

# THE IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING BIOETHICS

Lecture at the College of Medicine  
King Saud University, Riyadh

By

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# مقدمة

- ▶ الخلق الحسن هو رسالة الإسلام وله مكانته وشرفه في التعامل القويم مع النفس بتزكيتها، و مع الآخرين بالعدل والإحسان.
- ▶ لقد كان رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم قدوة عملية في تطبيق الأخلاق، واقعا ملموسا.



# مقدمة



▶ ومن هذه المنطلقات الإيمانية الراسخة كان جديرا بطلاب وطالبات كليات الطب والأطباء والطبيبات وجميع العاملين في المجال الصحي أن يلتمسوا هديه صلى الله عليه وسلم في الأخلاق والتعامل اليومي في مجال عملهم.

▶ إن دراسة أخلاقيات التعامل و الخلق الحسن و محاولة تطبيقها في التعامل اليومي مع المرضى و الزملاء والأساتذة تزداد أهميتها لدى طلاب العلوم الصحية.

- ▶ The overall objective of training in ethics for medical students is to equip them with principles and methods to enable them analyze and resolve practical clinical ethical problems that they encounter as students and as practitioners later in their life.



The Importance Of Learning Bioethics

*Professor Omar Hasan Kasule Sr.*



كيف نتعلم الأخلاقيات؟

▶ هناك أخلاقيات عامة يتفق عليها كل عقلاء البشر مثل الصدق مثلا وقد يكون هناك خلاف في التفاصيل وقد تكون فطرية أو مكتسبة تحتاج الى التعلم والتوجيه والتربية.

▶ وهناك قواعد تحكم التعامل مع الممارسات والقضايا الطبية وهذه قد يكون فيها خلاف بين الثقافات المختلفة.



# ماهي أخلاقيات الطب ؟

▶ مجموعة الآداب والضوابط والتوجيهات المتفقة مع قواعد الأخلاق، والمستمدة من القيم والمبادئ والأعراف، والتي تُعنى بالتصرف الأخلاقي المناسب للممارس الصحي، مع المريض وذويه أو مع غيرهم من العاملين أو المستفيدين من الخدمات الصحية وتعنى بالممارسات الطبية المختلفة.

▶ **أخلاقيات الطب الإسلامية:** تستمد من نصوص و مبادئ وقواعد الشريعة الإسلامية

► ومن المعروف أن أخلاقيات المهن الصحية في المجتمع المسلم محكومة بالشرع الحكيم ، ومنظمة بنصوص الوحيين وهي جزء من العبودية لله سبحانه وتعالى.

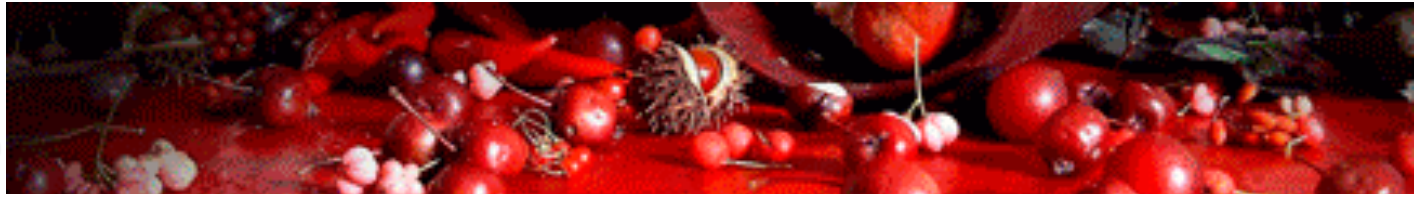


# Let us see some examples





# Case 1



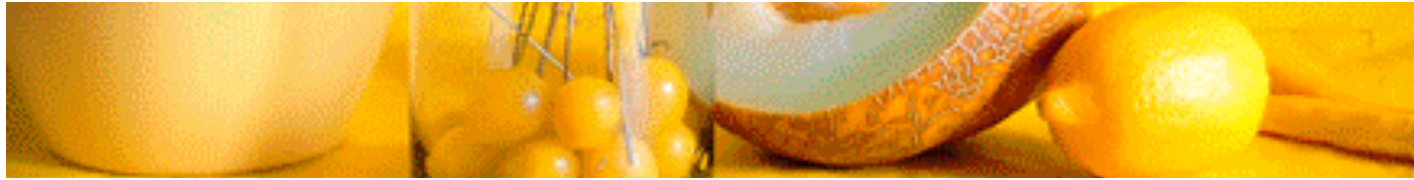
- ▶ A patient with diastolic blood pressure of 120 mmHg failed to return to the Health Center for treatment. The nurse called the head of the village and asked him to convince the patient to come. In order to press on him the urgency of the matter, she had to explain all the details of the history & examination that had been carried out on the patient.
  - Your views on the ethical aspects of the response from the nurse ?

