

# Informed Consent and Cancer Disclosure: Thinking Between the Lines of Policy and Practice



Laura Specker Sullivan  
(University of Hawaii/  
Kokoro Research Center Kyoto  
University)

Abstract: Respect for autonomy and the consequent policy of informed consent is generally considered to be one of the core requirements of ethical medical practice. However, while much conceptual work has gone into defining respect for autonomy and analyzing how informed consent derives from this concept, little attention has been paid to how well this conceptual work maps onto actual medical practice. One area that highlights this disconnect between theory and practice is cancer disclosure in Japan as compared to the United States. Few studies have considered practical reasons for the relatively quick reversal of American physicians' policy on cancer disclosure between 1961 and 1979, or for the slower rate of change of Japanese physicians. I will present a compelling but under-recognized practical reason for both phenomena: the extent of the emotional and psychological support available to newly diagnosed cancer patients.

2014年 6月12日(木) 16:30~18:00

京都大学文学部東館2階257号室「KUASU多目的室」

(KUASU Meeting Room 257, Faculty of Letters East Bldg., Kyoto University)

(参加無料・当日参加歓迎)