



Professionalism in Neurosurgery

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Editorial

Professionalism, in a textual way, represents those practices, criteria, procedures and behaviors that apply to achieve a measured, respectful and efficient performance of professional practice. Most of the conceptualizations operate in the business environment and it is until recent dates that the aspect of medical professionalism, which applies to professionalism in Neurosurgery, has been considered.

For the present case, a series of evolutionary processes in interaction are considered. On the one hand, the values and precepts derived from the codes inherent to medical practice, which have long prevailed and form part of our basic codes of ethics; in the other, the development of medical knowledge and information, technology, and diversification of the formats of attention to the users of the health services. New challenges have made it necessary to rethink the concept of professionalism not only to rescue the values of medical practice, but also to make it a priority for the care and decision making to be in accordance with the rights of the patient [1].

To this target, basic axes are an important part of the professionalism, which are relevant to emphasize:

- Specialized knowledge as a qualified expert.
- Commitment to service to society.
- Autonomy in the decision-making process.
- Self-regulation of activity by peers.

Although we considered as an implicit fact the application of these criteria, a number of inappropriate practices were also formulated that undermine professionalism and have drawn attention as an alert, since they are considered contrary to the original purpose and are in part derived of biases in the professional interaction among diverse actors. This is the list of risks with impact in the medical professionalism:

- Abuse of power.
- Discrimination.
- Lots of confidentiality.
- Voracity and greed.
- False representation (Fraud).
- Absence of moral conscience.
- Interest conflict (Disclosure).
- Failure to comply with responsibility.
- Lack of empathy and integration.
- Inappropriate relationships with other professionals.

Consequently, it has been considered that professionalization is fundamental in the decision making of the medical act, which under ethical support allows maintaining a balance according to the aspects of principles or values in medical behavior. Professionalism proposes a series of commitments in which they stand out: commitments with professional competencies, honesty with patients, confidentiality, quality improvement in health services, equity in the distribution of resources, and confidence in being free from practices that generate corruption [2].

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Neurosurgery is one of the disciplines in which there is an accelerated technological development, however these advances should be compatible with professionalism in an integral way. Although the therapeutic options have increased thanks to the development of neurosurgical skills and abilities, the way we achieve this in daily practice, is also an indicator of their strength.

These parameters and values should support the training of new professionals for not only ethical, bioethical and neuroethical commitments, but also for the legal implications, they represent [3].

The relationship between human well-being and the patient with a disease will continue to be a fundamental parameter of medical professionalism, at a time when it seems that technological development is overtaking us.

We need think in a new way about a contemporary interpretation of Hippocratic Oath related with the new challenges in the medical practice [4].

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