

AETCOM Module 2.5

Bioethics Continue- Patient Autonomy & Decision making

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Background

- AETCOM Module 2.2 – Foundations of Bioethics

Four core principles of bioethics

- I. Autonomy and shared responsibility
- II. Beneficence
- III. Non-maleficence
- IV. Justice

No.	COMPETENCY	Domain (K/S/A/C)	Level (K/KH/S/ SH/P)	Core (Y/N)
AETCOM 2.5	Identify, discuss and defend medico-legal, socio-cultural and ethical issues as it pertains to patient autonomy, patient's rights and shared responsibility in health care	K	KH	Y

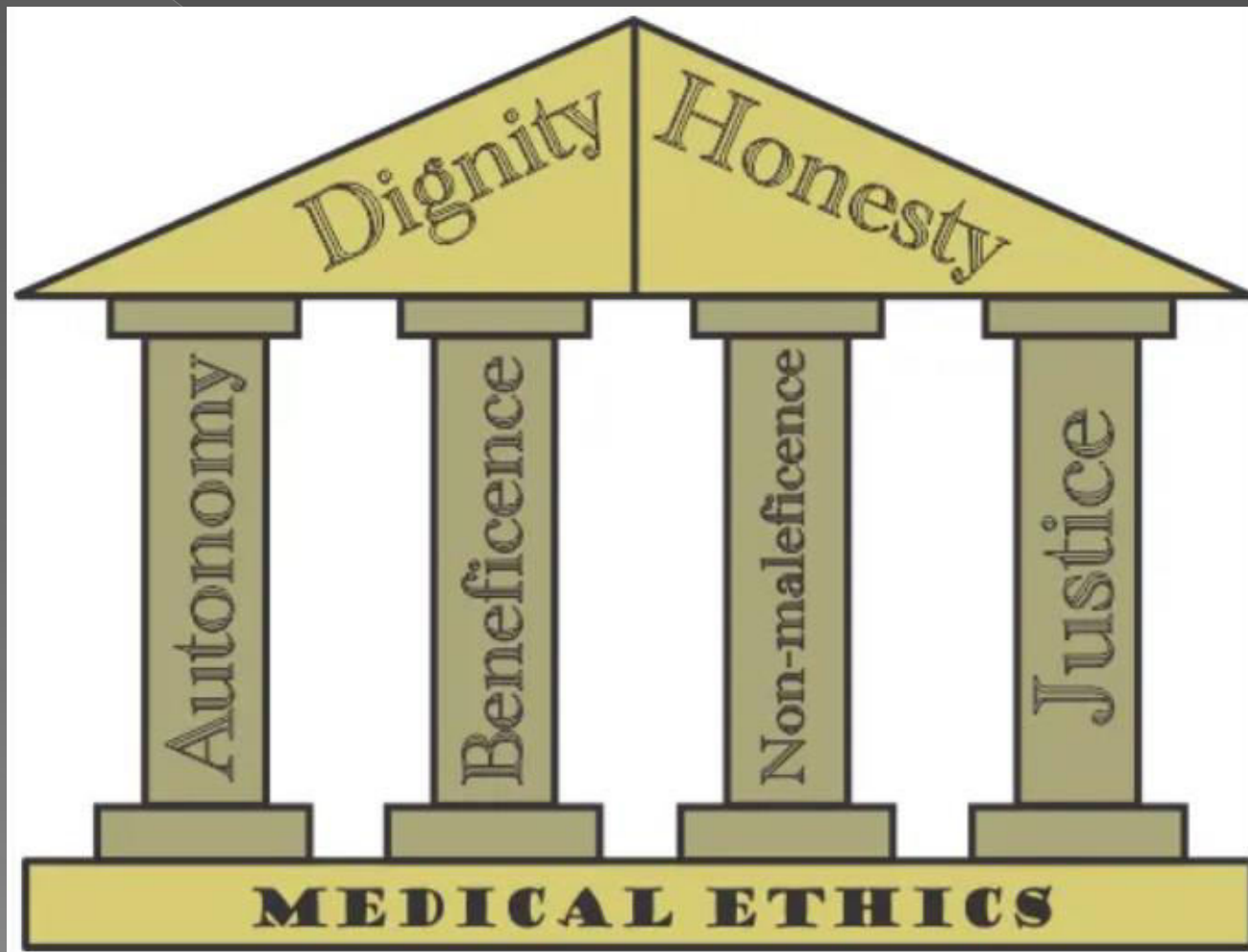
SPECIFIC LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of this session, the 2nd MBBS student....

1. should have knowledge about patient autonomy, patient's rights and shared responsibility in health care.
2. Should able to identify and describe about medico-legal, socio-cultural and ethical issues as it pertains to patient autonomy, patient's rights and responsibility in shared decision in given clinical case.
3. should able to discuss and defend own views and solutions for given ethical conditions.
4. should have knowledge about current legal provisions in India regarding patient's autonomy and patient's rights in healthcare

Basic Four Principles of BioEthics/ Medical Ethics

- Thomas Beauchamp & James Childress, 1985



- ◉ **AUTONOMY**

Ability of a person to make his or her own decisions. The patient has the right to refuse or choose the advised treatment. Physician shall respect it.

- ◉ **BENEFICENCE**

Physician shall always act for the benefit of the patient.

- ◉ **NON-MALEFICENCE**

Physician shall do no harm or allow harm to a patient.

- ◉ **JUSTICE**

Healthcare for all with equity and non-discrimination.

Clinical Case

You evaluate Mrs. Lakshmi Srinivasan who is a 48 year old woman presenting with lymphadenopathy. She had been complaining of mild fever and weight loss for the past 4 -5 months. Examination of the neck shows large rubbery lymph nodes that are present also in the axilla and the groin. There is a palpable spleen. She is accompanied by her caring husband.

Mrs. Lakshmi undergoes a lymph node biopsy and the pathologist calls you and tells you that she has lymphoma.

That evening Mr. Srinivasan comes in first into your office and puts the report on your table. As you read the description you realise that the final diagnosis has been altered to Tuberculosis by whitening out the pathologist's report. When you look up, he tells you –“Sir, I googled lymphoma - it is almost like a cancer. My wife can't handle that diagnosis. She has always been a worried frightened person. I want you to tell my wife that she has TB. She is waiting outside, doctor. I thought I will call her in after I had a chat about this with you”.

SDL Exercise

Think and discuss with your batchmate (in group of 3-5 students) about following questions. Write down your answers with reasons.

- 1) Does this patient has right to know her/ his diagnosis?
- 2) Can patient's family member request the doctor not to disclose crucial medical information to patient?
- 3) Should the doctor do as per requests/ wishes of relative of the patient?
- 4) What should the doctor tell to the patient about her diagnosis, treatment plans and prognosis?
How much information should be given - Full/ partial/ reasonable?

References

1. AETCOM Booklet by MCI, 2018
<https://www.nmc.org.in/information-desk/for-colleges/ug-curriculum>
2. Principles of bioethics. Thomas Beauchamp & James Childress, 1985.