Dental Ethics

Lecture 2

Professionalism, Human Rights and Law

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Human Rights and Law



Multicultural Society

Moral traditions

Foundation for dental ethics Acceptable across cultural boundaries.

Human Rights and Law













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NO PUNISHMENT WITHOUT LAW



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RIGHT TO FAMILY AND PRIVATE LIFE



9

RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, CONSCIENCE AND RELIGION



10

RIGHT TO FREE EXPRESSION



11

RIGHT TO FREE ASSOCIATION



12

RIGHT TO MARRY



13

RIGHT TO AN EFFECTIVE REMEDY IF YOUR RIGHTS ARE BREACHED

14

RIGHT NOT TO BE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST

Protocol 1 Article 2

RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Protocol 1 Article 3

RIGHT TO FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

Protocol 1 Article 1

RIGHT TO PEACEFUL ENJOYMENT OF PROPERTY

Human rights are basic moral principles that are enforced by law

Human Rights and Law



- ✓ In recent times both medical ethics and dental ethics have been greatly influenced by developments in human rights.
- ✓ In multicultural world, with many different moral traditions, the major international human rights agreements can provide a foundation for dental ethics that is acceptable across national and cultural boundaries.

Profession, Professional, Professionalism



Profession: any type of work that needs special training or skills

Profession, Professional, Professionalism



Professional: doing something as a paid job rather than as a hobby

Profession, Professional, Professionalism



Professionalism: the attitude, and behavior of a worker and the ways they communicate with their co-workers and clients.

Profession, Professional, Professionalism

- ✓ **Profession:** can be defined as any type of work that needs special training or skills.
- ✓ **Professional:** doing something as a paid job rather than as a hobby
- ✓ **Professionalism:** the attitude, and behavior of a worker and the ways they communicate with their co-workers and clients.

Dentistry as a profession



The concept of medicine as a Profession

Public promise:

- ✓ Interests of their patients
- ✓ “First, do no harm”



Dentistry as a profession

- ✓ Ethics integral part of medicine at least since the time of Hippocrates, the 5th century B.C.E.



Dentistry as a profession



✓ **Dentistry as a profession** for less than two centuries.

When we can find the origins of dental ethics ?

Traditional medical ethics

Dentistry as a profession

- ✓ The concept of medicine as a profession is often attributed to Hippocrates, whereby physicians make a public promise that they will place the interests of their patients above their own interests.
- ✓ The core values of “first, do no harm” and “put the patient first” apply to this very day.
- ✓ Ethics has been an integral part of medicine at least since the time of Hippocrates, the 5th century B.C.E. (before the Christian era) Greek physician who is regarded as a founder of medical ethics.
- ✓ Dentistry has been a recognized profession for less than two centuries. Previously it overlapped with medicine and so the origins of dental ethics can be found in traditional medical ethics.

Dentistry as a Profession

The most common characteristics that made dentistry as a profession, and dentists as professionals:

1. Dentists have a distinctive theoretical knowledge and skills
2. Dentists introduce important benefits for patients
3. Dentists have extensive autonomy
4. Presence of special obligations.

Dentistry as a Profession

Why dentistry is a profession, and dentists are professionals?

1. Distinctive theoretical knowledge and skills
2. Important benefits for patients
3. Extensive autonomy
4. Special obligations.



Professionalism in dentistry

You Have to Do:

1. Be truthful and respectful towards patients at all times.
2. Listen to patients and be empathetic.
3. Get to know the needs, desires and priorities of your patients.
4. Maintain clinical skills.
5. Understand and follow the rules that apply to the profession
6. Dress professionally and ensure office staff does the same.
7. Recognize your limitations and refer patients to others when appropriate.
8. Establish boundaries between your professional and personal social media presence.

