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Abstract

“Informed consent is more than simply getting a patient to sign a written consent form. It is a process of communication between a patient and physician that results in the patient's authorization or agreement to undergo a specific medical intervention. “

In the communications process, the physician providing or performing the treatment and/or procedure should disclose and discuss:

- The patient's diagnosis, if known;
- The nature and purpose of a proposed treatment or procedure;
- The risks and benefits of a proposed treatment or procedure;
- Alternatives (regardless of their cost or the extent to which the treatment options are covered by health insurance);
- The risks and benefits of the alternative treatment or procedure; and
- The risks and benefits of not receiving or undergoing a treatment or procedure.

Keywords:

Health care; Health Ethics; Research; Patient Rights; Informed Consent

Lucy 1845

Bravely she would bear the task,
Her brown eyes straight ahead,
Entranced as she walked along the dusty road
In bare feet.

The pecan trees above her
Were fully leafed in green,
And the August day
Was without a breeze.

The doctor told her what to do,
He was neither kind nor mean,
But perhaps surprised at her bravery
As she knelt upon the wooden table.

No comment came from her lips
As the cool knife entered her skin
And tears ran down her face,
But she dared not cry for there was no use,
For Lucy was a slave.

She taught him surgery,
Without consent,
And repeatedly she bore the price,

Perhaps more than twenty times,
For something she did not even understand,
Research.