

November 2014

True (A) or false (B):

Regarding the Ebola crisis and ethical challenges in the African context:

1. The World Medical Association condemns the use of unproven interventions to treat patients infected with the Ebola virus.
2. 90% of research conducted globally is aimed at about 10% of the world's privileged populations.

Regarding the termination of pregnancy of a brain-dead mother:

3. The Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act defines a termination of pregnancy as the separation and expulsion, by medical or surgical means, of the contents of the uterus of a pregnant woman.
4. In South Africa, the dead lose all their legal rights.

Regarding Prof. McQuoid-Mason's article:

5. The Constitution of South Africa defines brain death as 'death'.
6. There is no clinical nor legal difference between brain death and a persistent vegetative state.
7. The law respects the living's wishes on whether they want to donate their organs when they die.

Regarding article 6 of the UNESCO Universal Declaration of Bioethics and Human Rights:

8. The right and principle of individual informed consent arises from the right and ethical value of autonomy.

Regarding moral perspectives on covert research:

9. Arguments defending covert research are usually utilitarian in that risks are offset by the benefits that follow from the research.
10. Autonomy is generally not a pivotal value in morally legitimate research.

Regarding research ethics review committees in Kenya:

11. Research participants involved in clinical trials in Africa sign informed consent documents and are therefore are not exploited.

Regarding medical legal documentation in cases where the patient refuses treatment and/or transport:

12. Patients in South Africa are not afforded the right to refuse treatment.

Regarding whether private obstetric care can be saved in South Africa:

13. The high caesarean section rate in South Africa is justified as a response to increasing litigation.
14. Liability for medical negligence is firmly rooted in a system based on fault.
15. A single civil case could leave an unindemnified obstetrician financially ruined and a deserving patient inadequately compensated.
16. South African law makes provision for a 'contingency fee' in cases of litigation in terms of the Contingency Fees Act.

Regarding whether quality healthcare is an attainable goal for all South Africans:

17. Child and maternal health are health indicators recommended by the World Health Organization.
18. The Office of Health Standards Compliance has been established to ensure that certain basic core standards must be complied with in health facilities.
19. The principle of beneficence recognises the duty of healthcare professionals not to harm the patient.
20. The principle of nonmaleficence recognises the duty of health professionals to benefit the patient.

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