(ضع حدودًا بين تواجدك المهني والشخصي على وسائل التواصل الاجتماعي)

Professionalism in dentistry

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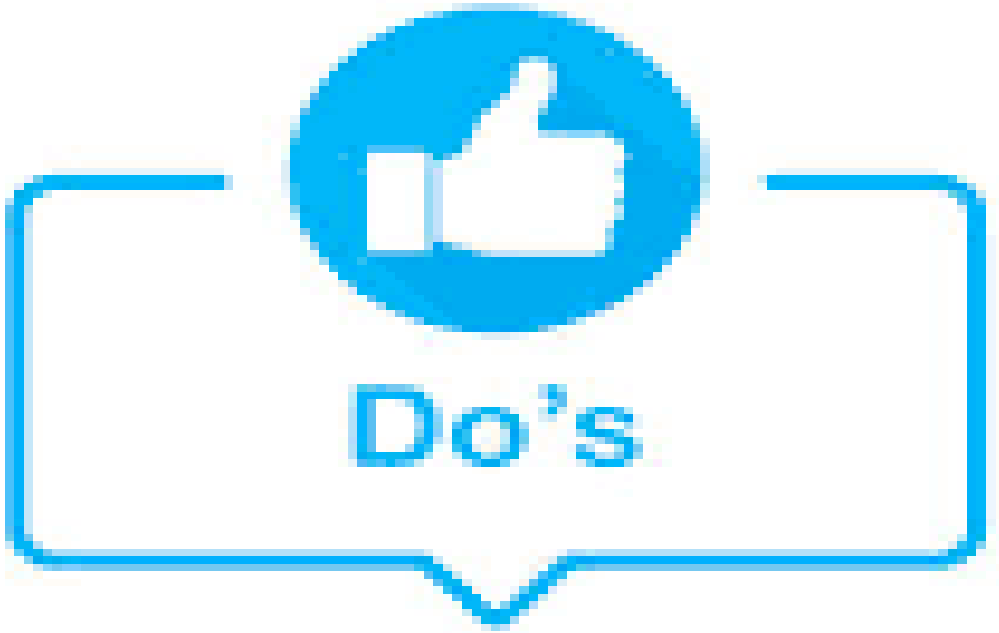

Professionalism in dentistry

You Have not to Do:

1. Overshare details of your personal life with patients: you should be focusing on the patient, not yourself.
2. Promise a result: regardless of skill

(ضمان النتيجة أو الوعد بها بغض النظر عن المهارة)

3. Criticize other dentists' work: when patients hear dentists putting down colleagues, they may lose faith in the profession as a whole.
4. Routinely keep patients waiting
5. Be oversensitive about second opinions: other dentists will sometimes disagree with you - don't take it personally.

Professionalism in dentistry

1. Overshare details of your personal life
2. Promise a result
3. Criticize other dentists' work
4. Keep patients waiting
5. Oversensitive



Normative and Commercial Picture of Dentistry

The commercial picture

Dentistry has no different in principle from any other activity in the marketplace in which the dentist is a producer and the patient is a consumer, and the entire relationship consists of communications about the service and its price, and some agreement about an exchange. There may be some fundamental obligations such as not to force or cheat, and no one in the marketplace has any obligations to act in one way rather than another.

Normative and Commercial Picture of Dentistry

The commercial picture

- ✓ Marketplace
- ✓ Producer and consumer
- ✓ Relationship service and its price
- ✓ Some fundamental obligations: not to force or cheat
- ✓ No obligations to act in one way rather than another.

Normative and Commercial Picture of Dentistry

The normative picture: This picture is more acceptable than the commercial picture by the vast majority of dental professionals and the community. An extensive education is required for gaining sufficient knowledge and skills for providing effective dental care. Normative picture is the accurate picture of dentistry and dentists have special obligations precisely because they are professionals.

Normative and Commercial Picture of Dentistry

The normative picture:

- ✓ More acceptable
- ✓ Extensive education (knowledge and skill)
- ✓ Effective dental care
- ✓ Special obligations precisely because they are professionals.