

Bioethics Lecture for III MBBS Students at MLT on 12/07/2018

Topic: End of Life Issues

By DrPadmaja

Lecture commenced with an introduction by DrPadmaja about the witnessed Death: one student discussed his relative's death explaining his grandmother not being hospitalized and passed away at home. About 40% of the students favors Active Euthanasia mainly emphasize on Quality of life.

Other topics like Autonomy and difficult decisions were discussed with cases like Arunashanbaug and elderly Mumbai couple.

Topic: Advance Directive

By Dr Monty Kajanchi

Discussed "Living will" Supreme Court Judgement and other legal provisions of Euthanasia.

DrPadmaja discussed other topics like Futile interventions, medical futility and palliative care. One student answered that Kerala state has highest palliative care centres.

DrPadmaja suggested that every student should watch ted talk by sarah gray.

Topic: Organ donation

By DrYuvarajChavan

The second session of lecture commenced with introduction of Deceased Organ Donation by DrYuvarajChavan, explaining in brief the importance of Organ Donation and its government control –ZTCC.

Topic: THOA

By Ms. Sujata Ashtekar

Ms. Sujata Ashtekar gave a concise description of the existing legislation governing the Transplantation of Human organ and tissue, beginning with the Transplantation of

Human Organs Act, 1994, its amendment in 2011 into Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, and the 2014 Rules.

She pointed out that one liver transplant costs around Rs 5 to 9 lakhs to recipient at KEM Hospital. Other discussion includes regulation of Hospitals, Meaning of SWAP, Opting in and Opting out system. Additionally, there are multiple medico-legal issues that are to be addressed. One should pledge to donate organ in presence of their close relatives.

During discussion one student answered that Iran is the country where Donor get compensation for Organ Donation.

Dr Chavan and Ms Ashtekar discussed cases with students;

Case 1: It was discussed that Liver transplant preferably should be from Cadaver. Third party need not to be involve in Organ Transplant.

Case 2: There were few suggestion from the students that compensation should be in terms of Monetary or Employment from hospital.

Many times donor's family requests private hospital administration to waive off the bill or provide Ambulance service for organ donation. It was also recommended that the Organ donation should be unconditional. There is thin line between compensation and Help. Living organ donations are carried out on the basis of 'affection or attachment' or 'special reasons' – *"why one is donating, not who is donating"*.

Certain ethical issues raised with regard to compensation / Incentives to be provided to Donor's relative. Different tests which are to be done to declare Brainstem Death, Bill should not be charged from Donor's family.

Further issues raised, as per the recommendations by Union Health ministry, the donor's family will get anything between Rs 1 Lakh-Rs 5 lakh per year for five years and the organ retrieving hospital will get Rs 50,000.

It was discussed that Morals are of three types-individual, society and legal.

Case 3: One student opined that in case of one's organ donation, his family member should be given priority for Organ recipient. Two cases having similar scenario, one from Bangalore and another from Mumbai were permitted by NOTTO up till now. It is advisable that authorization committee should not deviate from their protocol.

Lecture ended with vote of thanks.