

Shared Decision-Making in Holistic Healthcare: Integrating Evidence-Based Medicine and Values-Based Medicine

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Abstract : Research Background: Historically, the evolution of medicine has not only aimed to extend life but has also inadvertently introduced suffering in the process of maintaining life, presenting a contemporary challenge. We must carefully assess the conflict between the length of life and the quality of living. Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM) exists primarily to ensure the quality of cures. However, EBM alone does not fulfill our ultimate medical goals; we must also evaluate Value-Based Medicine (VBM) to find the best treatment for patients. Research Methodology: We can attempt to integrate EBM with VBM. Within the five steps of EBM, the first three steps (Ask—Acquire—Appraise) focus on the physical aspect of humans. However, in the fourth and fifth steps (Apply—Assess), the focus shifts from the physical to applying evidence-based treatment to the patient and assessing its effectiveness, considering a holistic approach to the individual. To consider VBM for patients, we can divide the process into three steps: The first step is "awareness," recognizing that each patient inhabits a different life-world and possesses unique differences. The second step is "integration," akin to the hermeneutic concept of the Fusion of Horizons. This means being aware of differences and also understanding the origins of these patient differences. The third step is "respect," which involves setting aside our adherence to medical objectivity and scientific rigor to respect the ultimate healthcare decisions made by individuals regarding their lives. Discussion and Conclusion: After completing these three steps of VBM, we can return to the fifth step of EBM: Assess. Our assessment can now transcend the physical treatment focus of the initial steps to align with a holistic care philosophy.

Keywords : shared decision-making, evidence-based medicine, values-based medicine, holistic healthcare

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