

*Perspective***Pediatric medicine and child health care****Peng Chen\***

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**DESCRIPTION**

Pediatrics is defined as the branch of medicine that deals with the health and medical care of babies, children, and adolescents from birth to the age of eighteen. The word “paediatrics” comes from two Greek words: ‘pais’ means child and ‘iatros’ means ‘doctor’ or ‘healer’. Paediatrics is a new medical specialty that emerged in the mid-nineteenth century. A paediatrician, also known as a paediatrician, is a medical doctor who specialises in this field. Paediatricians work in hospitals and children’s hospitals, especially in subspecialties such as neonatology, as well as outpatient primary care physicians. A paediatrician is a paediatrician who provides healthcare care to children who are severely ill, as well as preventive health services to children who are healthy. In both illness and health, a paediatrician is responsible for the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of the children in their care. The goal of paediatric research is to lower infant and child mortality rates, control infectious disease spread, promote healthy lifestyles for long, disease-free life, and assist children and adolescents with chronic conditions. Paediatricians are concerned not only with the immediate care of the sick child, but also with the long-term effects on quality of life, disability, and survival.

Paediatrics varies from adult medicine in a various number of ways. The physiological character of an infant, neonate, or child differs suggestively from that of an adult. As a result, treating children isn’t the same as treating a miniature adult. Variations in body dimension are mirrored by changes in maturation. The physiological makeup of an infant or neonate

differs significantly from that of an adult. Pediatricians are more concerned about congenital defects, genetic variance, and developmental issues than adult physicians are. Children are not simply “little adults”, according to a popular adage. When considering symptoms, prescribing medications, and diagnosing illnesses, the clinician must consider the infant or child’s immature physiology.

The majority of the times, parents have the final say over their children’s fate. Most of the time, the paediatrician, parent, and child collaborate to make the best medical decision possible. The paediatrician has the authority to intervene on behalf of the child’s welfare and to seek ethics committee advice. Authors of recent studies, on the other hand, have refuted the notion that complete autonomy exists in paediatric healthcare. Children should be held to the same moral standards as adults. The concept of paternalism, which denies autonomy when it is in the patient’s best interests, is in support of this idea. In terms of autonomy, this concept aims to keep the child’s best interests in mind. Pediatricians can interact with patients and assist them in making decisions that are in their best interests, thereby increasing their autonomy. Radical theories that question a child’s moral worth, on the other hand, are still debated today. The treatment and equality of a child and an adult are frequently questioned by authors. Children, according to author Tamar Schapiro, require nurturing and are unable to exercise the same level of authority as adults. As a result, the debate over whether children are capable of making important health decisions has continued to this day.

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