INFORMED CONSENT OF THE PATIENT
CONSTITUTIONALISES HIS RIGHTS UNDER
DOCTRINE OF SELF DETERMINATION

-Dr Rajib Kumar Majumdar
Senior Professor,
Department of Surgery,
RAMA Medical College Hospital & University,
Ghaziabad, India

Abstract:
Post modern doctor patient relationship has seen a sea change. With medical torts taking an extreme position, the concept of consent has taken the centre stage, especially when a malpractice suit is in progress and the negligence aspect has to be decided. Full informed consent sets a standard against which such a decision can be interpolated and also other aspects of medical ethics can be weighed when such a situation is encountered. The 21st century is bringing out a lot of churning about preservation of patient autonomy especially with a resurgence in post feminist constitutionalisation of individual rights. This has to be contrasted against the erstwhile relation of trust relationship which existed between the doctor and his/her patient, which was explicit and hence an additional expressive consent was of not essence. That a consent was required, has been an intricate part of the doctor patient relationship and that part was an aspect of implied consent, taken in the right perspective. However, critiques started objecting to such an institution as it was projected to be more reliant on the opinion of the medical practitioner which according to this school of thoughts would take the centre stage and the patient’s individualism would be clouded. Then, with the advent of a sea change in the relationship with contractual liability being assigned to the same, the shape in which consent existed actually was criticised not to fulfil the individual rights theory of the constitution. It was also averred that in the changed circumstances, the individual right to privacy, albeit in any form and its interjection, even if contemplated in the best interest of the individual has to have an approval of the person in question and that approval in the form of consent, has to be obtained after explaining every ailment or the procedure to be done on the person of the same. The current paper seeks to explore this fact in essence.

IndexTerms – Consent, Informed Consent, Individual Right, Patient Right, Doctor-Patient Relationship.

I. Introduction
From the past to the present there has been a sea change between the relationship that existed between the patient and the doctor to that which surmises at present1. In the past especially during the Roman era, whenever any medical procedure would be contemplated, no need was encountered in asking of the patient as to his or her wish, regarding the exploration of the body by something construed fundamentally alien in present day milieu2. Then in post Christian and post renaissance period, law started intervening in a matter interjected as a contract rather than a one sided affair and with the changing facets of Constitutional reforms the right of each individual got respected in a more subtle manner. ‘A patient craving for treatment, or to get free from agony is in no state of mind to actually dictate as to what should be done with his /her body’........ has been construed as a typical paternalistic attitude;3 ‘A patient has explicit right over the body, hence he/she can totally refuse the said line of treatment’........ is construed as the total and explicit autonomy of the patient4. However, while constructing a better course for the latter, it is often argued specifically in a malpractice suit, that a procedure contemplated or actuated on the person of a patient, after he has been

3 Dax’s Case, New York: Concerns for Dying,(1985).
completely and explicitly educated in his own language satisfies the constitutional right bestowed upon an individual, and also negates any deficiency rightly or assumedly on a medical professional.5

II. Basis of Informed Consent:

It shows up extremely obvious that in a post-present day, constructivist world where noteworthiness and regard structures are routinely subjective and relative, any absolutist view is presumably going to be defective6. This is more so if it relates to ethics, the foundations, illustration and use of which have been and continued being liberally gone head to head in any case7. Along these lines, proposing to the recommendation, there are attempts composed at recognizing a position that would intervene in a limited way. In this debate it has been endeavoured to investigate, that the medical expert, since he is better taught, may attest more unmistakable insight and powers of judgment, and its shields against the blame for intruding of individual flexibility and self-administer through various disputes, for instance, the harm govern, the welfare, the rule of real moralism and the enthusiasm to shakiness.8

