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Original Article

DNR Odontoscripting: Psychosocial Forensic Implication

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Abstract

Nowadays a raging controversy has arisen regarding "do not resuscitate" (DNR) will in unconventional methods. It has been reported that a person had brought DNR etching over his chest in the form of tattoo. One day, as luck would have been, he collapsed and was carried to ER section of the hospital. The person was unconscious and to give CPR and defibrillation his chest was laid bare. The doctor came across the DNR message over his chest and a controversy arose within the treating group of doctors. Few were in favour of giving CPR while others were against it. The protagonist accepted tattoo as a living will. Now even the courts have categorically stated that a living will in this regard should be accepted as a final say of the patient. In the present article the discussion is further carried forward emphasizing on reliability and durability of DNR bodily message.

Keywords: Odontoscript, Tattoo, Living Will, DNR Order, Post mortem Decay

Odontoscript

Retention of dental resin material is increased if enamel surface are pre-treated by certain inorganic acid or chelators (RA). The action of acid solution is to decalcify the enamel partially thus creating micro irregularities on the surface of the teeth. This procedure can be adopted under control condition and by expert odonto calligrapher. If this technique is used in engraving DNR on the buccal surface of the teeth, it is surmised that this

will last the life time of the individual. In certain aspects this procedure should be better than broad and multi dyed tattoos on exposed surface of the body. This DNR inscription must be honoured as the final irrevocable order of the living will executers.

The acids used for the buccal surface etching are (a) 37% phosphoric acid, (b) 50% phosphoric acid, (c) 50% phosphoric acid buffered with 7% zinc oxide by weight, and (d) 30% phosphoric acid [w/w] solution³.

Odontoscripting would have an additional in the sense that teeth take an inordinate delay in post mortem decomposition. Hence, in matter of legal dispute recovery of teeth may provide vital clue sometimes as long as several decades.

Now it is imperative that all medical doctors must be taught about DNR, its legal status and places where to look for it. This training must be given at appropriate time and schedules the outcome would be that the doctors when dealing with the unattended casualties would quickly search for DNR message in common and not so common places.

Conclusion

With the advancement of technology coupled with nitty-gritty of legal nuances, it has become inevitable that the marriage between two such entities must hold together and must not be imbalanced with advancement of one. Secondly technology makes things easier and reproducible.

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