

Concerns of the medical students regarding medical ethics

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Background

Medical ethics has been an important part of medical curriculum in all medical schools. Medical Ethics education in the medical schools in Thailand has been following the guidelines of the Medical Council of Thailand. Generally, medical ethics teaching has been intergraded with student's ward work. The objective of this study was to evaluate the concerns of medical ethics by the fourth- and fifth-year medical students.

Summary of work

During February 2012, fourth-year and fifth-year medical students of the College of Medicine, Rangsit University, were randomly evaluated. They were evaluated with regard to the concerns of medical ethics by using questionnaire. Questionnaire was asking about their opinions about medical ethical principles that we use in our professional practice in medicine, autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence, justice and human research.

Summary of results

40.6% (50/123) of fourth-year and 40.5% (45/111) of fifth-year medical students were evaluated. All medical students were highly concerned about the medical ethical principles. Concerns with regard to the relationship with professional colleague and human research of fifth-year medical students were higher than fourth-year medical students ($p < 0.05$). Most of medical students (61.1%) suggested that medical ethics should be taught every year.

Conclusions

Most medical students were highly concerned about medical ethics. Medical ethics is very important and should be trained every year.

Take-home message

Curriculum of the undergraduate education with regard to the medical ethics education may be revised in response this concern.

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