While discussing, the issues of Paternalism v. Patient autonomy9 it would be pertinent to discuss a raging important issue most coveted covered by print media and highlighted by visual media. The first case is caesarean section and its incessant usage for upping a gynaecological practice.10 In fact in the state of Haryana11 depending upon the statistics made available it seems that the government had to cap it. Usually in modern and post modern feminine liberation one has to see that the change over from a traditional vaginal delivery to a monitored c-section delivery has been albeit more succinctly adopted method of obstetrical practice fathoming patient comfort.12 Traditional gynaecologist would rather follow a more natural traditional delivery system rather than comfortable c-section. But in the more comfortable environment of a monitored and sequined delivery assuring no or minimal pain the patient acceptance and rather patient teaming towards a c-section is actually a patient autonomy over bearing on a physician paternalism13. Another very important issue is surrogacy and acceptance of lower income group people into the folds of surrogacy to produce babies for higher income group people for a consideration to avoid universally accepted as a pain embalmed for self glory14. The Indian Surrogacy Bill, 201615 hinges upon the outcry by an individual dilemma into the said violation of a personal right. However if we look into the fact when a specifically inbridged patients or patients brought in a non lucid state in hospitals for seriously ill patients has to be given life saving treatment and in the present legal context of the patient doctor relationship a consent has to be obtained before initiating a procedure than the next of kin or the attendant bringing in the patient at best can be summoned to stand in the place of the patient and give consent for the medical treatment, a procedure called as surrogate consent16. Here decision making by non lucid patients cannot be entirely trusted upon them and it is at this juncture that family members step into their shoes as surrogate consent givers17. If we contrast this with autonomy, it has to be averred ethically that this approach deviates from the established course, in a sense that directives of the patients can either not be sourced or if there is an advance directive than compelling contradictory circumstances compel to get in a substituted consent maker or judgement giver18. However it must also be taken into consideration that in most of the patients (except Jehovah’s Witnesses19) either there is no advanced instruction or even if an instruction does

7 TL. Beauchamp, Autonomy and consent: In the ethics of consent, Oxford University Press, 2010.
17 Supra note 16.
exist it is neither conforming to the circumstance at hand or supports any eventuality in the face of its absence. In this particular case judgement taken by a relative or a friend or in rare case a good Samaritan who brought in the patient should be partnered with the substitute judgement taken as philosophically enunciated the person who gets acquainted with the patient’s condition during this brief sojourn incorporates in himself the autonomy entrusted in the patient. and the judgement taken can be presumed to be that of the patient himself. Critics may however take a contradictory view depending on the fact that with changing circumstances, priorities change and if the patient were in a cognisant state, under the same circumstances would rather predict a different course of action. However if we think concordantly, we may make certain assumptions under a given circumstance and this might coincide with the thinking of a surrogate.

### III. Substituted Judgement an alternate to Informed Consent:

So, however strong sentiments or arguments be fathomed against a substituted judgement we must concur that in case of patients, not being in a lucid state, the substitute consent favours the principle of a valid autonomous judgement. If we actually extend this philosophy we might aver that, the essential requirement of informed consent from a patient is based upon the basic principles of bioethics, the protection theory of John Stuart Mill and the theory of self autonomy of Immanuel Kant. From bioethical point of view, the concept of informed consent, is predominantly an enhancement on the theory of autonomy of Immanuel Kant and it has replaced, essentially the erstwhile medical theories of abject paternalism based upon absolute trust. This theory, has, in actuality traced its course from the past of ‘doctor knows best’ to the present charter of ‘patient is in charge of his own care’. If we extend the basic philosophy of Article 21 of the Indian Constitution we might come to the essential fact that the right to self determination is inherently embedded in the constitution and when the scope of this Article is widened it becomes prudent that the patient be put in control of his own body rather than an alien subject be taking decisions on his part. The basic fructus sprang from the German experiments of World War II, where voluntary consent were sought of the humans, being subjected to lethal biological experiments under the garb of humane interventions. This was an abuse of the trust entrusted in a person and thereby lead to a lot of heated discussions among the medical fraternity, which thereinafter started inculcating the voluntary gesture of patient participation in the decision making process of a treatment protocol. So, informed consent came to the saddle as an extension of the same concept albeit in a rationalized form since the decision making is a voluntary effort based upon the knowledge of complete facts. If we segregate the complete scene than informed consent can be inferred in the same sense as that of a full knowledge of the unadulterated fact of the ailment and the course to be charted by the doctor upon a patient on treatment or a research subject on whom a research procedure has to be conducted and whereupon being fully conversant with the facts the patient takes full responsibility of the action taken by him. To qualify under the umbrella of informed consent the effort on the part has to be conscious and without any undue external influence.

