

TUESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 1999

Award Lecture and Special Lecture

SIOP Award Lecture

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Ethics in paediatric oncology*J. Koutecký. Dept. of Paed. Oncol., Prague, Czech Republic*

My fifty years contact with medicine including thirty five devoted to paediatric oncology is giving me not only knowledge and experience, but probably also the fight to express the conviction that "life is the greatest and supreme criterion" and the morale is the greatest and supreme value, which can have influence on handling the life at all and in paediatric oncology even more. The lecture concerns the main questions of ethics (morals) in this field, especially:

- the entire moral climate in society in connection with children with cancer
- the fluent growth of mankind's information about the chances in cure
- the problem of the doctor – patient relationship
- the continuously growing responsibility of paediatric oncologist to choose the right treatment among many other possibilities
- the solution of dilemma of tragic choice
- the respect for the ill children (with responsibility of preserving their smaller scope of autonomy)
- the necessity to maximise the benefits and to minimise the harm
- the essential mission to eliminate the pain
- the necessity to be a "specialist of the human as a whole"
- the question of positive and negative role as the result of superspecialization
- the questionable evaluation of the quality of life (the problem of the late therapeutical effects on it)
- the question of research performed on patients
- the necessity of multidisciplinary cooperative approach
- the role of teachers to educate students and young graduates in the spirit of "the art of medicine" including morals
- the danger of psychic harm of paediatric oncologist.

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Abstract not received.