



ETHICS IN MEDICINE-An overview

Introduction and Rationale

DR VICTOR O.ANSA

DIRECTOR OF TRAINING - WACP



WEST AFRICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
COLLEGE QUEST AFRICAN DES MEDECINS



TRAINING OF TRAINERS

THEME: Ethics in Medicine - an Overview

Join us on Zoom

Meeting ID: 878 2798 3806
Passcode: 752911

Date:
Sunday
2nd
April 2023

Venue:
Virtual Meeting


Time:
4PM WAT / 3PM GMT

Speakers & Topics



Prof. Victor O. Ansa
Director of Training-WACP
Introduction and Rationale



Prof. Morenike Folayan
Dentist, Bioethicist. OAU/OAUTH Ile-Ife
Overview of Ethics of Clinical
Care & Ethical Dilemmas



Dr Yinka Eyelade
Anaesthetist, Bioethicist. UI/UCH - Ibadan
Research ethics & Integrity



Dr Jadesola Lokulo-Sodipe
Law / Lecturer UI
Legal Issues in Medical Practice

S/N	TOPIC	SPEAKER	TIME
1.	Welcome remarks/Announcements	Dr. Prudence Wachinou- Secretary General.-WACP	2 minutes
2.	Introduction and Rationale	Dr. Victor Ansa-Director of Training-WACP	7 minutes
3.	Overview of Ethics of Clinical care &Ethical Dilemmas	Prof. Morenike Folayan- Dentist/Bioethicist-OAU/OAUTH-Ile-Ife	15 minutes
4.	Research ethics and Integrity	Dr. Yinka Eyelade- Anaestheist /Bioethicist-UI/UCH-Ibadan	15 minutes
5.	Legal Issues in Medical Practice	Dr. Jadesola Lokulo-Sodipe- Barrister@Law/Lecturer-UI Ibadan	15 minutes
6.	Questions & Answers	ALL	10 minutes
7.	Closing	Dir . Of Training	

ETHICS IN MEDICINE

- ▶ Medical Ethics encompasses the moral principles by which doctors must conduct themselves.
- ▶ It is rapidly changing such that what might have been considered ethical several years ago may not be today.
- ▶ Conversely what may be considered ethical today may change in the future.
- ▶ Is therefore a very dynamic subject.

WHY IS MEDICAL ETHICS IMPORTANT?

- ▶ Medical doctors and other health professionals are frequently confronted by several moral questions and ethical dilemmas in the course of their work .
- ▶ Good knowledge of medical ethics provides that platform that helps them take decisions that are correct and morally sound .

- ▶ Medical students, resident doctors and indeed all doctors are required to have a good grasp of medical ethics to ensure that they can do consistently what is best for their patients.
- ▶ Doctors will be able to determine which action(s) they take related to patient care is(are) deemed right or wrong if they have sound knowledge of medical ethics.

FOUR PILLARS OF MEDICAL ETHICS

- BENEFICENCE
- NON-MALFICENCE
- AUTONOMY
- JUSTICE

BENEFICENCE- Doing good. Act in the best interest of the patient and help them advance their own good.

NON-MALFICENCE- Duty to do no harm to the patient

AUTONOMY- Respect the right of patients to make their own decisions where they are able to.

JUSTICE- Ensuring fairness in how care is provided and how resources are allocated.

4 Pillars of Medical Ethics

AUTONOMY

BENEFICENCE

NON-

MALIFECENCE

JUSTICE

Knowledge of medical ethics among Nigerian medical doctors

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ABSTRACT

Background: The knowledge of medical ethics is essential for health care practitioners worldwide. The main objective of this study was to evaluate the knowledge of medical doctors in a tertiary care hospital in Nigeria in the area of medical ethics. **Materials and Methods:** A cross-sectional questionnaire-based study involving 250 medical doctors of different levels was carried out. The questionnaire, apart from the bio-data, also sought information on undergraduate and postgraduate training in medical ethics, knowledge about the principles of biomedical ethics and the ethical dilemmas encountered in daily medical practice. **Results:** One hundred and ninety (190) respondents returned the filled questionnaire representing a response rate of 76%. One hundred and fifty-two respondents (80%) have had some sort of medical ethics education during their undergraduate level in the medical education. The median duration of formal training or exposure to medical ethics education was 3.00 hours (range: 0-15). One hundred and twenty-nine respondents have read at least once the code of medical ethics of the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria while 127 (66.8%) have some general knowledge of the principles of biomedical ethics. The breakdown of the identified ethical dilemmas shows that discharge against medical advice was the most identified by the respondents (69.3%) followed by religious/cultural issues (56.6%) while confidentiality was recognized by 53.4%. **Conclusion:** The knowledge of medical ethics by Nigerian medical doctors is grossly inadequate. There is an urgent need for enhancement of the teaching of the discipline at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels in Nigeria.