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21 Supra note 16.
23 Supra note 17.
27 Supra note 26.
30 Galveston, Please Let Me Die, University of Texas, Department of Psychiatry, 1974.
34 Supra note 16.
35 Section 14, The Indian Contract Act, 1872.
we contrast this with Hippocratic oath, which incidentally is quoted in many malpractice suits as the holy begetter noir of medical ethics than we may actually fathom quintessentially, antithetical situation because the oath actually bequeath concealing Conceal most things from the patient give necessary instructions in a plain faced manner and expose nothing to the patient of his past present or future. This is completely in contravention to the modern day patient doctor relationship, which in essence is based upon the doctrine of full disclosure with complete transparency. If we consider the 1970’s revolution in the medical ethics centered around the preservation of patient autonomy prerogated through the transmission of informed consent, we might confer these achievements to the works based upon dedications of Ruth Faden, Tom Beauchamp, which in fact hinges upon the theories of autonomy by Dworkin and Immanuel Kant. Dworkin’s theory of full autonomy is rather too much moralistic giving that essence of complete autonomy of self decision which is free from any external polluting agency, but may on practical grounds posit a difficult situation. Kantian philosophy of autonomy, on the other hand establishes a duty emanating from respect for one self and for humanity and thus a forced decision does not ingress into the seclusion of another person. If we take an example of Euthanasia or terminally ill patients the utilitarianism of Stuart Mill or ‘human’ concept of Immanuel Kant may not see the day for a practical problem. A glorious example of this fact is the case of Aruna Shanbaug where the appeal for voluntary euthanasia was curtailed by a judicial pronouncement for want of practical application.

IV. Concept of Paternalism v Self Ruling:

While there is some authenticity to the conflicts proposed, incomparable paternalism would seem, by all accounts, to be incongruent with respect for singular rights. How appealing, at that point, is the viewpoint change from paternalism to the self-ruling choice show where the expert presents unprejudiced estimations as small uneven as could sensibly be normal by his own specific points of view and judgments and leaves the fundamental administration totally to the patient or his/her relatives. This unmistakably had its hindrances also. Additionally as with a lot of human experience, the appropriate response would seem to rest in interceding the happy mean. Seeing a capability between self-manage (confidence) and self-rule (indicate chance of choice with no deterrent) mulls over a model of qualified flexibility or “redesigned autonomy”. This is predicated on pro tolerant talk, exchange of musings/points of view, exchange of complexities, and sharing power and effect for the fundamental inspiration driving serving the patient's best leeway. This model would seem, by all accounts, to be a careful and effective approach to manage organization of clinical situations, and one that in its pluralistic approach is unsurprising with fundamental great and wise proposals. It is by no means, perfect, yet in an imperfect world, there can be no immaculate course of action; enduring exchange with the substances - however awkward - is an inescapable unavoidable truth. Exercises are perfect in degree as they tend to propel rapture: wrong as they have a tendency to

37 Supra note 36.
40 Supra note 39.
42 Supra note 26.
43 Supra note 26.
44 Supra note 26.
45 Supra note 25.
46 Supra note 26.
50 Supra note 49.
52 Supra note 51.
convey the turnaround of fulfilment. (J S Mill, Utilitarianism).54 On that supposition, I display that guided paternalism is apparently what serves the patient best.

V. Autonomy as The Basis of Informed Consent:

Autonomy is simply the "individual choice of that which is free from both controlling impedances by others and from singular hindrances that hinder imperative choice." Autonomous individuals act purposely, with appreciation, and without controlling effects.55

With respect to the practical application of patient autonomy in a clinical setup, respect for freedom is one of the focal standards of clinical ethics. Self-govern in arrangement is not simply allowing patients to settle without anyone else’s decisions.56 Specialists have a pledge to make the conditions critical for autonomous choice in others. For a specialist, respect for self-administration joins in regards to a person's qualification to confidence and furthermore making the conditions imperative for self-representing choice.57

Individuals come to experts for bearing in settling on choices since they don't have the fundamental establishment or information for settling on instructed choices. Specialists show patients with the objective that they appreciate the situation adequately. They calm sentiments and address fears that intrude with a patient's ability to choose. They coordinate patients when their choices have all the earmarks of being troublesome to prosperity and success. Respect for freedom moreover joins order, searching for consent for helpful treatment and systems, uncovering information about their restorative condition to patients, and taking care of assurance. Instances of propelling free lead is showing all treatment contrasting options to a patient, elucidating risks in wording that a patient grasps, ensuring that a patient appreciates the perils and agrees to all procedure before going into surgery.58

