Professional Ethics Review

Dr Mayyadah Hameed Rasheed

BDS, MSc, PhD

Oral Medicine

Ashur University, College of Dentistry

You Ask

Why we have to study Dental Ethics?



The Answer is:



Ethical decisions that almost every dentist faces



Poor dental work



Advertising



Unattractive



Highly infectious

What is dental ethics?



Dependent patient



Un cooperative child



Dental team



Warning

Why Studying Ethics?

The study of ethics prepares dental students and practicing dentists to **recognize and deal with** such issues in a **principled manner**, whether in their interactions with patients, society or their colleagues and in the conduct of dental research.

What is dental ethics?

Ethics is the study of morality — careful and systematic reflection on and analysis of moral decisions and behavior, whether past, present or future. The language of morality includes nouns such as ‘rights’ and ‘responsibilities’ and
adjectives such as ‘good’ and ‘bad’ (or ‘evil’), ‘right’ and ‘wrong’, ‘just’ and ‘unjust’.
Dental ethics is the branch of ethics that deals with moral issues in dental practice.

What is dental ethics?



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- ✓ **Dental ethics** is the branch of ethics that deals with moral issues in dental practice.

What is dental ethics?



Language of morality

Nouns

Rights

Responsibilities

Adjectives

Good and bad

Evil

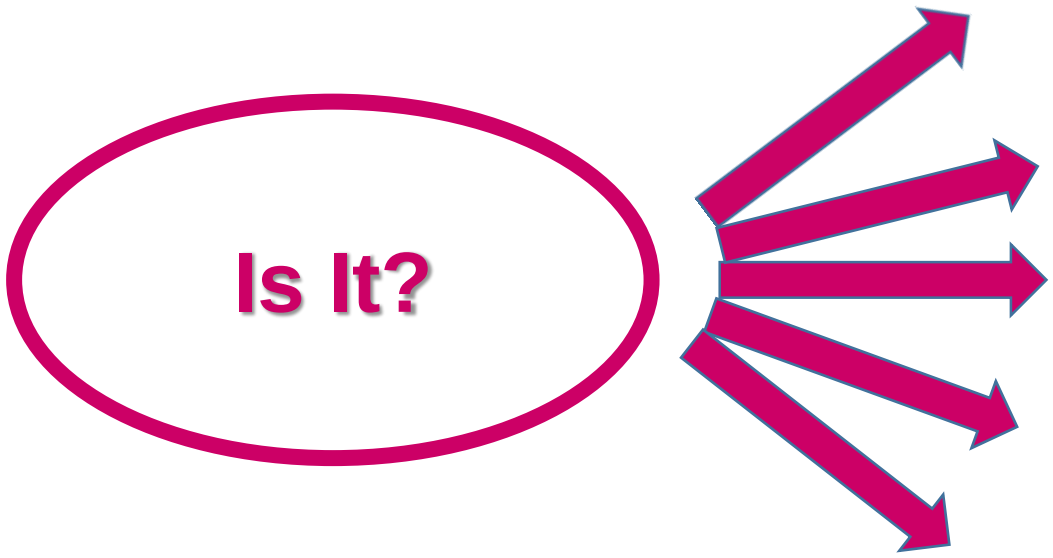
Right and wrong

Just and unjust

What is dental ethics?

Every day dentists are faced with situations that call for:

- ✓ **Ethical judgment and behavior:**



True?

Accurate?

Fair?

Quality?

Legal?

What is dental ethics?

Every day dentists are faced with situations that call for:

✓ **Communicate:**



Listened?

Informed the patient?