Key words: Biomedical ethics, developing countries, ethical dilemma, medical education, physicians

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Ethical issues in biomedical research in Nigeria: a systematic review

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Abstract: The use of human subjects in research comes with lots of ethical challenges. The purpose of this review is to assess the various ethical issues that have been associated with biomedical research in Nigeria. This article also find out the possible ways of improvement of this scenario. Pubmed/Medline, Google Scholar, JSTOR, and AJOL search were the possible search engine for literature from 2000 to 2020. Key words were used including ethics, ethical issues, biomedical research and Nigeria. Of the 113 publications were found. A total of 18(15.9%) fulfilled the study inclusion criteria and were included in this review. Twelve ethical issues were highlighted including Informed consent (12 studies), autonomy and voluntariness (8 studies), beneficence (8 studies), counseling (5 studies), compensation (4 studies), professional behavior and attitudes (2 studies), confidentiality (2 studies), social, cultural and religious practices (2 studies), scientific integrity (1 study), communitarianism (1 study), equity (1 study), and trust (1 study). Most of the studies were cross sectional and carried out in southern Nigeria. We found that there are ethical issues in biomedical research in Nigeria of which informed consent is most widely studied. Also, participants had varying degree of understanding of their rights as research subjects. As a result, there is need to enhance the capacity of investigators to better understand these issues and also increase their explanatory skill to help participants achieve complete understanding of their various rights and process.

Keywords: Ethics, ethical issues, biomedical research (BR), research, systematic review

ORIGINAL ARTICLE: MEDICAL ETHICS PRACTICE IN THE NIGER DELTA REGION OF NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Background: *Although medical ethics is the obligation of a moral nature and the basis of sound and safe medical practice the evidence is scanty to show that medicine is practiced on the basis of a moral obligation.*

Objective: *To identify the factors limiting ethical practice of medicine and to describe how they can enhance the doctor-patient relationship.*

Method: *A baseline cross sectional descriptive study was designed with structured questionnaires which were administered to 105 final year medical students and 70 of their lecturers. Convenient sampling technique was used to select four medical schools but their human participants (students and teachers) were selected randomly. Nominal scale data sets were collected and analyzed on a Microsoft Excel spread sheet for descriptive statistics.*

Result: *For both students and teachers professional negligence followed by life matters were their major ethical concerns. However whereas the students were least concerned about culture of the profession their teachers were least concerned about conflict of interest. Moreover although 80% and 98% of students and teachers respectively, know what unethical practice is, there is no significant difference ($p>0.05$) in their knowledge of what medical ethics means.*

Conclusion: *The study shows that the practice of medical ethics is poor. This can be improved if practitioners take more time to reflect on their actions and inactions. Although this will depend on their understanding of what ethics means, identifying professional negligence as a major ethical issue in medicine is self-protectorist and limits practitioners' ability to be ethical in practice. It is suggested that ethicists or moral philosophers should be involved in hospital ward rounds or in patient case reviews. This is with intent to assist in explaining to avoid or ameliorate errors that may be reported or foreseen in medical practice.*

RESEARCH ARTICLE

The relation between law, religion, culture and medical ethics in Nigeria

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Nigeria consists of over 250 ethnic groups with various customs and values. There are three dominant religions: Christianity, Islam and sundry traditional religions. The religion and cultures of the various peoples control the lives and transactions of the various groups. Nigerian law is based on English common law, customary law and Islam-based Sharia law. Medical ethics came into focus in the early 1960s after independence, when the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN) was set up to regulate the practice of medicine and dentistry. The law that established the Medical and Dental Council was updated in 1990, under the Medical and Dental Practitioners Act, Cap 221, laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Medical ethics in Nigeria is based on the core principles of the Hippocratic oath, and the Nigerian code of medical ethics was revised in 1990 and 2004. However, the core principles remain the same. The law, religion and culture of the Nigerian people seem to be in firm accord with the code of medical ethics as it relates to abortion and euthanasia. The Nigerian penal code regards euthanasia as murder. Abortion, except done in order to save the life of the mother, remains a criminal offence. However, litigations against those who commit abortion are few and far between. This harmony between law, religion, culture and medical ethics, however, does not apply to the medical practices of organ transplantation, assisted conception and its related practices, and limb amputations. This paper discusses in detail the polemics and discordant dynamics of the emerging ethical controversies and proffers suggestions for a way forward, in order to obviate possible ethical conundrums.

Keywords: law; religion; culture; medical ethics; Nigeria

Conclusion and recommendations

There is the need for harmony between law and medical ethics in Nigeria, to obviate ethical conundrums. The MDCN needs to work with other medical professional bodies and update the country's code of medical ethics, especially as it relates to emerging issues like assisted conception, organ transplants and stem cell therapies. The MDCN should also liaise with the

Policeman beats doctor for examining wife without consent



**THIS IS DEFINITELY NOT IN THE STANDARD BOOK!
CULTURE AT PLAY? THE DILEMMA OF THE NIGERIAN
MEDICAL PRACTITIONER.**

**"Wrong is Wrong even
if everyone is doing it.
Right is Right even if
no one is doing it."**



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The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the right side of the frame, creating a modern, layered effect against the white background.