CASE AND COMMENTARY

Who Makes Contraceptive Decisions for Adolescents?
Commentary by Faith Lagay, PhD

Case
During your ambulatory care rotation, you are working with an OB/GYN at her office. A mother brings in her 15-year-old daughter for a gynecological examination. The mother regrets that she was sexually active at a young age and had a child as a teenage mother. The daughter has recently started dating. The mother believes that her daughter is sexually active and wants her to be put on a regimen of Depo-Provera. The daughter denies being sexually active and refuses to be placed on Depo-Provera. The mother is very insistent and believes this is for her daughter's "own good."

Questions for Discussion

1. Who has the authority to make contraceptive choices in this case, the mother or daughter?
2. What is the physician's duty?


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