

Mohammad Kochi's story

1. How does culture influence the way patients and families discuss medical information and make medical decisions?
 - What are some reasons why information might be withheld from a patient by the doctor or the family?
 - Is it ever acceptable to withhold information from a patient?
2. Why, in this case, does Noorzia (a relatively young daughter—and a woman in a male dominant culture) seem to play a very important role in medical decisions about her father's care?
 - How is Noorzia's perspective on her father's health and the medical system in general, different than her father's?
3. How should doctors communicate with families about medical information?
4. How important are professional interpreters (as opposed to family members or no interpreter) in medical interactions like this?
 - Could it have changed the situation in this case?
 - Are there any laws requiring the use of an interpreter?
 - What problems can arise when family members or others act as interpreters?
5. How might Mr. Kochi's perspective on spirituality and health affect his decisions about chemo- therapy?
 - Is what Dr. Fisher said the usual perspective of American medicine?
 - Can the two somewhat different views be reconciled?
 - What could Dr. Fisher have done to discover this issue early on?
 - How might Dr. Fisher have modified his approach if he had some idea of this potential conflict?
 - What other reasons might Mr. Kochi—or anyone—have for refusing chemotherapy?
6. What are some reasons why patients may refuse a physician's recommendation?