

Cultural Issues

SUBCUTANEOUS AUTOMATIC SYRINGE PERFUSION

Subcutaneous perfusion is a technique by means of which substances that are vital for treating the patient's condition are introduced into the body.

The technique is widespread in the medical world, in the vast majority of hospitals worldwide, being considered as very useful and necessary in almost all treatments of medium to severe illnesses.

Preparing the patient, that is, persuading him/her of the necessity and efficiency of the subcutaneous perfusion is an important stage in performing the technique.

In Europe, this is a commonly used technique which presents no problem. Old people, grown-ups and children, from suckling to adolescents, take advantage of its benefits. However, there are religious sects that oppose any form of mechanical intervention on the circulatory system, avoiding therefore both blood transfusions and subcutaneous perfusion. Doctors, who are aware of the threat this poses to the patients' health do their best to fight ignorance, prejudice and obscurantism, and try to persuade difficult patients. Their number is reduced, though.

In the Islamic world the problem has to do less with spiritual beliefs, and more with lack of infrastructure, shortage of materials in the hospitals or even low standards of cleanliness in some. Such situations are met in rural areas where access to medical services is limited.

Questions for the FORUM:

- Have you observed an automated subcutaneous perfusion being performed in your country? How was it done?
- Are automated subcutaneous perfusions done by qualified medical personnel?
- As a rule, what is the attitude of patients in need of such an intervention? Do they accept it readily or do they have to be persuaded first?