

Doctor-patient relationship

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ABSTRACT

In ancient India. 'Siddha' was also a mean of eradication of diseases. The Siddha had the following characteristics, absolute knowledge, faith insight, right consensus and prowess. He also has the power of becoming minute and gigantic will, and of moving anywhere unhindered and he is unaffected by anything so that neither death, disease, rebirth, nor sorrow can any longer touch him. In traditional societies medicine man was a charismatic man and through charisma he could treat many diseases. Charisma is a mysterious human quality that is hard to describe. Through his, Charisma he dominated in the society.

Key Words : Relationship, Patient, Information Society, Prosumers

INTRODUCTION

In the modern society the prevalent metaphysical concepts transformed into new theories. Today, medicine man is neither heavenly priest, nor Siddha or Charismatic man but in new prospective medicine man is highly qualified in the medical field. He has discovered many scientific and biological dimensions.

The doctor community today does not get the same respect and love now from society. Because of rapid progress in all branches of medicine the era of specialization and super specialization has come. The doctor community is now divided in groups of specialist doctors. Specialization has become need of the hour. (Hour) The patients now have to see the specialist doctors. The specialists now charge a good amount of money as consultation fees. The fees and the charges of investigations cost a lot of money to a common man. For the same ailment the patient has to often see many specialists. Going to different specialists and getting the many investigations done is necessary for proper diagnosis of the disease being available. The specialists are also making use of these facilities for diagnosis. This has added to the cost of medical expenses. Hence the huge fees, the large cost of investigations is one of the cause of strained relations between doctors and patients.

Alvin and H. Toffler has stated *it isn't just the fantastic growth of medical knowledge (and obsoledge) in recent decades that holds revolutionary potential fro improving health; it's also the parallel shift in control of that knowledge.*

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Patients today are inundated with previously unavailable medical information instantly available on the Internet and on news programs, many of which routinely feature segments with a physician as host.

In economic terms, the doctor selling services is still a “producer”. The patient, by contrast, is not just a consumer, but a more active “prosumer” capable of making an increasing contribution to the economy’s output of well-ness or health. Sometimes producer and prosumer work together; sometimes they work independently of each other; sometimes they work at cross-purposes. Yet conventional health statistics and forecasts, by and large, ignore today’s rapid changes in these roles and relationships. (pp. 162-65)

In India we have a large percentage of population illiterate. Because of illiteracy they do not have a scientific temper. There are many misunderstandings, misconceptions and lack of scientific knowledge and outlook in the minds of people in India. There is a large proportion of society who have blind faiths in Bhagats, Oza's and quacks. These factors are also cause of the strained relations. Instead of faith, respect and love there is disregard, hate and doubts.

When patient goes to a doctor for consultation and treatment there is some responsibility on his part also. He must know his responsibility as a patient. How he should behave? What the doctor expects from him? How should he select a good doctor?

Selection of doctor:

It is very important to select a good doctor as your family physician. There are many pathies and many kinds of doctor in India. There are Allopaths, Homeopaths, Ayurvedics, Unani and also the so called alternative systems of medicine like Naturopathy, Magnet treatment, Accupuncture, Flower remedies, so on and so forth. There are various degrees, post graduate degrees, diplomas, fellowships, memberships, Licences, RMP's. Also there are quacks, Baba's, oza's, Bhagats and whole lot of people without any qualification registration etc. who give “treatment”. That is way it is very important to select a good doctor for your family.

One should never go to quacks; Persons without any qualifications, persons giving advertisement in papers and other places, and persons not having proper qualification and registration.

Firstly decide the pathy in which you believe. Then select a doctor with proper and good qualification from that pathy. All your family members should go to the same doctor.

Fix an appointment:

While going to the doctor you must always fix an appointment with the doctor or the specialist. It saves your valuable time as well as the doctors valuable time. Both can “manage time” well. You must always see the doctor in his working hour and his convenient time rather than going to him at your own convenience.

When and where not to bother a doctor:

As far as possible and when it is not an emergency problem do not bother your doctor on

his weekend holiday or during his rest hour or at mid night.

In Emergency the doctor will come and examine you at any place or time of the day or mid night. Emergency is an emergency. But what is an Emergency? There are definite emergency conditions in medicine, surgery, gynaecology and other branches of medicine.

Conditions like heart attack, drowning, accident with head injury and severe bleeding, foreign bodies in respiratory passage are some examples of emergency condition where if the patient does not get medical treatment within a very short time the patient can die. There are emergency conditions defined and described in medical books But a patient can think anything as emergency.

Some times an ordinary fever is neglected for 2-3 days and when the fever rises the patient goes to his doctor at midnight and insists that it is an emergency case and the doctor must examine him then and there.

It is better to take care and see the doctor in the right time and prevent complications.

When the doctor is attending the emergency case, one must fully cooperate with him without being panicky.

