


Ethics in Ophthalmology



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Ethics: Definition

- Robbins, et. al.
 - That branch of philosophy dealing with values relating to human conduct, with respect to the rightness and wrongness of certain actions and to the goodness and badness of the motives and results of such actions

Ethics: Definition

- Vasquez:
 - Process of examining the moral standards of a person or society to determine whether these standards are reasonable or unreasonable in order to apply them to concrete situations and issues

Ethics

- First Do No Harm...

Ethics-Historical

- Cataract surgery
- Intraocular lens
- Advertising
- Multivitamins

Ethics: Present/Future

- Glaucoma
- Oculoplastics
- Retina
- Cataract

Ethics: Glaucoma

- Trabeculectomy
- Ocular hypertension

Ethics: Oculoplastics

- DCR: Endoscopic versus external
- Excision of periocular and eyelid tumors
- Treatment of Grave's orbitopathy

Ethics: Retina

- Age related Macular Degeneration (AMD)
- Photodynamic Therapy (PDT)
- Fluorescein angiography (FA) and Indocyanine Green (ICG)

Ethics: Cataract

- Intraocular lenses
- Technique and instrumentation
- Phaco technology

Patient Safety Goals

- **The purpose of the National Patient Safety Goals is to improve patient safety. The Goals focus on problems in health care safety and how to solve them.**

Patient Safety Goals

- **Identify patients correctly**
 - Use at least two ways to identify patients. For example, use the patient's name and date of birth.
 - **Make sure that the correct patient gets the correct blood type when giving blood.**

Patient Safety Goals

- **Prevent infection**
- Use the hand cleaning guidelines from the World Health Organization or Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Report death or injury to patients from infections that happen in the facility.
- **Use proven guidelines to prevent infections.**

Patient Safety Goals

- **Improve staff communication**
- Read back spoken or phone orders to the person who gave the order.
- Create a list of abbreviations and symbols that are not to be used.

Patient Safety Goals

- **Improve staff communication (continued)**
- Quickly get important test results to the right staff person.
- Create steps for staff to follow when sending patients to the next caregiver. Make sure there is time to ask and answer questions.

Patient Safety Goals

- **Check patient medications**
 - Find out what medications each patient is taking. Make sure that it is OK for the patient to take any new medications with their current medications.
 - **For continuity of care, reconcile patient medications at the end of each visit and provide this information to the patient's PCP.**

Patient Safety Goals

- **Check patient medications (continued)**
 - Give a list of the patient's medications to the patient and their family before they go home. Explain the list.
 - Some patients may get medications in small amounts or for a short time. Make sure that it is OK for those patients to take those medications with their current medications.

Patient Safety Goals

- **Use medications safely**
 - Create a list of medications with names that look alike or sound alike. Update the list every year.
 - Label all medications that are not already labeled. For example, medicines in syringes, cups and basins.
 - Take extra care with patients who take anticoagulants.

Patient Safety Goals

- **Prevent fires during surgery**
- Remind staff about the dangers of fire during surgery.
- Fire can be caused by lasers and other heated equipment.
- Be aware that some fluids and gasses can catch fire, and act accordingly.

Patient Safety Goals

- **Help patients to be involved in their care**
- Tell each patient and their family how to report their complaints about safety.

Ethics-Nurse

- Our primary goal as nurses is to be the patient's advocate....
- Promoting ethical behavior within ophthalmology.

References

- National Patient Safety Goals:
www.jointcommission.org
- Robbins, Russell W., & Wallace, William A. (2007). Decision support for ethical problem solving: A multi-agent approach. *Decision Support Systems*. 43, 1571-1587.
- Velasquez, M. (2006). *Business ethics: Concepts and cases*. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson Prentice Hall.

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