



# Semiology of internal medicine Medical deontology and Ethics General patient examination plan

Professor Minodora MAZUR



# Ethics



**In Greek “Ethos”**

**Good, well, temperament, character**

**The code of ethics are defined by the reactions  
of the society**

**It has no legal obligation**

**It depends on the time and place**

# Ethical Principles

- **Autonomy**
- **Beneficence**
- **Nonmaleficence**
- **Justice**



# Deontology

## Science of duty

**Medical deontology contains responsibilities to**

**“yourself”**

**“your colleagues”**

**“the society”**



# Bioethics/Biomedical Ethics

**Concurrence of the ethics  
and the vitality sciences**

**It deals with the moral  
values problems of  
medicine, health-care  
services and biologic  
sciences**



# Subheadings of bioethics

**“Clinical Ethics” on supplying health-care services**

**“Research Ethics” protects the research participants**

**“Work Ethics” on duties and responsibilities**

**“Public Policy and Governmental Ethics”**

**prepare the ground for the law**

## Ethical Principles of Research



## Case Studies - Opposition to Organ Donation

**JD is a 25-year-old patient who sustained massive head trauma and neurological injury in a motorcycle accident. He is not brain dead, but after 4 weeks in MICU and several neuro consults, the prognosis for “meaningful recovery” is said to be less than 1%. JD has not regained consciousness and is apt to remain permanently in a vegetative state.**

**What is your opinion about organ donation?**

# Semiotics

Semiotics, the theory of sign and meaning, may help physicians complement the project of interpreting signs and symptoms into diagnoses. We communicate indirectly through signs, and make sense of our world by interpreting signs into meaning. Medical semiotics is part of general semiotics, which means the study of life of signs within society



Thus, through association and inference, we transform

flowers into love



Othello into jealousy



chest pain into heart attack



# Medical semiology

**Signs are objective manifestations of disease**

**Symptom - causes emotional distress and dysfunctioning**  
(fatigue)

**Laboratory signs**

**History taking**

**Physical examination**

**Imaging**

# The Path to Diagnosis

**Anamnesis**



**Clinical examen ↓  
Diagnostic (clinic)  
(clinical interpretation)**



**Complementary explorations ↓  
DIAGNOSTIC > TREATAMENT > EVOLUTION**



**PROGNOSIS**



# Contact with patient

Circumstances

Area

Context

Time



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# Interrelation Doctor-Patient

The general purpose of medicine is the prevention and control of diseases

In order to fulfill their purpose, doctors interact with patients. This interaction is of an interrelational type

Interrelation is defined as a reciprocal relationship between two terms, in this case the doctor and the patient

Therefore, the doctor / patient relationship is the reciprocal relationship. It includes all the relationships that are established between the doctor and the patient: contact, discussions, attitudes, diagnostic and therapeutic approach

# How does the patient feel before meeting the doctor?



What disease do I have?

Is it serious?

Is it transmissible?

Will my doctors find the cause?

Will I heal myself?

Will I improve?

Will I be able to have children?

Will I be able to work?

Will my explorations hurt me?

Does it take me long to recover?

Will the treatment be effective?

Will they cost me the treatment, the care?

Will my illness change my way of life until now?

## **What is the doctor thinking?**

**What condition can the patient have?  
Can I help him?**

**What consultation will I need?**

**All is well?**

**Is he a compliant (disciplined) patient?**

**Will I be able to do all the consultations today?**



# Building an optimal doctor-patient relationship

**Irreproachable Outfit: Clothing, Hygiene**

**Framework for interrelation:**

**Room bright, airy, silent, clean, properly furnished**

**Behavior: calm, affectionate, reassuring**

**The doctor: Allow sufficient time for discussion with the patient and have adequate affective disposition.**

**Do not smoke, do not talk to someone else or on the phone, do not read anything else (except the documents of the patient, where appropriate), do not look at the computer they have elsewhere (although it is a difficult wish)**

**The radio or the TV is not listened to (but a musical background)**

**Quiet: classic music, can be useful for the relief of the patient**

**Ensuring privacy**



# Interrelational conditiides



Inpatient

Outpatient

Home visit

Emergencies

Difficult patients



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# Anamnesis

**Definition:** The totality of the data that the doctor obtains by interrogating the patient regarding the occurrence and evolution of the disease he suffers, with his history

**Technique:** Interview

**Subjective accusations:**

**the symptoms of the disease:** local, general

**Causes:** certain (direct relation)

**probable:** endogenous-exogenous "risk factors"

# Conditions



Karl Friedrich Hieronymus,  
Baron v. Münchhausen  
(1720-1797)

Aware patient (vs. comatos)

Coherent (vs. confused)

Mnezic (vs. Amnesic)

Particular situations

E-patient

Sincere (vs. simulation, not true: Münchhausen  
syndrome

**(a pathomimia associated with severe emotional difficulties)**

# Difficulties

Extreme ages



Language not known

Unable to express (disability)

Difficult questions

Other impediments?



