A SURVEY OF ETHICALLY CHALLENGING ISSUES IN UROLOGIC PRACTICE
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DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS:

Q1. Describe your current position:
   a. Attending urologist, academic institution
   b. Attending urologist, private practice
   c. Bio-ethicist or hospital ethics committee member
   d. Hospital risk manager or hospital attorney
   e. Medical student

Q2. Your age is:
   a. 0 to 44 years old
   b. 45 to 59 years old
   c. 60 years old and above

Q3. Please describe your current place of employment:
   a. Rural medical center
   b. Urban medical center
   c. Suburban medical center
   d. Other (please specify)

ETHICAL Senarios:

Q4. An HIV+, unmarried male presents with erectile dysfunction that failed to respond to medical therapy. He requests placement of a penile prosthesis. The urologist should:
   a. Only perform the surgery if the patient promises to inform all potential sexual partners of his HIV status and promises to use condoms during sex
   b. Only perform the surgery if the patient presents with a sexual partner that can be informed of the risks of HIV spread
   c. Not perform the surgery because it may lead to the spread of HIV
   d. Perform the surgery without conditions as it is the patient’s own responsibility to inform potential partners

Q5. A mentally incompetent 83 year-old male presents for results after a recent prostate biopsy. The pathology reveals prostate cancer. His daughter states that the family does not want him to know if it is cancer because he would not be able to handle that information. The urologist should:
   a. Explain the obligation to fully disclose and inform the patient regarding his diagnosis
   b. Ask the patient how much he would like to know about his biopsy
   c. Comply with the daughter’s request, but ensure adequate follow-up

Q6. A male patient is on renal dialysis for kidney failure. His son undergoes an evaluation to donate a kidney. Testing reveals that the father and son are not genetically related. The urologist should:
   a. Tell them only that the kidney was not a match
   b. Attempt to discreetly contact the patient’s wife as it is her decision to reveal this information
   c. Tell them that they are not genetically related

Q7. A newborn child is declared “a boy.” A subsequent work-up a few days later reveals that the child is actually a genetic female. The child has congenital adrenal hyperplasia, a hormonal abnormality that causes swelling of the clitoris which can be mistaken as a penis. The urologist counsels the family that the child should be raised as a female and should undergo clitoral and vaginal reconstruction. The family refuses and states, “We will not raise our son to be a girl!” The urologist should:
   a. Abide by the family’s wishes
   b. Educate the family but ultimately abide by their wishes
   c. Obtain a court order to have the birth certificate changed to “female”
Q8. A demented elderly male with multiple comorbidities presents with urinary incontinence. He is brought in by his daughter who is also his full time caregiver and legal guardian. Work-up reveals that the patient has an enlarged prostate which is causing his urinary problem. The daughter requests that the urologist perform a transurethral resection of the prostate to relieve his condition. The urologist should:

a. Not perform the operation as the patient lacks capacity to make a decision  
b. Not perform the operation because the patient does not appear bothered by the symptoms  
c. Perform the operation because it may ease the burden of care for the daughter  
d. Perform the operation because it is medically indicated

Q9. A developmentally delayed 30-year old male presents with incontinence. He is brought in by his caregiver who has power-of-attorney to make medical decisions for him. She mentions that the incontinence is interfering with their “sex life” and refers to the patient as her “fiancée.” The patient is in excellent health and appears well care for. The urologist should:

a. Call social services because the patient is being sexually abused  
b. Treat the patient’s incontinence and do not worry about the “sexual” relationship as the patient is obviously being well care for  
c. Treat the patient’s incontinence but warn the caregiver to discontinue any sexual activity  
d. Treat the patient’s incontinence but counsel the caregiver regarding protective sexual practices

Q10. A male patient is in a chronic vegetative state after a motor vehicle accident. The wife requests placement of a penile prosthesis stating that she “has needs” and “it’s what he would have wanted.” The urologist should:

a. Not perform the operation due to moral obligation  
b. Not perform the operation as the patient’s own wishes have not been clearly documented  
c. Perform the operation  
d. Not perform the operation as there is no medical necessity

Q11. A patient presents with an incidentally-detected renal mass. The urologist notes that the mass was reported on a previous CT scan ordered by another physician. On the current CT scan, the mass has progressed in size and has become metastatic. The urologist should:

a. Inform the patient that the mass was reported previously but not addressed  
b. Ask the other physician to inform the patient of the previous result  
c. Do not inform the patient of the past results and proceed with the evaluation

Q12. A patient is scheduled for placement of a penile prosthesis. On the way to the OR he mentions that he does not want his wife to know about the procedure as it’s “really for my girlfriend.” After the procedure, the patient becomes unresponsive due to a myocardial infarction. The wife (next of kin) wants to know how “something like this could happen after a simple hernia operation.” The urologist should:

a. Inform the wife only that the patient “did not undergo a hernia operation”  
b. Not give the wife any medical information as this was clearly the patient’s wish  
c. Inform the wife that her husband underwent placement of a penile prosthesis

Q13. A 16 year-old female presents to the urologist, accompanied by her father, with a urinary tract infection. Work-up reveals a sexually-transmitted disease. She asks you not to reveal the true diagnosis to her father. The urologist should:

a. Not inform the father  
b. Inform the father