Summary and Conclusions

Dermatoethics is an important study because the literature dealing with medical ethics is meager.

This study included 100 dermatologists (23 males and 77 females). Their ages ranged from 25-60 years. The method used was a self-filling questionnaire, the questionnaire included questions in many aspects in doctor–patient relationship.

Finally, we found that whatever the variation in the opinions of dermatologists, they do the best for patients e.g.

- Most dermatologists agreed to exclude the poor patient from the payment of fees.
- Most dermatologists agreed to give a priority to a colleague among the patients.
- Most dermatologists refused to take fees from a colleague.
- Most dermatologists disagreed to write non-deserving medical certificates for the payment of fees.
- Most dermatologists disagreed to tell the patient that his previous doctor was a cheater.
- Most dermatologists agreed to ask the permission of the patient before examination in front of medical students.
In conclusion, the present study suggests the following guidelines for patient-dermatologist relationship.

A- Socio economic aspects:

1. Dermatologists should exclude the poor patient from the payment of fees.
2. Dermatologists should request necessary investigations only and they should not guide the patient to a specific laboratory.
3. Dermatologists should not examine a patient with a disease not related to their specialty.
4. Dermatologists should not prescribe an expensive drug to satisfy a wealthy patient in spite of the availability of a cheaper and effective drug.
5. If the dermatologist examines a colleague, he should give him the priority and he should refuse to take fees from him.
6. Dermatologists should refuse to write medical certificates only because he was paid his fees.

B- Diagnostic Aspects:

1. Dermatologists should tell the patient (even in an indirect way) that he did not reach the diagnosis, he should tell the patient that taking a biopsy may confirm the diagnosis.
2. Dermatologists should consult an experienced colleague if they did not reach the diagnosis.
3- Dermatologists should tell the patient the whole truth about his disease by using indirect words.

4- Dermatologists should inform the patient's relatives about the disease that the patient is suffering from.

5- Dermatologists should not tell the patient that his previous doctor was a cheater.

C- Behavior during examination:

1- Dermatologists should not discriminate between patients according to their socioeconomic standard or religion.

2- If the disease affects the genitalia or other sensitive areas and the patient is refusing to have this area exposed, the dermatologist should apologize to the patient and repay the fees to him.

3- Dermatologists should examine all parts of patient's body even if he did not have a complaint in these parts.

4- If the patient said that someone else suffers from a disease and asks the dermatologist to prescribe the treatment, the dermatologist should refuse to do that.

5- If the patient is talkative, the dermatologist should end the dialogue without embarrassing him.

6- Dermatologists should not examine the patient in presence of his companions. But the dermatologist should have a nurse during examination.
7- Maintaining clear professional boundaries is an important step to prevent harassment in doctor-patient relationship.

8- Dermatologists should ask the permission of the patient before examination in front of medical students.

D- Therapeutic aspects:

1- Dermatologists should not prescribe the drug according to patients wishes e.g. if the case needs topical treatment only and the patient insists to receive systemic treatment.

2- Dermatologists should not prescribe a specific drug to get benefits from a pharmaceutical company or direct the patient to a specific pharmacy to gain financial benefit.

3- Dermatologists may request drug samples from medical representatives of pharmaceutical companies and give them to patients and may use some of them for their personal use.