# Substitutes of the anamnesis

Indirect anamnesis (by investigation)

evidence

documents

online



ONLINE CONSULTATION



# Methodology of anamnesis

**Essence: interrogation with targeted questions**

**The principles of anamnesis**

**Observance of the deontological rules of the doctor-patient communication with methodical and exhaustive character**

**The imperative to verify information**

**resumption and completion after the objective**

**examination ("stage II of the clinical diagnosis")**

**Psychotherapeutic recovery -**

**Confidence in the doctor**

**Compliance of the patient**

**Optimism (vs. anxiety)**

**individualization of conduct:**

**"Art!" (vs. routine)**

**Automatism?**

# **Contents of the anamnesis**

**Reason for addressing a doctor ("What's the problem?")**

**Personal Identity Data ("Who? Where?")**

**Living and working conditions**

**Personal history = physiological = pathological**

**Hereditary-collateral history**

**History of current disease**

# Living and working conditions

- **Place of origin and life ("geographical pathology", "endemic")**
- **The hygienic profile of the house**
- **Particularities of family relationships (stress!)**
- **Conditions of professional activity: - hygiene of the workplace**
- **applications**
- **psycho-physical-stress overload**
- **Economic-social and cultural standard**

# Personal background

- **Childhood - nutrition, growth, psycho development**
- **physics**
- **Puberty and adolescence - sexual maturation**
- **the F-menarha**
- **Adulthood: effort capacity**
- **libido, sexual dynamics, problems**
- **to F: the catamenial cycle**
- **tasks and problems related to them**
- **climax, menopause**



# Lifestyle and nutrition

- **Lifestyle: effort / rest relationship, sedentary lifestyle / movement**
- **sleep**
- **ways to relax**
- **Food style: "what? How? when? How?"**
- **Anamnesis applied at various ages**

- **Anamnesis applied to patients from diverse backgrounds**



- **toxic**
- **alcohol - acute (intoxication) chronic (alcoholism), smoking, active (smoking)**



- **coffee (caffeinated)**
- **medicines (sedatives! pain relievers)**
- **drugs (drug addicts)**



# **Eredo-Collateral History (diseases with family aggregation)**

**Hereditary diseases with gene or chromosomal transmission**

**autosomal dominant (heterozygous)**

**autosomal recessive (homozygous)**

**Diseases with polygenic transmission (multifactorial)**

**Congenital diseases (embryogenetic abnormalities)**

# Pathological Personal History

- **Infectious diseases of childhood**
- **Chronic infections: tbc, syphilis**
- **Acute venereal disease**
- **Rheumatic diseases**
- **parasitosis**
- **Diseases of internal organs**
- **Hematological diseases**

# Doctors Should be Servant, Like a Detective “Conan Doyle”

Look at the patients general appearance...at the face, hands and body

• Each examining system can be described using 5 elements:

- **looking/inspection**
- **feeling/palpation**
- **tapping/percussion**
- **listening/auscultation**
- **assessment of function**



