominant doctor
- Focus is on care, rather than autonomy



Alexander the Great trust to physician Phillip Henryk Hektor Siemiradzki, 1870 National Arts Museum of the Republic of Belarus

# 3. Paternalistic Medicine - Advantages

- ✤ The supportive nature of
- paternalism appears to be
- important when patients
- are very sick, at their most vulnerable.



Relief from the burden of worry is curative in itself, and the trust and confident implied by this model allows doctor to perform "medical magic"

# 3. Beneficence: Paternalistic Medicine

#### **BENEFICENCE:**



#### Always Do Good or Perform an action beneficial for the patient

No matter what the circumstances are !!! Against the will of the patient !!! Against the principles of the patient !!!





# 3. Paternalistic Medicine - Examples

- ✓ Resuscitate a drowning victim
- ✓ All cases of Accident & Emergency
- ✓ Patients with mental illness
- ✓ Babies & children
- ? Withhold the diagnosis and prognosis of a terminal disease
- ? Enroll terminally ill patients / or uninsured in clinical trials
- ? Smoking habit and treatment withholding

Coronary bypass surgery should not be offered to smokers. [BMJ. 1993]

Canadian Society of Transplantation consensus guidelines on eligibility for kidney transplantation. [CMAJ. 2005]

Might physicians be restricting access to liver transplantation for patients with alcoholic liver disease? [J Hepatol. 2009]





Bioethics. 2008 Feb;22(2):77-83. doi: 10.1111/j.1467-8519.2007.00606.x.

When good organs go to bad people.

<u>Ho D</u><sup>1</sup>.

# 4. Autonomy of the patient

### THE PATIENT: THE DOCTOR:

The final decision relies upon him.

The doctor should help the patient

to make the real choices.

(a) informed consent

(b) confidentiality.



1. Right to treatment

- 2. Right to information
- 3. Right to choices
- 4. Right to privacy
- 5. Right to compliant

# 4. Autonomy of the patient

- > The optimal doctor-patient relationship model
- This model views neither the patient nor the physician as standing aside
- Each of participants brings strengths and resources to the relationship
- Based on the communication between doctors and patients



# 4. Autonomy of the patient

### THE PATIENTS:

- > Can fully understand what problem they are coping with
- $\succ$  Need to define their problems in an open and full manner
- Has the right to seek care elsewhere when demands are not satisfactorily met.

### **THE DOCTORS:**

- Can entirely know patient's value
- Need to work with the patient to articulate the problem and refine the request
- Has the right to withdraw services formally from a patient if he or she feels it is impossible to satisfy the patient's demand

### 4. Autonomy of the patient – The Patient Can Understand

- 50% of patients do not understand the information they receive while in hospital
- 50% of the remembered data after a doctor's consultation are recalled incorrectly



"The Doctor will see you now. Here's your medical jargon dictionary."

- ✓ 60% of the patients do not understand the information they are given about an upcoming treatment or procedure
- ✓ 80% of the patients forget what they are told at a doctor's consultation

### 4. Autonomy of the patient – The doctor respects



The patient's autonomy always, always should be respected, even if it is absolutely contrary - the decision is contrary to best medical advice and what the physician

### 4. Autonomy of the patient – The Patient Can Express Himself

#### **DNR Tattoos: A Cautionary Tale**

Lori Cooper, MD and Paul Aronowitz, MD

California Pacific Medical Center, San Francisco, CA, USA.



A 59-year-old man with diabetes mellitus, peripheral vascular disease, hypertension and dyslipidemia was admitted to the hospital for a below-the-knee amputation due to chronic nonhealing wounds of his lower extremity.

He had lost a bet playing poker with fellow hospital staffers; the loser had to tattoo "D.N.R." across his chest



He stated he did not think "any doctor would take his tattoo seriously" He declined tattoo removal.

### 4. Autonomy of the patient – The Patient Can Express Himself



#### The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

November 30, 2017 N Engl J Med 2017; 377:2192-2193 DOI: 10.1056/NEJMc1713344



Paramedics brought an unconscious 70-yearold man with a history of COPD, diabetes mellitus, and atrial fibrillation to the emergency department. He had elevated blood alcohol level, hypotension and an anion-gap metabolic acidosis with a pH of 6.81 developed

The ethics consultants advised us to honor the patient's do not resuscitate (DNR) tattoo... The patient's clinical status deteriorated throughout the night, and he died without undergoing cardiopulmonary respiration or advanced airway management.

### 4. Autonomy of the patient – The doctor respects

- Claridectomy
- Abortion
- IVF embryos selection in genetic diseases / gender selection







### **CONCLUSION (1): IT IS THE COMMUNICATION THAT COUNTS**



## Medicine heals doubts as well as diseases



### **CONCLUSION (2): IT IS THE RESULT THAT COUNTS**



Jean-Baptiste Poquelin (1622 – 1673)

Doctors pour drugs of which they know little, to cure diseases of which they know less, into patients of whom they know nothing

**"The art of medicine consists** 

of amusing the patient

while nature cures the disease

"When I am sick, I immediately call for the doctor.

He examines me, we discuss, he prescribes some drugs which I do

not take and I become healthy again"



«... without philosophy medicine is nothing more than a vulgar handicraft ...»

Plato, Fedros

«The greatest mistake in the treatment of diseases is that there are physicians for the body and physicians for the soul, although the two cannot be separated». *Plato, Republic* 



«The philosopher must begin his education from medicine and the physician should conclude his with

philosophy».

Aristotle (384-322 B.C.)



The Doctor, Sir Luke Fildes, 1891 The Tate Museum, London

Commissioned by Sir Henry Tate (1819-98) the subject of which was left to his own discretion