

ETHICAL ISSUES IN PLASTIC SURGERY: MODERN ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROSPECTS

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Annotation

Plastic surgery is one of the most dynamically developing areas of modern medicine, associated not only with medical, but also with ethical and legal aspects. The growing popularity of aesthetic surgery raises many questions related to patients' rights, the professional ethics of doctors and the regulation of this field. The article examines major ethical dilemmas, including the balance between medical necessity and aesthetic needs, informed consent, and the social consequences of plastic surgery. Legal issues such as the regulation of the professional activities of surgeons, liability for possible complications and the role of medical standards are also analyzed.

Keywords: plastic surgery, medical ethics, legal aspects, aesthetic medicine, informed consent, patient rights, professional responsibility.

ЭТИЧЕСКИЕ ПРОБЛЕМЫ ПЛАСТИЧЕСКОЙ ХИРУРГИИ: СОВРЕМЕННЫЕ ДОСТИЖЕНИЯ И ПЕРСПЕКТИВЫ

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Аннотация

Пластическая хирургия является одним из наиболее динамично развивающихся направлений современной медицины, связанная не только с медицинскими, но и с этическими и правовыми аспектами. Рост популярности эстетических операций вызывает множество вопросов, связанных с правами пациентов, профессиональной этикой врачей и регуляцией этой области. В статье рассматриваются основные этические дилеммы, включая баланс между медицинской необходимостью и эстетическими запросами, информированное согласие, и социальные последствия пластической хирургии. Также анализируются правовые вопросы, такие как регулирование профессиональной деятельности хирургов, ответственность за возможные осложнения и роль медицинских стандартов.

Ключевые слова. пластическая хирургия, медицинская этика, правовые аспекты, эстетическая медицина, информированное согласие, права пациента, профессиональная ответственность.

Введение

Plastic surgery, especially its aesthetic direction, plays an increasingly important role in modern society. Advances in technology, availability of information and changing social standards of beauty have contributed to an increase in demand for aesthetic procedures. However, along with this growth, issues related to ethics and legal regulation of this field of medicine have also become more relevant.

The most important ethical aspect is to ensure informed consent from patients, especially in cases where operations are performed for aesthetic reasons. Patients should be fully aware of the possible risks, limitations, and expectations of the procedure. At the same time, the surgeon's responsibility is to objectively assess the patient's condition and his psychological readiness for operations that can have a significant impact on his life ([2]).

From a regulatory perspective, plastic surgery faces a number of challenges, including standardization of professional requirements, licensing of medical institutions and liability for complications. A number of countries have developed detailed legislation regulating this area, but in many countries, including CIS countries, there are gaps in legal regulation. This creates additional risks for both patients and surgeons ([3]).

This article aims to explore the ethical and legal aspects of plastic surgery, including an analysis of existing standards, examples from international practice and ways to improve regulation in this area.

Main part

1. Ethics of plastic surgery

1.1. Dilemmas of aesthetic medicine

Aesthetic plastic surgery often raises controversy related to the concept of “medical necessity.” If surgeries, such as reconstruction after injuries or birth defects, have obvious medical indications, aesthetic surgeries are performed primarily to improve appearance. This raises questions about the appropriateness of such procedures and who should determine their “validity”—the patient or the physician ([4]).

1.2. Informed consent

Ensuring informed consent from patients is a core ethical principle of medicine. The surgeon must provide full information about possible risks, complications, results and alternative treatment options. However, in aesthetic surgery, special attention is paid to the

psychological state of the patient, since expectations may be unrealistic, which leads to dissatisfaction with the results of the operation ([5]).

1.3. Professional responsibility

Ethics requires that surgeons refuse to perform operations on patients if it could harm their physical or psychological health. For example, in cases of Body Dysmorphic Disorder, when patients have a distorted perception of their appearance, surgical interventions can only worsen the situation ([6]).

2. Legal aspects of plastic surgery

2.1. Regulation of professional activities

Legal regulation of plastic surgery includes licensing of surgeons, certification of clinics and compliance with medical standards. For example, in the USA and EU countries there are strict requirements for the certification of specialists and the accreditation of clinics. ([7]).

2.2. Responsibility for complications

An important aspect is the legal responsibility of the surgeon for the result of the operation. Patients have the right to compensation if the service was provided poorly or in violation of medical standards. However, the difficulty lies in the fact that patient expectations can be subjective, and the results of operations can be individual. ([8]).

2.3. International regulatory experience

Countries with developed healthcare systems, such as Germany or South Korea, have detailed regulations governing plastic surgery. These laws include requirements for the qualifications of surgeons, rules for informing patients, and control over the use of medical materials. ([9]).

3. Social and psychological aspects

Aesthetic plastic surgery affects not only the physical, but also the psychological state of patients. Successful surgeries can improve self-esteem and quality of life, but unsuccessful procedures often lead to depression, social isolation and even legal disputes. This highlights the importance of an ethical and professional approach to every transaction ([10]).

Conclusions

The ethics and legal aspects of plastic surgery play a key role in ensuring patient safety and the professional responsibility of surgeons. In the context of growing demand for aesthetic procedures, it is necessary to strengthen legal regulation, introduce international standards and increase the level of professional training of specialists. Plastic surgery must focus on

maximizing patient safety and satisfaction, while strictly adhering to ethical standards and legal obligations. Only an integrated approach, including ethical, legal and social dimensions, will minimize risks and improve the quality of services provided.

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