

The Physician-Patient Relationship (PPR)

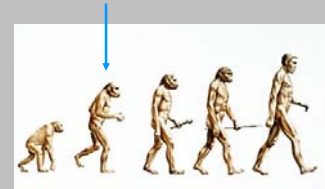
From paternalism to shared decision making MW
 The role of informed consent and patient autonomy NS
 The role of trust in the modern PPR MW



Summer School 2010: Ethics and Economics in Medicine

From paternalism to shared decision making - The evolution of the PPR over the past 35-40 years

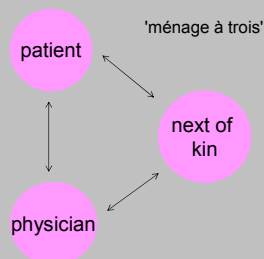
M. Wolfensberger, Basel



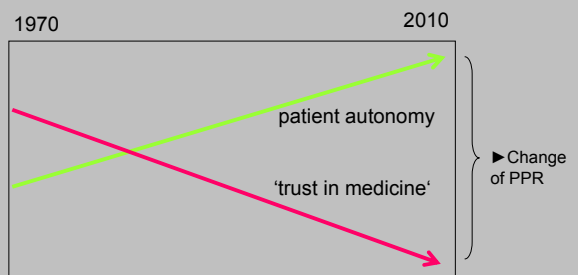
2/19

The evolution of the PPR over the past 35-40 years

- information
 - flow direction
 - amount
 - type
- deliberation process
- decision making
- time requirement



3/19



4/19

From paternalism to shared decision-making

PPR model paternalism → → informed consent → → informed choice → → shared decision-making

Information

- flow
- amount
- type

Deliberation

Decision
Time need

Advantage



5/19

Paternalism

- To act 'for the good' of another person without that person's consent.
- Its end is benevolent, and its means (to some extent) coercive (authoritarian).
- Paternalists suppose that they can make wiser decisions than the people for whom they act.



6/19

From paternalism to shared decision-making

	paternalism	informed consent	informed choice	shared decision-making
Information				
-flow	doctor → pat.			
-amount	(usually) small			
-type	technical			
Deliberation	very little			
Decision	made by doctor (pat. mostly obeyed)			
Time need	small			
Advantage	(suits some patients)			

7/19

Sommerschule 2010
ORL
Oto-Rhino-Laryngologie

Premises of paternalism are ...


What conditions have to be fulfilled for paternalism to be good?

1. There is a (best) therapy etc.
often
2. The physician knows the correct therapy etc.
again, often
3. The physician is in the best position to weigh the advantages / disadvantages of the available options.
frankly, why should he be?
4. The physician has a natural interest to act accordingly.
a bit naive

8/19

Sommerschule 2010
ORL
Oto-Rhino-Laryngologie

Paternalism and the 'Four Principles'



~~patient autonomy~~
~~nonmaleficence~~
~~beneficence~~
[fairness / justice]

Result
frustrated, angry patient
↓
litigation
↓
frustrated physician

9/19

Sommerschule 2010
ORL
Oto-Rhino-Laryngologie


Major argument of frustrated patients was ...

"If I had known the consequences, risks, e.t.c., I would not have consented to the procedure."

↓

The informed consent model of PPR

Defensive move on the part of the physicians as much as or more than a request on the patient side.



10/19

From paternalism to shared decision-making

	paternalism	informed consent	informed choice	shared decision-making
Information				
-flow	doctor → pat.	doctor → pat.		
-amount	(usually) small	increased		
-type	technical	focus on risks and complications		
Deliberation	very little	still little		
Decision	made by doctor (pat. obeyed)	made by doctor pat. has to consent		
Time need	small	slightly more		
Advantage	(suits some patients)	better info. of patients protects doctors		

11/19

Sommerschule 2010
ORL
Oto-Rhino-Laryngologie

Consequences of the 'informed consent'

brute luck (no choice)	option luck (you had a choice)
You are playing roulette	you invest at stock market (you let your bank do the work)
↓	↓
you loose	you loose
↓	↓
you can't blame anyone (except yourself for playing)	blame financial advisor
	↓
	informed consent
	you have to blame yourself (for having consented)

12/19

Sommerschule 2010
ORL
Oto-Rhino-Laryngologie

consequences of the 'informed consent' in practice



Result

If the patient wants to sue you ...

... **he** has got to prove that you were negligent (made a mistake)

... and **you** have got to provide proof of the informed consent



patient has only himself to blame for the complication (you have transferred the responsibility)



informed consent did not improve PPR



13/19

From paternalism to shared decision-making

	paternalism	→	informed consent	→	informed choice	→	shared decision-making
Information							
-flow	doctor → pat.		doctor → pat.		doctor → pat.		
-amount	(usually) small		increased		extensive		
-type	technical		focus on risks + complications		includes alternative tx options, chances of success etc ('full brochure')		
Deliberation	doctor		doctor		doctor + patient (+ next of kin)		
Decision	made by doctor (pat. obeyed)		made by doctor pat. consents		made by patient		
Time need	small		slightly more		intermediate		
Advantage	(suits some patients)		protects doctor better info. of patients		respects pat. autonomy		



14/19

What is the moral difference between the informed consent model and the informed choice model?

▼
patient responsible for side effects and complications (because he consented to accept them)

▼
patient responsible for outcome (because he made the choice)

Disadvantages

- many patients overtaxed
- doctors feel they become 'salesmen'
- favours 'consumerist' attitude



15/19

From paternalism to shared decision-making

	paternalism	→	informed consent	→	informed choice	→	shared decision-making
Information							
-flow	doctor → pat.		doctor → pat.		doctor → pat.		doctor ↔ patient
-amount	(usually) small		increased		extensive		depends
-type	technical		focus on risks + complicat.		('full brochure')		technical + personal includes values
Deliberation	doctor		doctor		doctor + patient (+ next of kin)		joint, integrates next of kin
Decision	made by doctor (pat. obeyed)		made by doctor pat. consents		made by patient		made jointly
Time need	small		slightly more		intermediate		often considerable
Advantage	(suits some patients)		protects doctor better info. of patients		respects pat. autonomy		creates trust + a durable PPR



16/19

shared decision making is decision making based on shared information

Physician

diagnosis
prognosis
treatment options
purpose / goal of treatment
expected course
side effects and risks
declaration of personal bias

Patient

his view of disease
his fears
his preferences
expected benefit
what he is willing to contribute
private and social situation
e.t.c.



17/19

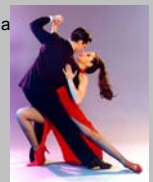
Decision making based on shared information

Advantages

Promotes creation of a true pp relationship because the Patient feels respected (ernst genommen)
Patient may (and must) assume personal responsibility, but does not have to assume sole responsibility
Increases trustworthiness of physician → enhances trust of patient
Increases chances of treatment success
Reduces risk of patient discontent and finally of litigation
It is more satisfying!

Disadvantages

It may be very time consuming
'It takes two to tango'



18/19



More about trust
later this morning

19/19

