China, first steps on Bioethics

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Recently, a first research team was specifically established for bioethics while another one already belongs to medicine. Today the ethical issue of organs transplantation represents the main focus but we have to underline that ethical reflection has a millennial old tradition in China. In fact, since more than one thousand years the moral consequences of medical sciences have been studied in this country. Today, bioethics learning is an optional subject at university; its spreading depends basically on the interest of both teachers and students, and its education and teaching is constantly increasing. Currently bioethics is taught only at theoretical level in medicine faculties and now also in philosophy ones. Organ transplants, the main area of intervention of bioethics in China, are available procedures only in a few specialized hospitals. Organ transplantation dilemma in children is still an open problem: at the moment parents decide for it. Quality of life will be for sure the main topic to predict and measure the development of possible exchanges and collaboration with the Western world.

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