



6th International Conference on Clinical Ethics Consultation

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Abstract Submission Form – Papers

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Proposed title of paper: Understanding the Maternal-Fetal Relationship: An Alternative Approach to Maternal-Fetal Conflict

Abstract with 3 clearly stated objectives in 250 words:

Clinical ethics consultation may involve cases of maternal-fetal conflict. Maternal-fetal conflict is defined as a perceived incompatibility between the interests of the pregnant woman and those of her fetus. Maternal-fetal conflict usually occurs when a pregnant woman does not desire to undergo a medical treatment, procedure, or surgery that her obstetrician believes is necessary to benefit the health or life of the fetus or both the pregnant woman and the fetus. The presentation's first objective is to discuss clinical situations in which maternal-fetal conflict may occur and reasons why a pregnant woman may disagree with her physician's recommendations. The second objective is to show inconsistencies that exist in legal rulings, laws, philosophical and religious ethical theories, and professional medical organizations' guidelines concerning the status of the fetus and the pregnant woman's moral and legal obligations to her fetus. The result is a lack of common ground for resolving situations of maternal-fetal conflict. The third objective is to offer an alternative approach to situations of maternal-fetal conflict. Understanding how the pregnant woman interprets her relationship with her fetus from the start of pregnancy up to the point of conflict can give meaning to her decision and enlighten her character. Her autonomous decision concerning medical care should be consistent with her interpretation of her relationship with her fetus. Physicians, nurses, ethicists, and others being open and receptive to the pregnant woman's understanding and interpretation of her relationship with her fetus throughout her pregnancy may help prevent or resolve situations of maternal-fetal conflict.

If you have or will publish on this topic, please cite reference:

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Are you planning to or will you be willing to submit a poster along with your paper?

Yes No