Table 2 Physicians' perceptions towards medical ethics (*n* = 128)

Perception domain/perception statement	Agree		Disagree		Median (IQR) score
	No.	%	No.	%	%
Physician–patient relationship					77.3 (8.9)
Ethical conduct is important only to avoid legal action	6	4.7	122	95.3	
Patient's wishes must always be adhered to	74	57.8	54	42.2	
Physician should do what is best irrespective of patient's opinion	46	35.9	82	64.1	
Patient should always be told if something is wrong	107	83.6	21	16.4	
Confidential information can only be disclosed if the patient gives explicit consent or if expressly provided for in the law	99	77.3	29	22.7	
Confidentiality cannot be applied in modern care and should be abandoned	12	9.4	116	90.6	
Close relatives must always be told about a patient's condition	64	50.0	64	50.0	
Patients need to consent only for operations but not for tests or medications	23	18.0	105	82.0	
Children should never be treated without the consent of their parents or guardians (except in an emergency)	123	96.1	5	3.9	
Doctors and nurses should refuse to treat patients who behave violently	15	11.7	113	88.3	
Patients who refuse treatment due to beliefs should be instructed to find another doctor	77	60.2	51	39.8	
Health care worker cannot refuse to do an abortion if the law allows it to be performed	19	14.8	109	85.2	
Patient who wishes to die should be assisted in doing so	3	2.3	125	97.7	
Disclosing medical errors					52.7 (6.9)
Would disclose medical error resulting in minor medical harm (prolonged treatment/discomfort or extra cost)	82	64.1	46	35.9	
Would disclose medical error only if it caused major harm (disability or death)	41	32.0	87	68.0	
Fear of malpractice is an important reason why doctors do not disclose medical errors	96	75.0	32	25.0	
Patients' forgiveness plays an important role in motivating doctors to disclose medical errors	44	34.4	84	65.6	
Physician-colleague relationship					69.4 (8.9)
Treat colleagues respectfully and work cooperatively to maximize patient care	90	70.3	38	29.7	
Pay or receive fee to procure referral of a patient to a colleague	30	23.4	98	76.6	
Steal patients from colleagues	0	0.0	128	100.0	
Report colleagues' misconduct	50	39.1	78	60.9	
Apply the main ethical principles relating to cooperation with others in patient care	62	48.4	66	51.6	
Resolve conflicts with other health care providers	70	54.7	58	45.3	
Total	–	–	–	–	74.8 (6.4)

IQR = interquartile range.