

B I O E T H I C S

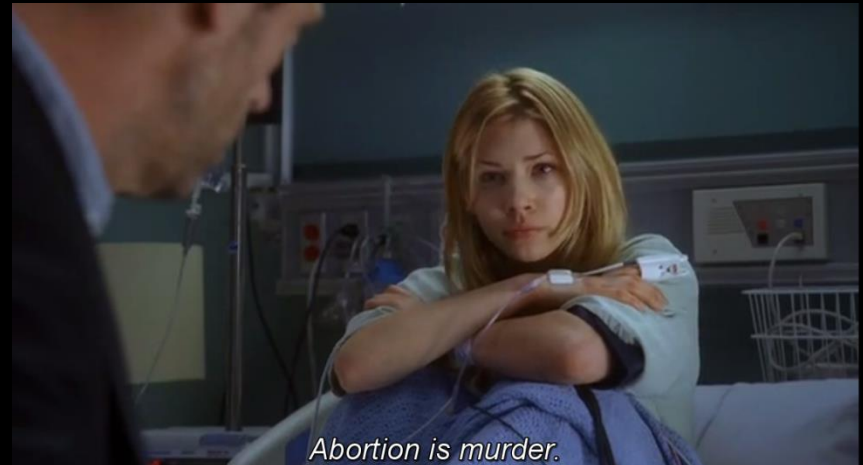
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ONE DAY

ONE ROOM

ETHICAL ISSUES

Abortion



ETHICAL ISSUES

Dr. Cameron's choice of letting the patient die suffering (even though it was the patient's wish) when she should have given him the sedative to lessen his suffering since Dr. Cameron had a duty to "do no harm".



A NSWERS BY H HOUSE

Dr. Cameron's Choice

Cancer patient's condition is getting worse but still refuses pain medication.

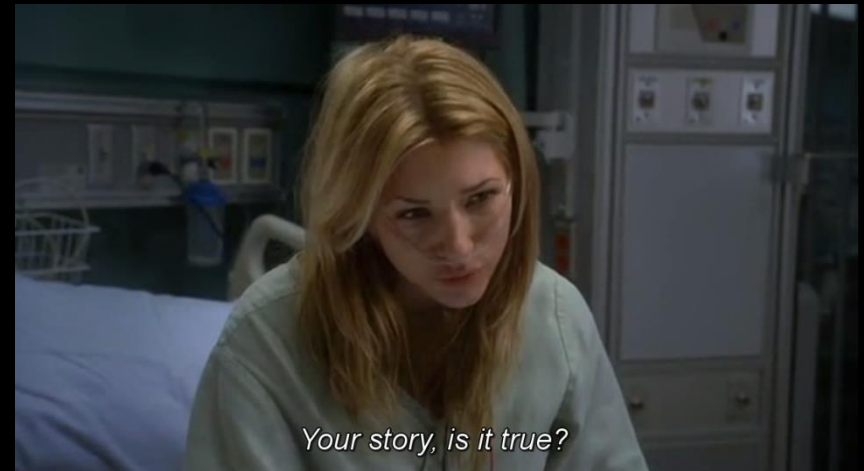
Thinking he would be remembered if he dies in pain, Cameron agrees not to medicate him and stay in his room.



ANSWERS BY HOUSE

Dr. House

- He dealt with Eve, by giving her what she wants, a story of suffering from his life. But Eve knew he was lying.



ANSWERS BY HOUSE

Dr. House

- Came the news of being pregnant, they talked about abortion but the patient is strongly against it. They went to the park, another argument about good and evil takes place.

H: Why did you choose me?

E: There's something about you. 'S like you're hurt too.



P R I N C I P L E S O F **B** I O E T H I C S

Principle of Respect for Autonomy

Dr. Cameron's lung cancer patient wanted to die suffering so that he may be 'remembered'. Dr. Cameron refused and tried a couple of times to give him painkillers in order for him to die in peace, but he ultimately refused and she followed his decisions in the end.

This principle was also shown when they followed the rape victim's wishes to have Dr. House as her doctor, even when Dr. House obviously did not want to.

P R I N C I P L E S O F **B** I O E T H I C S

Principle of Beneficence and Nonmaleficence

Dr. Cameron did not wish harm upon her patient, which is why she refused on giving him the painful death that he wanted. This principle was also shown by Dr. Cuddy when she complained that Dr. House should not have injected a patient having an attack with merely paralytics, as the patient was still feeling pain even when he had stopped moving.

ETHICAL **E**VALUATION

- At first, the patient is against with House's advice to perform abortion for she views it is an **act of murder**.
- House argues that keeping the baby and reaching to the point of giving birth is a nice decision yet a hard choice between **acceptable and unacceptable murder**.
(Wild, 2007)
- It validates one of the conditions that apply the principle of double effect, which **is the distinction between means and effects**.
- Baylis, Rodgers, and Young said that obligations to fetus would mean considering **its right not to be damaged and negligently harmed**.

