

The ethics of technological innovation in health care

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Technologies

(Techniques plus rationales)

Software

Hardware

- Productive
- Semiotic
- Power
- Self
- Lifestyle

Evaluation of innovation

- Metatechnological challenge
- Different knowledge sources (experts, technicians, evaluators)
- Qualitative assessment (valoric stage) (What is this for? Whom does it benefit?)
- Quantitative assessment (technical stage) (Affordability, efficacy, effectiveness, safety)

Stages of innovation in healthcare technologies

- Ideation (technocratic optimism)
- Mobilisation (evidential knowledge, emergent community of practice)
- Clinical specification
- Specific application

Values in innovation

- Different expectations: lay community
community of experts and community of
evaluators
- Novelty per se as value
- Policymakers, political interests
- Trial and error – Trial and success

Bioethical Analysis of innovation

- “Gesinnungsethik” vs “Verantwortungsethik”
- Deontology and Teleology
- Contrasting views
- Public good and individual gains (Macro-Micro)
- Procedures instead of contents
- *“Dialogical consequentialism”* as a framework

Tele healthcare

- Different forms of practice (telemedicine, eHealth, telepsychiatry)
- Soft technologies are essential for understanding the dynamics of hardware use and implementation
- “Normalisation” and natural implementation require “cultural” molding