

Clinical Skills Workshop

Introduction to End-of-Life Care

Objectives

1. To appreciate a patient's experience of living with a terminal disease.
2. To understand that all physicians and medical students take care of patients at the end of life and that all of us should work to achieve basic competency at End-of-Life care.
3. To recognize how much doctors and medical students can do for patients even when cure or prolongation of life is no longer possible. Important attitudes, knowledge, and skills in this area take practice and this practice begins as medical students.
4. To recognize that communicating with and caring for patients with terminal illness can provoke strong reactions and what outlets are available.

References

- Kuhl D, Stanbrook MB, Hebert PC. What people want at the end of life. CMAJ: Canadian Medical Association journal = journal de l'Association medicale canadienne 2010;182:1707. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1503/cmaj.101201>
- Rousseau P. Caring for the dying: why is it so hard for physicians? West J Med 2001;175:284-5. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1071586/?report=classic>

Web Resources

- Palliative and End of Life Care Education at Yale: <http://palliativecare.yale.edu>
- Education for Physicians in End of Life Care: <http://www.epec.net/>
- End of Life / Palliative Education Resource Center: <https://library.tmc.edu/website/end-of-lifepalliative-education-resource-center-eperc/>