ETHICAL EVALUATION

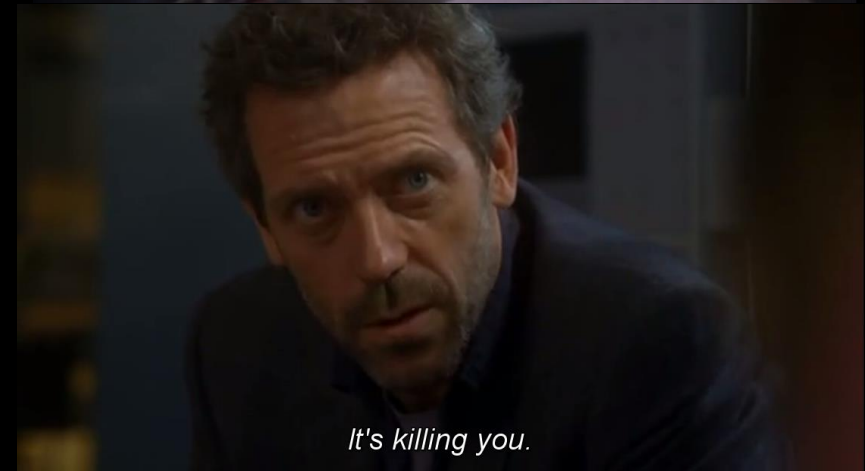
- The act of letting someone suffer and die without receiving any help loses the duty of helping and doing no harm.
- Dr. Cameron had no other choice but to apply the principle of respect for autonomy.
- Since the patient is already emotionally unstable, we believe this had greatly influenced his decisions.

"...we will be responding oppositely and will be prioritizing the needs of our patients."

FETAL **P**OSITION

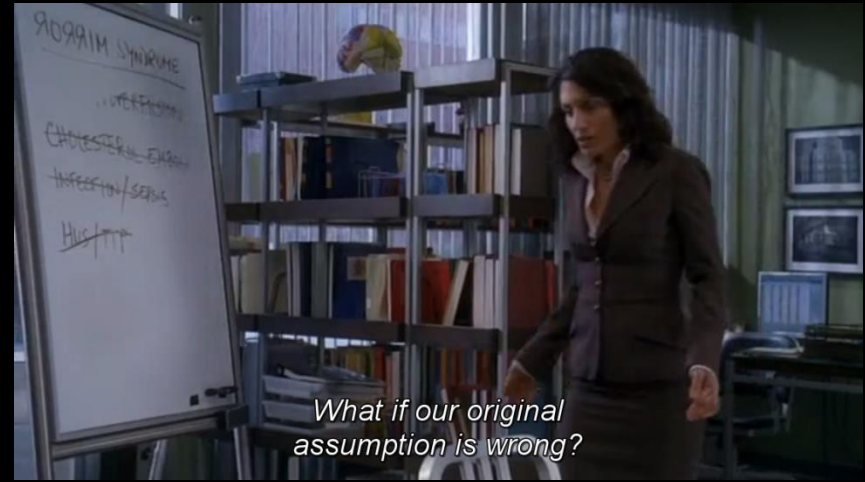
ETHICAL ISSUES

A 41 year old woman who's 21 weeks pregnant and was diagnosed with Maternal Mirror Syndrome and all of her underlying symptoms was caused by her baby (the fetus inside her womb), and the only thing that would make her better/cure her is by terminating her pregnancy, but the mother didn't agree and authorized the abortion.



ETHICAL ISSUES

Cuddy's persistence in saving both the mother and fetus' lives that can actually comprise the lives of the mother and fetus.



ANSWERS BY HOUSE

House suggests to paralyze the fetus to take a better MRI. The patient has maternal mirror syndrome. House starts the procedure and found out that the problem isn't with the heart but the bladder.

House convinces to terminate the pregnancy since the fetus is killing it's mother.



Come on! This is the kind of thing House does every day.