Beneficence or usefulness is a movement that is proficient for favouring others. Favourable moves can be made to check or oust harms or to simply improve the condition of others.59

VI. Doctrine Of Beneficence Defined:

Within the ambit of clinical applications of the doctrine of beneficence, physicians are depended upon to evade expediting underhandedness, yet they furthermore have a pledge to help their patients.60 Ethicists often perceive obligatory and idealize accommodation. Idealize advantage incorporates phenomenal exhibitions of generosity or attempts to benefit others on each possible occasion.61 Specialists are not by any stretch of the imagination expected that would encounter this wide importance of support.62 Regardless of any impediment, the goal of medicine is to propel the welfare of patients, and specialists have aptitudes and data that enable them to help other people. On account of the method for the relationship among specialists and patients, experts do have a promise63 to:

1) Balance and clear harms, and
2) Weigh and change possible points of interest against possible risks of an action. Support can moreover consolidate securing and protecting the benefits of others, ensuring individuals who are in danger, and helping individuals with ineptitudes.

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54 Supra note 25.
56 Supra note 55.
60 Supra note 59.
62 Supra note 59.
63 Supra note 59.
Instances of valuable exercises: restoring a stifling loss, offering vaccinations to the general open, encouraging a patient to quit smoking and start a training program, bantering with the gathering about STD balancing activity.  

Likely the most generally perceived and troublesome good issues to investigate rise when the patient's self-administering decision conflicts with the specialist's useful commitment to pay unique personality to the patient's best preferences . For example, a patient who has had heart surgery may need to continue smoking or a patient with pneumonia may dismiss serums /antidotes. In these conditions the free choice of the patient conflicts with the specialist's commitment of supportiveness and taking after every ethical standard would provoke to different exercises. For whatever period of time that the patient meets the criteria for settling on a free choice (the patient fathoms the present decision and is not building the decision concerning whimsical contemplations), at that point the specialist should respect the patient's decisions even while endeavouring to convince the patient for the most part.

VII. Restorative Judgement or Good Judgement: A legal overview

Supreme Court of the State of Massachusetts, in the year 1977, held with regards to the Saikewicz case that the subordinate probate court is best suited to judge the continuance or discontinuance of life support treatment in co morbid patients with difficult results. This decision impelled to inspect the certainties in the supportive and legal interjections. The Editor of The New England Journal of Medicine, Dr Arnold Relman however thought that the above pronouncement was harsh as it interfered with settled clinical practices for the betterment of patients. Relman contended that treatment choice for fundamental conditions as was selected in Saikewicz-type cases ought to be made by the appropriate persons in meeting with the patient's legal advisor. Legal luminary Charles Baron, peculiarly, screens Saikewicz's judicialization approach, accommodating that such choice must be made in an antagonistic structure that approximates the perfection of the lead of law. Buchanan extrapolated that Relman's criticism of Saikewicz lays on an insufficient, therapeutic paternalist point of view of the specialist understanding relationship, and that Baron's help of Saikewicz relies upon an unjustifiable, legitimate settler viewpoint of fundamental authority for incompetents. In Buchanan's view, Relman's approach neglects to see fittingly between the making of restorative judgments and the making of good judgments and wrongly recognize that the patient's family usually can't comprehend the portions of the choice, while Baron's approach extraordinarily becomes the drift of the legitimate system by overlooking the superb incredible relationship that as a rule exists between the family and its distinctive part. Buchanan proposes an alternative based initiative approach that he acknowledges joins the advantages, while helping the defects, of both Baron's and Relman's techniques. The alternative relies upon three proposals. The most ideal suspicion in Saikewicz-sort cases is that the gathering of an adversary is to settle on decisions concerning treatment. This supposition of the family's staggering part in essential administration is faultless: affirmation of the patient's rights requires that decisions be made inside a structure that licenses unfathomable trade and responsibility through reasonable study and that suits legitimate intervention when indispensable. The institutional