Doctor's fees:

After selecting a good doctor and having fixed an appointment with him, when you go to him always enquire about his fees first. If you do not have the money you must always tell the doctor before getting examined. When you know the fee of the doctor before getting examined the question of argument does not arise later on.

Examination:

When the doctor is asking you many questions in his history taking, you must always give correct and true answers. History taking is very important part of examination which can give clues to diagnosis. Hence during history taking you must fully cooperate.

While the doctor is examining a patient you should not gather around the table. Only one person should accompany a patient in examination room.

Diagnosis:

It is not always possible to make a final diagnosis at very first clinical examination. Many times a provisional diagnosis is made. After repeated clinical examinations and investigative procedures a final diagnosis is made. The information obtained by only clinical examination and history of the patient is limited and hence a need for investigation arises.

Investigation:

The doctor may ask for various laboratory tests and tests like radiology, sonography, CAT Scan etc. Any doubts about the tests can be clarified with the Doctors.

Even these tests like X-Ray, Sonography and Laboratory investigations, have their own limitations and drawbacks. They are not always 100% reliable. Sometimes it is necessary that these tests are to be repeatedly done.

Thus the process of diagnosis may take long time and may require repeated investigations and examinations. It is your right to ask questions to your doctor.

Promise of cure:

When a doctor examines you and prescribes medicine to you and charges his professional fees, it does not mean that he guarantees your cure,

A doctor should never make a contract of 100% cure with the patient.

Considering the limitations of scientific information and the doctors own knowledge, the limitations of investigative procedures such contracts are never made. There are many diseases also which are incurably today. There are many new diseases new infective organisation and new causes of diseases coming up. Hence you cant expect a guarantee of 100% cure or you can't make the doctor enter into a contract of curing you.

Prescription:

A prescription is an order given by the doctor to the chemist to supply the medicines to the patient. You must confirm that the chemist has dispensed the same medicines with the same brand names as are on the doctors prescription. The chemists has no right to replace the medicines nobody else can make changes in the prescriptions or treatment of one doctor without his knowledge.

Never take medicines from two or three different doctors or from two different pathies at a time. There can be serious drug interactions.

Reactions:

After giving medicines by oral route or by injection route sometimes some patients develop reaction. The reaction can be a fatal like anaphylactic shock or it can be allergy to the drug manifested in many ways.

Anybody can develop allergy to any drug. You can develop allergic reaction to the medicines to the medicines which you have already used in the past also. When you know by previous experience that you are allergic to a particular medicine, you must let the doctor know it first.

It is wrong to always blame the doctor after getting allergic reaction; that he has given a wrong medicine.

When one gets an allergic reaction it is not the fault of the doctor or the drug but it is due to your own immune system. When you get reaction to any drug you must always first go to the same doctor show has given you the drug. You must confirm that it is allergic reaction and let the doctor treat it.

Some people even go the extent of man handling the doctor when they get reaction. It is better to get all the scientific information first, discuss it with your doctor and take decision. People having no knowledge about medical science and drugs etc. They decide themselves, that the condition of the patient has worsened, the patient has got reaction, the doctor has given a wrong treatment; etc. and go to the extreme of manhandling the doctor. It is ridiculous.

Hence to avoid arguments, fights and misunderstandings with your doctor - you must first decide about the pathy, select a qualified good reputed doctor, go to specialist with his recommendation. Ask him questions about his opinion, necessity of investigations, have faith in him, respect and follow his advice. You must have scientific temper, do not have blind faiths, read scientific information about your diseases and cooperate with your doctor.

If these things are observed there will not be any problems with the doctors and Doctors will always remain the picture of confidence.

For doctors:

A doctor must also take care to maintain a good relationship with his patient. He must create an atmosphere of faith and friendship with his patient.

He must explain about what he feels is the diagnosis of the disease and why he feels so. Must must explain why the particular investigations are necessary. What is exactly the investigation procedure.

He must inform the patient about possible side effects and allergic reaction to the drug.

If nay procedure is to be performed under anaesthesia a proper informed consent must be obtained.

A good record of patients case papers with history; findings of examination; investigation reports and treatment given must be maintained.

If your are unable or ill equipped to handle the case or if you want second opinion for diagnosis you must tell so to the patient.

It is a patients right to decide upon risks and benefits of the diagnosis being taken on him.

A doctor must always act with the best interest oft he patient in mind. He at least should not do any harm to the patient.

A doctor should not accept a case which is beyond his skill and competence.

He should always be available for the case of a patient until treatment is no longer required or until reasonable notice is given so that the patient obtains another doctor advise.

If a doctor always thinks and works in the best interest of his patient, examines and treats to the best of his knowledge and informs the patient about examination, investigation procedure, charges of investigation, his professional fees and other things, problems will not arise.

An atmosphere of faith friendship and love will prevail instead of suspicion and hate.

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