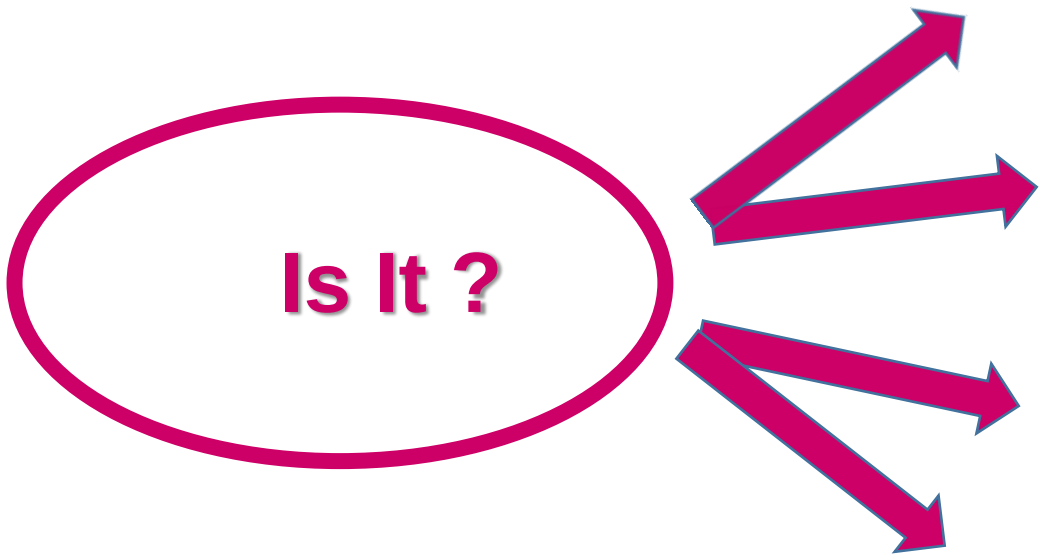
Explained outcomes?

Presented alternatives?

What is dental ethics?

Every day dentists are faced with situations that call for:

✓ **Decide:**



The best time?

Within your ability?

In the best interests of the patient?

What you would want for yourself?

Ethics in Dental Practise

Ethics is an essential component of dental practice. Ethical principles such as respect for persons, informed consent and privacy are basic to the dentist-patient relationship. However, the application of these principles in specific situations is often problematic, since dentists, patients, their family members and other oral health personnel may disagree about what is the right way to act in a situation.

Moreover, developments in dental science and technology and changes in societal values are constantly posing new ethical challenges. The study of ethics prepares dental students and practicing dentists to recognise and deal with such issues in a principled manner, whether in their interactions with patients, society or their colleagues and in the conduct of dental research.

Why Studying Ethics?

Application of ethical principles in specific situations is often problematic?

- Patients, their family members and other oral health personnel → May disagree

- Developments in technology
- Changes in societal values → Ethical challenges.

What is dental ethics?

Sampling of ethical decisions that almost every dentist faces regularly:

1. When examining a new patient, a dentist finds evidence of poor dental work. What should the dentist say to the patient?
2. May a dentist ethically advertise that his or her practice will produce "happy smiles" as well as quality dental care?
3. May a dentist tell a patient that his or her teeth are unattractive, with a view to recommending aesthetic treatment, when the patient has not asked for this opinion?
4. May a dentist ethically decline to treat a patient with a highly infectious disease?

What is dental ethics?

5. How should a dentist deal with an adult patient who cannot fully participate in deciding about care?
6. What may a dentist do to obtain cooperative behavior from a young patient who needs dental care but is uncontrollable in the chair?
7. Do dentists have an obligation to warn their patients, even when patients don't want to hear it, about the dangers of smoking or other substance dependencies?
8. What may dentists require of other dentists who are their employees?
9. What may dentists require of the dental hygienists and dental assistants whom they employ?

Dental Ethics and Law

Dental ethics is closely related to law. In most countries there are laws that specify how dentists are required to deal with ethical issues in patient care and research. In addition, the dental licensing and regulatory officials in each country can and do punish dentists for ethical violations. Usually the requirements of dental ethics and law are similar. But ethics should not be confused with law. One difference between the two is that laws can differ significantly from one country to another while ethics is generally applicable across national boundaries. In addition, ethics quite often prescribes higher standards of behavior than does the law, andoccasionally situations may arise where the two conflict. In such circumstances dentists must use their own best judgement whether to comply with the law or follow ethical principles. Where unjust laws conflict with ethical principles, dentists should work individually and collectively to change the laws.