64 F.G. Miller Consent to clinical research, Oxford University Press, 2010.
65 Supra note 59.
66 Supra note 59.
68 Supra note 3.
69 Supra note 2.
71 Supra note 2.
72 Supra note 3.
73 Supra note 2.
74 Supra note 7.
75 Supra note 2.
76 A. Buchanan, Medical paternalism or legal imperialism: not the only alternatives for handling Saikewicz type cases, Am J Law Med 1979, 5(2): 97-117.
77 Supra note 3.
78 Supra note 7.
79 Supra note 11.
80 Supra note 3.
81 Supra note 2.
framework for executing the components recorded in the previous suggestion will depend seriously upon an ethics leading body of trustees that is neither an all-therapeutic estimate consultative gathering nor an administrative office of the mending focus. Other than evaluating and responding to the Relman\(^82\) and Baron\(^83\) approaches, Buchanan\(^84\) takes a different view at the sense of duty regarding the Saikewicz\(^85\) go head to head with respect to made by law-and-medication expert George Anna\(^86\)s. Fundamentally, Buchanan\(^87\) rejects Anna\(^88\) conflict that, taken together, the Saikewicz\(^89\) supposition and the Quinlan conclusion of the Supreme Court of New Jersey depict a suitable division of therapeutic and authentic essential initiative obligation worried in basic condition incompetents. Buchanan\(^90\) reasons that, disregarding Anna's view\(^91\), those two cases are not reconcilable.

**VIII. Conclusion**

In Montgomery v. Lanarkshire Health Board [2015]\(^92\), the Supreme Court, after a comprehensive audit of post Sidaway cases\(^93\), differed with respect to the choice about data to be given to a patient by his/her specialist to be left eventually to the specialist's clinical judgment. Specifically, the court noticed that the English Courts (in cases, for example, Pearce and Chester v. Afshar\(^94\) ) had dissolved the assumed sureness of Sidaway\(^95\) and had implicitly stopped to take after Sidaway\(^96\) appropriation of the Bolam test\(^97\). The principle judgment pits it as ...."Patients are currently generally viewed as people holding right as opposed to as the detached beneficiaries of the care of restorative calling."

In Union Pacific Railway Co v. Botsford\(^98\), it was agreed "No privilege is held more sacrosanct, or is all the more deliberately protected by the precedent-based law, than the privilege of each person to the ownership and control of his own individual, free from all restriction or impediment of others, unless by clear and obvious expert of law. " This can be a substantial Constitutional Provision wherein the key estimation of self assurance has a higher platform than the privilege to wellbeing and long life. However the radical considered the patient's selective ideal to take choice about his/her own particular treatment and/result or appropriate to deny treatment is just conceivable when the patient's resources are in place. If there should arise an occurrence of intense disease does this contention that regarding tolerant self-sufficiency with doctor's non-impedance holds great when the sickness puts imperatives on the patient's capacity to settle on decisions. In Constitutional arrangements, be that as it may, in guaranteeing self-rule certain deterrents must be overcome and those are association of human of "grown-up years" and "sound personality". Terrence Ackerman\(^99\) in his report dated 1982 called" Why Doctors ought to mediate" offers light to different sorts of limitations which included physical requirements e.g., jail or substantial counteractive action, intellectual imperatives, mental limitations, social limitations and so forth.

From past to the present, the doctor patient relationship has been constantly advancing. This interesting relationship for quite a while has been resistant to the feedback and the investigation of the untouchables. On the off chance that we analyze the Hippocratic Oath\(^100\) which underscores "Knowledge similar to mine " and "advantage of the wiped out" to that of Charak's talk as "A Physician who neglects to enter the body of

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82 Supra note 3.
83 Supra note 7.
84 Supra note 13.
85 Supra note 2.
87 Supra note 13.
88 Supra note 23.
89 Supra note 2.
90 Supra note 13.
91 Supra note 23.
95 Supra note 30.
96 Supra note 30.
97 Bolam v.Friern Hospital Management Committee [1957] 1 WLR 582.
98 Union Pacific Railway Co v. Botsford (1891) 141 U.S. 250.
the patient with the light of information and comprehension can never treat maladies\textsuperscript{101}, we can agree that from the point of view of morals revered in Indian Medical messages, the patient independence is as Constitutionally valid as the age old customary medical paternalism. \textit{Manu}\textsuperscript{102}, in his treatise Manav Dharma has plainly said that a man treating a sickly individual ought to guarantee that his treatment makes no damage the man resting confidence in him; that he is bound by divine mediatiation never to say a word to a third individual about the infection - the embodiment of patient classification and an impeccable mix of patient self-sufficiency with clinician's choice to intercede with no contention zone.

References:


\textsuperscript{101} Charak Samhita, www.44books.com, visited on 09/10/2017.