

## MEDICAL ETHICS

Medical ethics is a system of moral principles that apply values to the practice of clinical medicine and in scientific research. It is based on a set of values that professionals can refer to in the case of any confusion or conflict. These values include respect for autonomy, non-maleficence, beneficence and justice.

One interesting way of learning the practice of medical ethics in the medical field is through medical movies. Many medical movies have been designed by including the practice of medical ethics. So through movies one can learn many things about the practice of medical ethics.

One such movie which includes the practice of medical ethics is the movie "The Gifted Hands" which is an autobiographical movie about a world renowned pediatric neurosurgeon, Dr. Ben Carson. The movie moves from his childhood until he became a pediatric neurosurgeon and performed the first surgery on conjoined twins.

The ethical practice mainly highlighted in this movie is the practice of beneficence which simply means acting on the best interests of the patient. There are many instances in this movie where this ethical principle is highlighted. One such instance is performing the first lobectomy by Dr. Ben. There were no senior surgeons at that time and an emergency situation arose where a patient with a tumor was admitted to the hospital and he had to do a surgery immediately or otherwise the patient would die. At that instance although he was not qualified to perform a surgery he took confidence in him and ended up performing the surgery successfully. Here he thought about saving the life of the patient even risking his own career. But he was praised for taking the right decision at that moment that is acting on the best interest of the patient.

Another instance where an ethical value is brought to light is when he performed a surgery for a girl with seizures. The ethical value highlighted mainly here is honesty. He explained to the girl's parents the complications arising after the surgery clearly. Also when the father of the girl asked whether he had done such sort of a surgery before he honestly said that this would be his first surgery of that type.

In the third instance the ethical values presented here are beneficence, competence, and confidence. The surgery on the conjoint twins was a very risky one. Such a surgery has not been done in the history. But Dr. Carson accepted the challenge and having had confidence in him got prepared for the operation. He read books and gathered knowledge to save both babies. Also he planned the surgery well and took measures to act immediately to any emergency situation that would arise during the surgery and to save those babies. Here he prepared himself to act on the best interests of the patient. Also it was seen that before the surgery he was consoling the parents of the twins and also asking them to pray.

Further, even though he lost his own twins he took confidence in himself and went on performing a successful surgery on the conjoint twins.

Lastly, this is a very motivational and a heart touching movie, but the ethical values in Dr. Ben Carson is also highlighted in this movie. Thus this is a great movie all medical professionals should have a look at.