Name

Professor name

Subject

July 12, 2019

Case study

Part A

The current scenario depicts the need for choosing appropriate dialectical process. It stresses on using reasoning and ethical principles for solving the case of an impaired newborn. Mr. Blake doesn’t want the new born to suffer and live a miserable life so he asks the doctor to put the baby to the sleep painlessly (Dingel-Stewart and LaCoste). Mr. Blake can’t afford the operations and exhibits a financial incapacity for taking care of the newborn. The case reflects the need for integrating bioethics before making the decision about ending the life of newborn (Pijnenburg and Leget). Ethics suggests considering strengths and weaknesses of each alternative situation. The ethics stresses on choosing the course of action that is in best interest of the infant.

Fewer cases support the decision to kill off abnormal newborns as indicated by the Midwestern Hospital’s case of 1976. The baby was born with Down’s syndrome and doctors suggested that she will not be able to move throughout her life. The hospital decided not to perform surgery because the survival would increase pain and suffering of the patient (P. A. Pecorino). Considering the case of Baby Doe the father of the defective infant can consult a bioethical advisor for ending the life of newborn. Mr. Blake can support his viewpoint and decision of avoiding operation by relying on the principle of Baby Doe Rule that states, “the provision of such treatment would be virtually futile in terms of the survival of the infant and the treatment itself under such circumstances would be inhumane” (White). The decision of ending the life of infant is not ethically wrong because operation will cause more pain with no chances of recovering from Down’s syndrome.

Part B

Pecornio, instructor of Philosophy and Ethics at Queensborough Community College claims that the decision of ending life of severely damaged newborn must be justified with ethical views. It is permissible to withdraw life support for such infants because they will have no meaningful life (P. A. Pecorino). The Born Alive Infant Protection Act (2002) is a legal right of protection given to infant when attempt to abortion fails.

Willems et al., (2014) states that euthanasia in case of damaged newborn can be ethically justified in certain situations such as if the parents lack financial capacity of taking care of the child and investing in treatment and operation will not improve the condition of infant. The recommendations provided in the article states that provision of treatment to the child must be seen as an alternative to end-of-life. The ethical principles used by Wilkilson (2011) indicates that ending life of a severely damaged infant is justified. The argument suggests adopting treatment only when it does not cause pain and changes of improvements exist.

Patrick Fabian talks about baby Jane Doe who was born with severe defects. She was suffering from Down’s syndrome and the doctors suggested that treatment will only prolong dying. However, it was found unethical to end her life. Ethical decision suggests considering what is in best interest of the child. American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) organized infant bioethics task force. The legal and ethical decisions emphasized on adopting the right course of action. Ending the life of child was permissible in some situations. Baby Doe Rule suggested choosing what is in the best interest of the child, based on family’s considerations (White). Reasonable medical judgment was suggested in the situations in which the infant’s treatment exhibited high likelihood of futility in terms of survival. Treatment can be avoided because it will only increase years of suffering as the quality of life will deteriorate.

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