

ACUTE ETHICAL ISSUES IN MODERN-DAY MEDICINE

Tetiana Borovska

18/02/2019

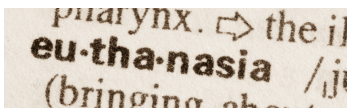
FROM THE BEGINNING OF TIMES MEDICINE WAS NOT ONLY A CURE FOR DEATH BUT ALSO A SOPHISTICATED COMPLEX OF PSYCHOLOGICAL TRAITS, STRONG BELIEFS, SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE AND ACCURACY, COURAGE, DESPAIR AND FEARLESSNESS FROM BOTH SIDES: THE HEALER AND THE PATIENT. AND FROM THIS VERY BEGINNING THE ETHICAL PROBLEMS APPEARED SO LET US CONSIDER SOME OF THOSE WHICH ARE ACUTE NOWADAYS.

FIRST OF ALL MEDICAL ERRORS HAVE TO BE MENTIONED. THIS IS THE MOST TOPICAL PROBLEM AMONG ALL DUE TO BEING THE MOST COMMON REASON OF ETHICAL DEBATES IN MEDICINE.



1

One of the most crucial ethical problems in medicine concerns abortion. The doctor who conducts such a surgery must definitely have nerves of steel to make what pro-lifers consider killing possible.



2

SUCH OPERATIONS INVOLVE IMMEDIATE INTERVENTIONS TO SAVE LIVES, WHICH COULD ON THE OTHER HAND IRREPARABLE CONSEQUENCES INCLUDING DISABILITY AND OPERATIONS ON MENTALLY UNHEALTHY PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT PROVEN TO BE COMPETENT TO DECIDE SUCH MATTERS.



THE NEXT ETHICAL PROBLEM TOUCHES OPERATING PEOPLE WHO DO NOT WANT TO BE OPERATED. IT'S WHEN THEIR RELATIVES GIVE PERMISSION AND THE PATIENT IS UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS WHERE HE HIMSELF CANNOT BE ASKED ABOUT HIS WILL.

Euthanasia is forbidden in most countries but it still exists. This is believed to be the most acute ethical issue in modern-day medicine which causes the most fervent debates all over the world.



AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST IS NUMBER OF FORBIDDEN RESEARCHES AND FORCED SURGERIES. WE HAVE ALL HEARD ABOUT OPERATIONS HELD DURING WORLD WAR II IN NAZI GERMANY AND USSR INVOLVING ATTEMPTS TO CREATE A PERFECT HUMAN AND THOSE PERFORMED IN THE US ESPECIALLY IN THE FIELD OF PSYCHIATRY. THERE WERE NO WIDESPREAD HUMANITARIAN MOVEMENTS AT THAT TIME, THEY APPEARED LATER ALONG WITH DECLARATIONS AND CONVENTIONS THAT PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS. SO NOW IT IS OFFICIALLY FORBIDDEN TO CONDUCT SUCH OPERATIONS, ALTHOUGH SCIENTISTS HAVE ALWAYS FOUND THE WAY TO GO INTO HIDING IN THE NAME OF FUTURE AND SCIENCE ACTUALLY. THERE ARE NO WORLDWIDE KNOWN ORGANIZATIONS OR PEOPLE WHO ARE BELIEVED TO PERFORM ILLEGAL RESEARCHES THAT RISK HUMAN LIVES FOR UNTRUSTWORTHY PURPOSES, HOWEVER I AM STRONGLY CONVINCED THEY TAKE PLACE IN OUR MODERN WORLD, THEY ARE JUST HIDDEN TOO WELL FOR US TO SEE.



THE MOST SUCCESSFULLY SOLVABLE ETHICAL ISSUE IS THE ONE CONCERNING TESTING DRUGS AND PERFORMING RESEARCHES ON ANIMALS. THIS IS EVIDENTLY INEVITABLE BUT ANIMAL PROTECTORS STILL FIGHT FOR ANIMAL RIGHTS, WHICH SURELY TAKES ITS TOLL MAINLY IN TESTING COSMETICS AND NOT HIGHLY DANGEROUS DRUGS.

3



MEDICINE HAD ALWAYS AIMED TO SAVE PEOPLE'S LIVES EVEN THOUGH SOMETIMES HANDICAPPED OR TERMINALLY ILL PEOPLE CANNOT DEAL WITH THEIR PHYSICAL DIFFICULTIES. BUT NOWADAYS FACING THE SAME HUMAN RIGHTS I'VE MENTIONED AN INDIVIDUAL CAN DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH HIS BODY BEFORE HE IS NOT ABLE TO DO SO ANYMORE. HE COULD AGREE TO BECOME AN ORGAN DONOR OR A SCIENCE CONTRIBUTION, WHICH I SHOULD SAY IS A DIFFICULT BUT INCREDIBLY VALUABLE DECISION. SO LET US THANK OUR MEDICAL PRODIGIES WHO DRIVE PROGRESS AND THOSE WHO SELFLESSLY AGREE TO BECOME PART OF IT.