## Case 2



- ▶ A 42-year-old teacher pregnant for the first time refused an elective caesarean section. She continued to refuse the procedure when labor became obstructed and signs of fetal distress appeared. THE HUSBAND REFUSES CAESARIAN DESPITE THE RISK ON MOTHER AND POSSIBLE RISK ON MOTHER .The obstetrician went ahead to operate on. The baby was delivered alive and well.
  - Your views on the ethical aspects of the Obstetrician's action ?

# Case 3



- ▶ A patient admitted to the ICU after a car accident was confirmed by 3 specialist surgeons to be in a persistent vegetative state. The doctors wanted to discontinue life support but the family refused because there were signs of life like reflex flexion of joints and blinking of the eyes. THERE WAS A CONFLICT BETWEEN THE DOCTORS AND THE FAMILY. The hospital decided to seek a court injunction after keeping the patient in the ICU for 6 months without any obvious improvement.
  - Are the requests of the doctors and hospital ethically justifiable?
  - Please explain the reasons for your answer

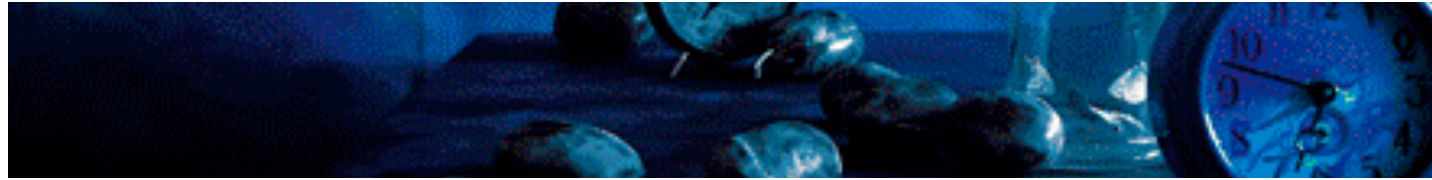


# Case 4



- ▶ A couple married for 10 years without a child decided to have IVF. Before the procedure was completed, the husband died. The wife insisted on using the stored semen of her dead husband. The relatives of the husband objected. The first wife who had been divorced 15 years earlier with one girl also asked for the semen for an IVF procedure that she hoped would enable her to have another baby to act as a bone marrow donor for her daughter who had leukemia and had failed to find a matching donor.
  - Your Views on this scenario from Islamic Ethics perspective?

# Case 5



- ▶ Mrs Jamila, a patient in her late sixties, is an infrequent attender at the Family practice clinic. One day, she presented to Dr. Jamal with abdominal distension and anorexia. On examination, Dr. Jamal found a large mass and ascites. He thought that the most likely diagnosis was ovarian cancer. He explained this to Mrs Jamila and advised that some investigations would help to confirm the diagnosis and then it would be possible to work out what, if any, treatment would be recommended. Mrs Jamila refused to have any investigations or to see a specialist for further assessment. She eventually died several months later.
  - Your Views on Dr Jamal's relative inaction from an ethical perspective?

# Case 6



- ▶ Once a month, Dr. Hameed hosts an HIV case conference in his practice. It is a breakfast meeting attended by staff in the practice and surrounding practices, who have an interest in the care of patients with HIV/AIDS. The breakfast is provided by Links – Howard, a pharmaceutical company that produces a range of drugs used in the treatment of HIV/AIDS. One of the Links-Howard pharmaceutical representatives also attends these meetings. The meetings usually begin informally as the participants eat breakfast together.

# Case 6 (Contd)



- ▶ They then spend about half an hour either discussing general treatment and management issues or one participant will bring a difficult case to the meeting. Dr. Hameed allows the Links – Howard representative to bring promotional literature and pens to the meeting, and there is also the opportunity to speak to individual doctors at the end of each meeting.
  - Are Dr Hameed's actions in accepting help from a medical representative ethically acceptable in this scenario? Please justify your answer?



# CASES

- ▶ **Case #1:** A 40-year old policeman refused surgery to drain a pyomyositis abscess. He still refused surgery after the abscess burst spontaneously. The surgeons sedated him and carried out the surgery without his consent.
- ▶ **Case #2:** A 40-year old housewife with 8 living children is brought reluctantly to the contraceptive clinic by the husband. The husband asks for tubal ligation because he cannot afford to look after more children. The wife insists that Allah will provide for all the children irrespective of the husband's financial situation.
- ▶ **Case #3:** A father of a child with end-stage renal disease got tired of taking her for dialysis every week. He had failed to find a live or a cadaveric donor for her in his country. He considered traveling to a nearby country where kidneys could be bought but he was not sure. He also considered marrying a young wife (his first wife had died) and hopefully produce a child who could be a donor.

# CASES

- ▶ **Case #4:** A married woman fearing that she was no longer attractive wanted to undergo plastic surgery on the nose and to bleach her skin. She feared that her husband would look for another wife.
- ▶ **Case #5:** A champion Qur'an recite was advised to have an operation to make his nose smaller for a better sound.
- ▶ **Case #6:** a specialist surgeon working in a public hospital started referring all patients he saw to get x-ray examination from a radiology center owned by his wife. The wife charged the lowest fees of all the radiologists in town.

