

Ethics After Hours

Lenox Hill, Undercurrents: Episode 5 **Documentary**

Summary

This episode focuses on the undercurrents that drive people to become doctors, and about work-life balance. Mitchell is away for his own surgery, and his colleagues discuss how to manage his patient load and how best to ensure that he has a job to come back to. Mirtha has her first day back at work in the ER after four months parental leave, and Amanda is close to finishing residency and talks about the importance of family support and good teamwork with her fellow residents.

Duration: 49mins. 36 sec.

Executive Producers: Ruthie Shatz, Adi Barash, and Josh Braun

Released:

Available on Netflix (Original Netflix Production)

Ethical Issues

- Work-life balance
- Balancing extension of life with quality of life
- Breaking bad news
- Withing risk and benefits in treatment decisions

Questions for discussion:

- Reflecting on work-life balance, what stood out the most to you in this episode and why?
- What ethical questions did this episode raise for you? Why?
- In the brief recap, Mitchell, who is going through cancer treatment, describes himself as lonely and scared.
 - Do you think this is a common experience for health care providers going through tests and/or experiencing serious illness and if so, why?
 - Mitchell has chosen to undergo treatment at another hospital. What concerns would you have about undergoing treatment in the health care facility where you work?
- Discuss Dr. Langer's statement, "I hate knowing the patients so well. That's why you don't operate on your family or friends. Especially when things are dangerous."
- Dr. Bookvar manages to remove all of John's brain tumour, but John loses mobility in his leg after the surgery. Do you agree with Dr. Bookvar's reflections around the need to balance extension of life with quality of life? Why or why not?
- Discuss the statement, "You always remember the patients you hurt rather than the patients you helped."