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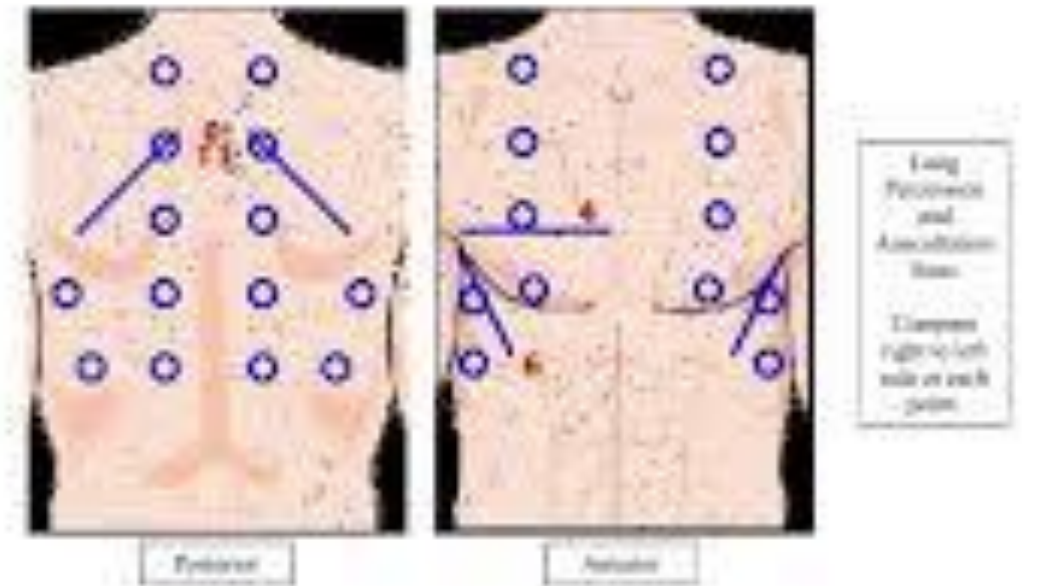
- Each examining system can be described using four elements;
  - looking/inspection
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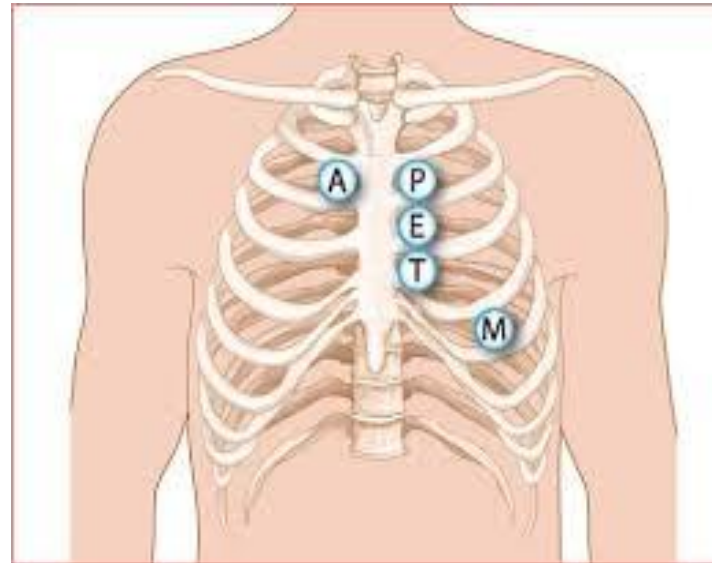
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# Assessment of function

## Rheumatoid arthritis Gout

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## First impressions.....

- **Decide how sick is your patient?**
- **Is she well, sitting up and talking?**
- **Or ill totally not aware of her surroundings?**



# Vital Signs

- **PULSE**
- **BLOOD PRESSURE**
- **TEMPERATURE**
- **RESPIRATORY RATE**
- **Should be assessed immediately once you discover that your patients unwell.**
- **They provide important basic physiological information**



# Weight, body habitus and posture

- **Obesity, BMI >30.**
- **Any wasting of muscles?**
- **Tall? short?**
- **Always observe when the patient walks into the examination room**



# Facies

- Specific diagnosis can be made by just looking at a patient's face.
- Some facial characteristics are so typical of certain diseases that they immediately suggest the diagnosis....so called diagnostic facies.....



# Hydration

- **Mild-2.5 L deficit**
  - mild thirst, dry mucous membranes, concentrated urine
- **Moderate – 4L deficit**
  - as above with moderate thirst, reduced skin turgor (especially the arms, forehead, chest and abdomen) , tachycardia
- **Severe – 6L**
  - great thirst, reduced skin turgor and decreased eyeball pressure
  - collapsed veins, sunken eyes, postural hypotension, oligu



Sjogren Syndrome

# Important diagnostic facies

- **Acromegaly**
- **Cushingoid**
- **Down syndrome**
- **Hippocratic**
- **Marfanoid**
- **Myxoedematous**
- **Thyrotoxic**
- **Parkinsonism**

# The role of the student

- Familiarization with the patient's situation
- Insertion of the student in the medical environment
- Help given to the doctor and nurse



# Induction-Deduction Relationship

The main movement of diagnostic thinking is essentially inductive: from the sensory concrete to the theoretical concept of disease "To begin by observing and not by reasoning" (Sydenham)

**“Medicine must not be based on dusty theories,  
but on the examination of the patient”**

**(Giorgio Baglivi)**

# Dicussions

## What is Semiology?

- **A didactic discipline, NOT a medical specialty**
- **What are its purposes?**
- **To teach him to take over and interpret a history**
- **Teach him to identify and interpret signs**
- **To think analytically and synthetically**

## What semiology offers the student?

- To get in touch with the patient
- Diagnostically benefit, but also .. Psychological benefit
- To master medical logic
- Logically prescribe investigations
- Risk reduction
- Cost-effectiveness

## **WMA (World Medical Association)**

### **Declaration of Lisbon on the Rights of the Patient (1981)**

#### **The patient has the right**

- to choose freely and change his/her physician**
- to refuse/accept the recommended treatment**
- to privacy**
- to die with dignity**
- to receive or to decline spiritual and moral comfort including the help of a minister of his/her chosen religion**

