Ethical way of decision-making: Shared Decision-Making

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Shared Decision Making (SDM) has been described as a two-way exchange of information between patient and health care provider(s) based on best evidence as well as patient preferences and values. The principle of self-determination is the bedrock on which the concept of SDM rests. Almost 100 randomized trials revealed that patients could be more confident in his/her decisions, gain more knowledge, and participate more actively in decision making process with SDM. Even though SDM has been considered as an effective and ethical way of medical decision making, there is a lack of clear guidance about how to define and accomplish SDM in routine practice in the field of nephrology in Korea. This presentation aims to provide greater conceptual clarity through identification of key elements of SDM, and also discuss substantial barriers of the model.