

Poll - Jehovah's Witness Patient Among Baixada Santista and ABC Paulista Cardiologists

Antonio Mendes Neto¹ and Max Grinberg²

Clínica Santa Rita, Guarujá¹; Instituto do Coração da Universidade de São Paulo², São Paulo, SP - Brazil

Dear Editor,

In the national and international¹⁻³ medical literature, there is a growing number of manuscripts that focus on bioethics on the medical conduct. A relevant point is the potential for conflict between the benefit (the standpoint of a prudent and diligent doctor) and the patients' autonomy (depending on their preferences and values). One of these realities is the health care to Jehovah's Witness (JW) where the transfusion of blood has an undisputable clinical indication. Grinberg and Chehaibar⁴ observed that only 56.7% of the Brazilian cardiologists interviewed accept to provide health care to JW and 40% of them would not transfuse blood under any circumstances.

An identical research study we conducted with 85 cardiologists affiliated with the regional branches of

ABC and Santos of the Cardiology Society of the State of São Paulo revealed, compared with the national headquarters of the Society of Cardiology, a higher percentage of colleagues who accept to provide health care to JW (65.9%) and those who, among them, would not transfuse blood under any circumstances (47.3%). A significant aspect was the identification of a trend of young cardiologists (> 50 years old) whose accepted to provide health care to JW and not performing blood transfusion compared to older cardiologists.

The data suggests that in these regions of the state of São Paulo the more recent inclusion of young cardiologists leads to a slighter resistance to provide health care to JW and greater tolerance to religious belief.

Keywords

Environmental Statistics; Jehovah's Witnesses; Bioethics.

Mailing Address: Antonio Mendes Neto •

Rua Montenegro 41, Vila Maia, Guarujá, SP, Brazil. Postal Code - 11410-040

E-mail: amneto@cardiol.br, drneto@uol.com.br

Manuscript received on January 30, 2013; revised on January 31, 2013;

manuscript accepted on February 14, 2013.

DOI: 10.5935/abc.20130133

References

1. Azambuja LE, Garrafa V. Testemunhas de Jeová ante o uso de hemocomponentes e hemoderivados. *Rev Assoc Med Bras.* 2010;56(6):705-9.
2. Altisent R, Buil B, Delgado-Marroquín MT. Are ethics committees in tune with the "epidemiology of ethical issues"? *Am J Bioeth.* 2012;12(11):27-9.
3. Strech D, Schildmann J. Why the "appraisal of guidelines for research and evaluation" instrument can and should further inform ethics policy work. *Am J Bioeth.* 2012;12(11):25-7.
4. Grinberg M, Chehaibar GZ. Enquete Testemunha de Jeová. *Arq Bras Cardiol.* 2010;95(6):765-6.