

Can we talk to dying people?

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INTRODUCTION

About 75 % dying people in Czech Republic are dying in hospitals. While pain, dyspnoea, constipation and other physical ailments can be solved by medication quite easily, there is no pill to solve patient's questions, sadness, loneliness, fear, etc.

Perhaps this is the reason, why we are afraid of talking to dying people and to their next of kin. We are not able to solve this kind of pain so easily.

Fatality

RESULTS

In total of 19 participants were recruited.

Statements of patients and family members were surprisingly similar. Both groups were not properly informed about on-going death.

Physicians communication was usually limited to test results and to current health condition. Physicians were speaking only about curative therapy, they did not offer possibility of palliation.

In many cases it was said, physicians withheld no emotional or spiritual support or it was very poor.

All patients reached a verdict that physicians were short of time to communicate with them.

AIMS

The main aim of this study was to identify satisfaction in the end of life of patients or their family members about communication with attending physician.

METHODS

Semi-structured interviews about embarrassment in communication in the end of life were conducted from 2010 to 2012.

Interviews were recorded, transcribed and analyzed using framework analysis.

Health Care

DISCUSSION

For reason that patients were not properly informed, they did not have opportunity to prepare for death and to part with family.

For reason that next of kins were not properly informed about on-going death, they made a complaint.

Consequently, health workers are losing credibility.

A TRUE STORY

Mrs. Heda suffered from ovarian cancer. The curative therapy was abandoned, but she did not know that she was dying.

Her health condition worsened every day and in a few days she got bedridden. Mrs. Heda had foreboding whereas she was restless. She called for a nurse every 3 minutes.

Nurse Dagmar asked her: „What is the true reason why you are calling so often?“ The patient asked: „Nurse, tell me, am I dying?“ Dagmar gave her advice to query her physician. Mrs. Heda was calling again. Dagmar requested the doctor to inform the patient truthfully and thoroughly. When the conversation was over, Mrs. Heda became calm and never called for a nurse in vain.

And finally, she could settle her own matters.

Communication

Misunderstanding

We hope for lighter future for Palliative Care!

¿Podemos hablar con los moribundos?

INTRODUCCIÓN

Alrededor del 75% de la gente en República Checa están muriendo en los hospitales. Mientras que el dolor, la disnea, estreñimiento y otras dolencias físicas pueden ser resueltos por los medicamentos con bastante facilidad, no hay ninguna píldora que salve del paciente preguntas, la tristeza, la soledad, etc. Tal vez esta es la razón, ¿por qué tenemos miedo de hablar con los moribundos, personas y para sus familiares. No somos capaces de resolver este tipo de dolor tan fácilmente.

CUERPO

El objetivo principal de este estudio fue identificar la satisfacción en el final de la vida de los pacientes o sus familiares acerca de la comunicación con el médico tratante.

MÉTODOS

Entrevistas semi-estructuradas sobre la vergüenza en la comunicación en el final de la vida, se realizaron entre el 2010-2012.

Las entrevistas fueron grabadas, transcritas y analizadas utilizando un marco y analizándolas.

RESULTADOS

Un total de 19 participantes fueron reclutados.

Las declaraciones de los pacientes y miembros de la familia fueron sorprendentemente similares. Ambos grupos no fueron debidamente informados acerca de la muerte.

La comunicación de los Médicos se limita generalmente a resultados de la prueba y para el estado de salud actual. Los médicos estaban hablando sólo de terapia curativa, no ofrecen posibilidad de paliación.

En muchos casos se dijo que, los médicos no habían dado un apoyo emocional ó apoyo espiritual o que era muy pobre.

Todos los pacientes llegaron a un veredicto que los médicos les proporcionaban poco tiempo para comunicarse con ellos.

DISCUSIÓN

Por razón de que los pacientes no fueron debidamente informados, no tuvieron la oportunidad de prepararse para la muerte y que parte con la familia.

Por esto hicieron una queja de los trabajadores de la salud, al no ser debidamente informados, no tenían credibilidad de estos.