



### Dilemma 5: The Blood Transfusion

You are a surgeon performing an emergency bowel operation. Shortly after you start operating, a nurse arrives with the news that the patient's relatives are Jehovah's Witnesses and says that your patient is also a Jehovah's Witness. Jehovah's Witnesses cannot accept blood transfusion and you know that the accepted medical protocol is to consent to their wishes in this regard. During the operation a major life-threatening blood loss occurs and the anaesthetist demands that a blood transfusion be carried out. Without it the patient will die.