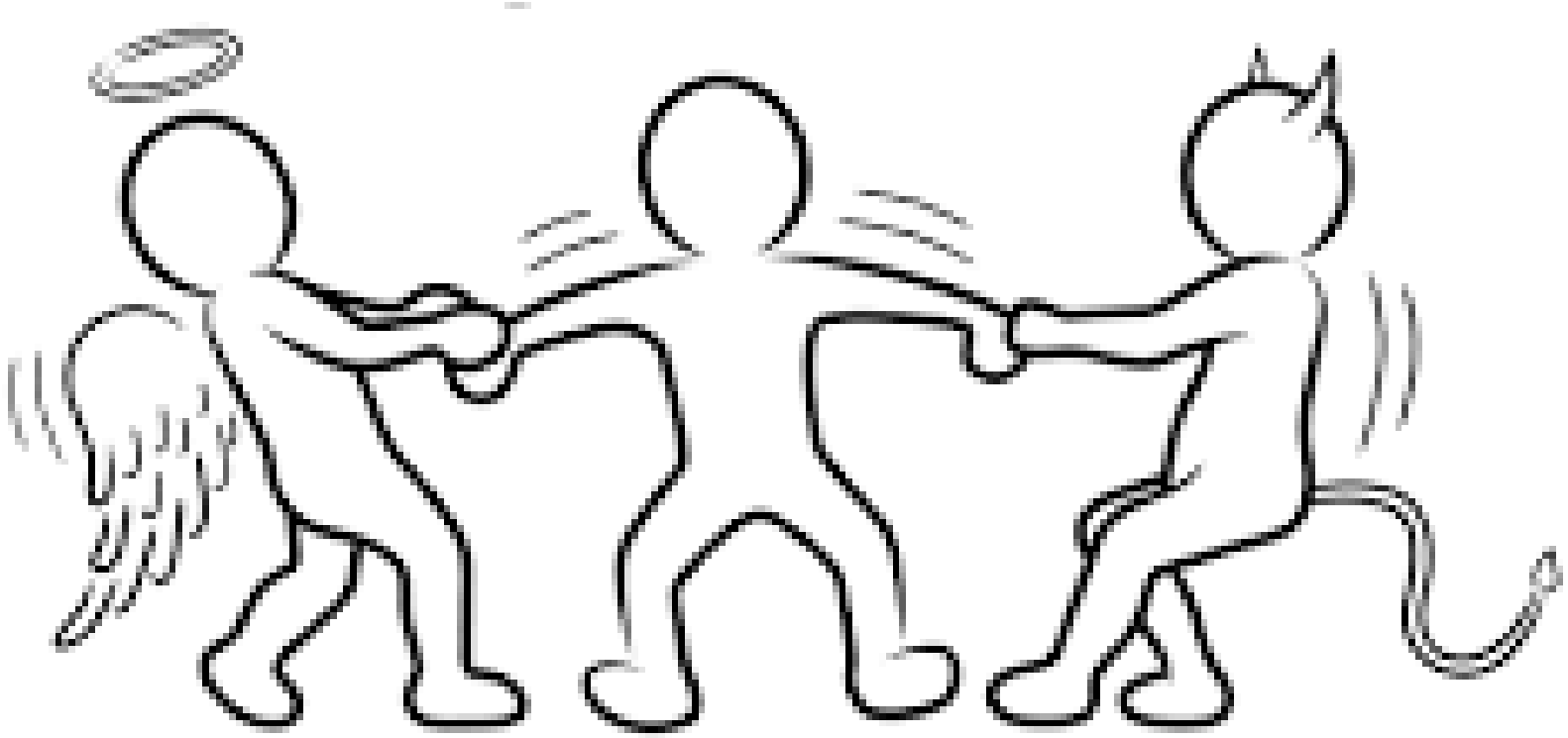
Dental Ethics and Law



- ✓ Relation
- ✓ National boundaries
- ✓ Higher standards
- ✓ To be changed

What is dental ethics?

- ✓**Morality and ethics:** principles concerning the distinction between right and wrong or good and bad behavior.



Obligation and principle

- ✓ **Obligation and principle** will be used in the same way. Ex: someone has an obligation will simply mean that there is something that the person ought or ought not do.