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Bioethical Dilemmas in Sports

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Abstract:

The fact that athletes are healthy individuals, doesn't exonerate team physicians from the ethical challenges in clinical practice. In fact, in most cases, these challenges happen to be subtle. Several ethical dilemmas exist in the field of sports medicine, and it is due to the changes that have happened to the relationship between team physicians and athletes. In some cases, the physician's responsibility to the athlete's well-being may conflict with the team's priorities. Therefore, some of the main ethical principles such as privacy, informed consent, and patient autonomy may not completely apply in this particular field. The team physicians are required to make rapid progress, helping the athletes to get prepared for competitions in a short time, regardless of the harm it may cause to the body in the long run. Deciding over the return-to-play time is one of the most conflicting ethical challenges that a team physician can face. There are return-to-play guidelines that help to reduce the chance of enduring permanent or long-running damages. In this article, we are going to discuss principles of ethics in clinical practice and ethical dilemmas in sports, alongside some related cases. There may not be a specific answer to these cases, so the purpose is to improve the awareness and help to make the best decision.

Keywords: Sports, Ethics, Team Physician

Biography:



Dr. Zahra Mohajer is a fresh graduate of Shahid Beheshti University of medical sciences, Tehran, Iran. She is currently working as a family physician in Hamadan. She has published an article regarding the prevalence of different subtypes of renal cell carcinoma in a peer-reviewed journal. She also has submitted three papers for international conferences, which have been accepted and are yet to be published. Her research interests are sports medicine, physical medicine, pain management, and neuromuscular rehabilitation.