

Ethical dimensions of C-Section on demand

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The debate

- Allow choice for method of delivery

VS.

- Permit only for distinct medical reasons

Physicians' duties

- (1) To individual patients AND (2) To society

The question

- The effect of condoning Caesarean section for non-medical reasons is ultimately changing the societal norms of childbirth.
- Are physicians fulfilling their obligations to both patients and society by allowing this to happen?

Physicians' duties to patients

- Uphold the autonomous wishes of patients who are capable and informed
- Provide patients with all the information that they need to make an informed choice

Physicians' duties to society

- Consider how an action impacts society's fundamental values
- Account for the actions that cost society
- Live up to the terms of the social contract which grants the medical profession self-regulating powers

Ask ourselves

- Will allowing non-medically necessary Caesarean sections encourage physicians to place their personal interest ahead of patient/public interest?

Ask ourselves

- Will allowing non-medically necessary Caesarean sections threaten the integrity of the Canadian medical system?

Ask ourselves

- Will allowing non-medically necessary Caesarean sections jeopardize society's interest in protecting the vulnerable?



Conclusion

- Be cautious about changing the norms of childbirth by condoning non-medically necessary Caesarean sections
- Adopt standards that encourage physicians to support women to have confidence and trust in their bodies
- Honour the knowledge that each and every childbirth is a spiritual experience



Thank you



Questions?