

Pregledni rad

PR01 Trebamo li pacijente zabrinjavati slučajnim nalazima tijekom dijagnostike?


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Ključne riječi: slučajni nalazi, etika, bioetika

UVOD I CILJ: Stalnim razvojem tehnologije i znanosti, digitalne i vizualne dijagnostičke metode, kao i genetske sekvence, postale su vrlo precizne te često dolazi do pronalaska slučajnih nalaza. Cilj ovog rada je pružiti kratki pregled literature te istaknuti najvažnije etičke dvojbe s kojima se liječnici mogu susresti u ovoj situaciji.

MATERIJALI I METODE: U elektroničkoj bibliografskoj bazi podataka PubMed u listopadu 2021. tražene su publikacije pod pojmovima incidental finding (eng. slučajni nalaz) uz pojmove ethics (eng. etika), medical ethics (eng. medicinska etika), bioethics (eng. bioetika), biomedical ethics (eng. biomedicinska etika).

REZULTATI: Slučajni nalazi nađeni tijekom dijagnostičke obrade pacijenta, u procesu terapije ili tijekom istraživanja mogu imati pozitivne i negativne posljedice na pacijenta i na liječnika. Kao primjer se u literaturi često navodi slučajan pronalazak tumora u sudionika kliničkih istraživanja koje može imati pozitivan utjecaj na pacijenta, ako se tumor otkrije i liječi na vrijeme, ali i negativan utjecaj na liječnika jer mora isključiti sudionika iz daljnjeg tijeka istraživanja. Česta dilema u liječnika je i treba li iznositi pacijentu nalaz ukoliko nije siguran u njegovu značajnost, s obzirom da bi to moglo dovesti do opterećujućih dijagnostičkih pregleda ili praćenja, štete od medicinskih postupaka, tjeskobe i nepotrebnih troškova, s upitnom koristi za pacijenta.

ZAKLJUČAK: Uvijek treba uzeti u obzir želje pacijenta u pogledu otkrivanja slučajnih nalaza. Slučajni nalazi kod kojih postoji mogućnost liječenja ili prevencije trebaju biti otkriveni, uz iznimke. U određenim slučajevima, daljnju dijagnostiku treba nastaviti s oprezom, posebice ako se radi o genetskim testiranjima koje uključuje maloljetnike. U procjeni postupka, uvijek treba odvagati rizike i koristi.

Should patients be concerned with accidental findings during diagnostics?

Keywords: incidental findings, ethics, bioethics

INTRODUCTION AND GOAL: With the constant development of technology and science, such as digital and visual diagnostic methods as well as genetic sequences, it has become very precise and random findings are often found. The aim of this paper is to provide a brief overview of the literature and highlight the most important ethical dilemmas that doctors may encounter in this situation.

MATERIALS AND METHODS: In PubMed's electronic bibliographic database in October 2021. publications under the terms incidental findings, in addition to the terms ethics, medical ethics, bioethics and biomedical ethics were requested.

RESULTS: Accidental findings found during diagnostic treatment of the patient, in the process of therapy or during the study can have positive and negative consequences on the patient and on the doctor. As an example, the literature often cites the accidental finding of tumors in clinical research participants that can have a positive impact on the patient, if the tumor is detected and treated in time, but also a negative impact on the doctor, since it must exclude the participant from the further course of the study. A common dilemma in a doctor is whether to present a patient with a finding if he is unsure of its significance, given that this could lead to burdensome diagnostic examinations or monitoring, damage from medical procedures, anxiety and unnecessary costs, with questionable benefits for the patient. **CONCLUSION:** The patient's wishes regarding the discovery of random findings should always be taken into account. Accidental findings in which there is a possibility of treatment or prevention should be detected, with exceptions. In certain cases, further diagnostics should continue with caution, especially in the case of genetic testing involving minors. In the assessment of the procedure, risks and benefits should always be weighed.

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