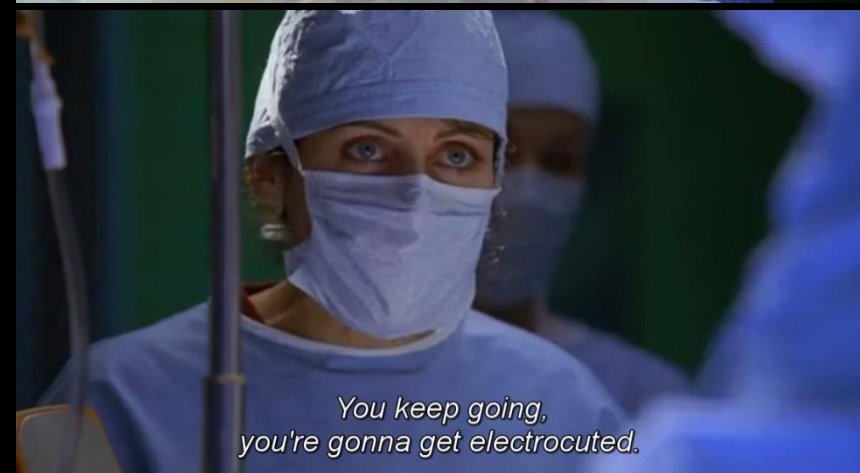


House thought we should terminate six hours ago.

ANSWERS BY HOUSE

House did exploratory surgery as suggested by Chase. They asked the patient for consent, but Cuddy tells her that the procedure is incredibly dangerous to her. However, it's the only remaining option. The patient agrees to the procedure.

The surgeon finds lesions that he can correct, but the mother goes into Ventricular fibrillation. **House says the only way to save the mother is to take out the fetus,** but Cuddy insists on shocking the heart.



PRINCIPLES OF BIOETHICS

Principle of Informed Consent

- The medical team first asks for the consent of the mother on whether to try the treatment on them, and states the risks and chances of success. One such scenario was when they had to paralyze the baby in order to perform MRI, and when they asked on whether she would allow them to operate on the baby's bladder.

Principle of Respect for Autonomy

- Dr. Cuddy wanted to follow the patient's decision to not abort the baby badly, even when the chances of the patient surviving was very low, and Dr. House did not continue with terminating the baby even when he wanted to. The other members of the team did not want to follow the patient's decision, although they complied in the end when Dr. Cuddy devised of a solution.

Principle of Beneficence and Nonmaleficence

- Most of the members of the team wanted the patient to abort the baby, as it was the only reason why the patient was dying. They tried talking her into aborting the baby, because it was either both she and her baby die or only the baby dies due to the maternal mirror syndrome.

ETHICAL **E**VALUATION

- Given a situation like this, we also choose to save both lives of the mother and fetus.
- One of which is the **prima facie duty** to help and do no harm which most physician always keep in mind.
- Another since the patient refuses to terminate her pregnancy despite the risks, we need to consider it **but it is also our duty to inform the patient about the consequences of her decision.**
- It basically means that **a patient has a right and a capacity to decide for herself according to her lifestyle, culture, and beliefs.** According to Baylis, Rodgers, and Young (1997), **right counseling and persuasion** are one of the important roles of physicians, and not coercion.

ETHICAL EVALUATION

The Principle of Non-maleficence

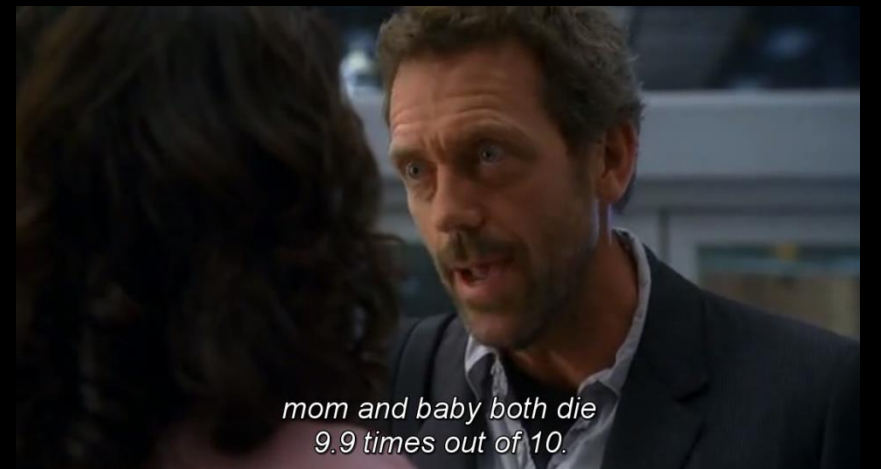
- The introduction of steroid to the patient

The Principle of Double Effect

- Considering the agent's intention to come up with a good effect of saving the mother and the fetus by introducing doses of steroids but at the same time the bad effect of occurring malformations in the fetus has also foreseen. (Beauchamp & Childress, 1994)

ETHICAL EVALUATION

We may not know the possible outcomes of each solutions until we tried testing it even if it means to inflict harm. But we should always remember that considering the patient's consent is one important factor.





SOURCES

- Baylis, Rodgers & Young, (1994). Ethical dilemmas in the care of pregnant women: rethinking "maternal-fetal conflicts".
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I'm an insane genius.