# **WHO (World Health Organization)**

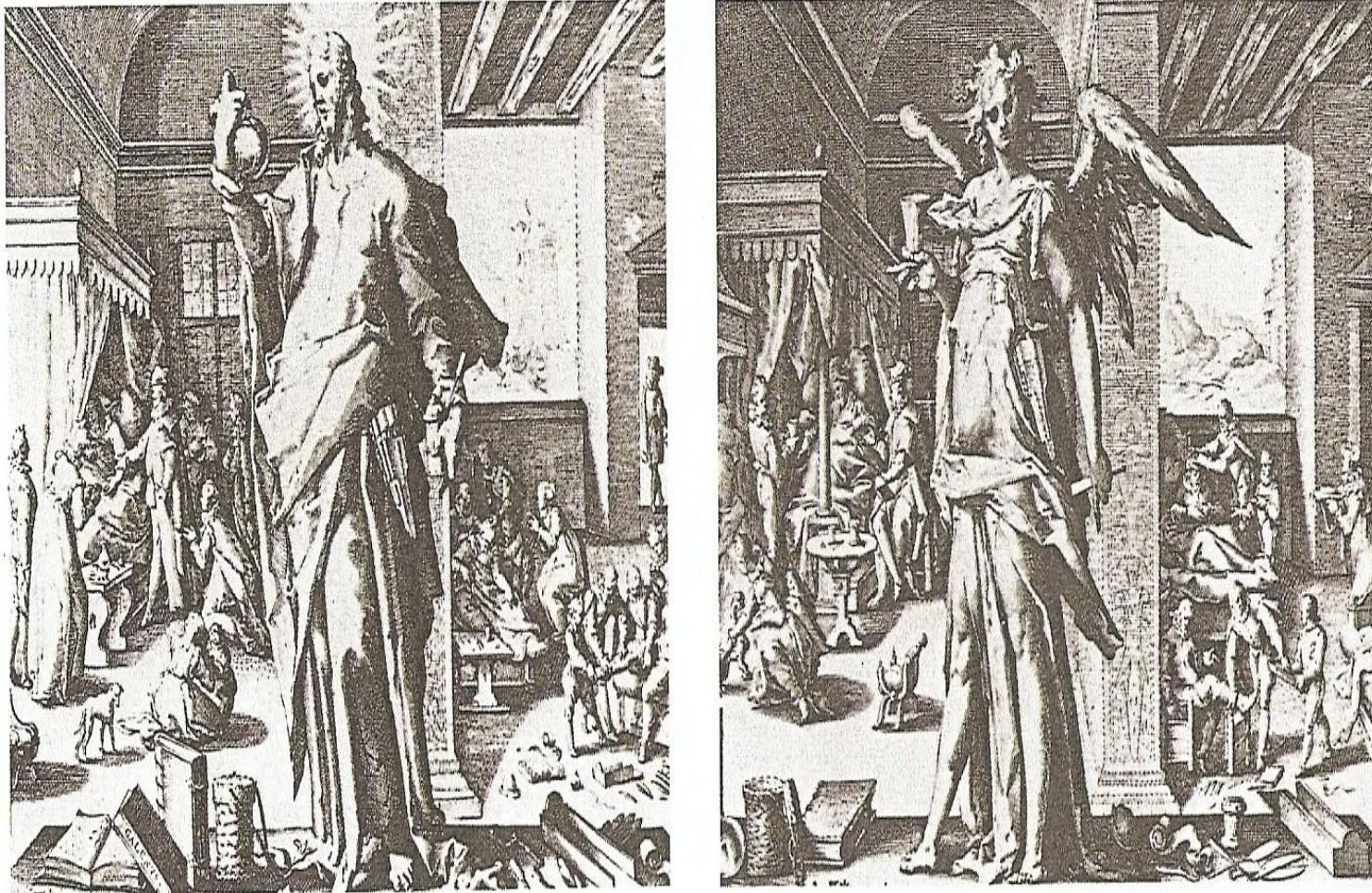
## **The Amsterdam Declaration (1994)**

- **Observance of human rights and values in health care**
- **Care/treatment right**
- **Being informed/consent**
- **Privacy**

# Conclusions

- **Semiology is and remains a necessity in medical education**
- **Semiology is a unitary discipline**
- **Semiology can help overcome current problems in the evolution of medicine**

“The allegory of the Medical Profession” (1587) Engravings of Hendrik Goltzius



Hendrick Goltzius (1558 – 1617) was a German-born Dutch printmaker, draftsman, and painter. He was the leading Dutch engraver of the early Baroque period, or Northern Mannerism, noted for his sophisticated technique and the "exuberance" of his compositions. According to A. Hyatt Mayor, Goltzius "was the last professional engraver who drew with the authority of a good painter and the last who invented many pictures for others to copy". In middle age he also began to produce paintings.