

ADVANCES IN PAIN CONTROL IN PALLIATIVE CARE

Pain in palliative care needs to be carefully assessed before treatment.

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Rene Krause has been working in palliative care for the past 7 years. She worked in Bethesda Hospice and in Harry Comay TB hospital with special interest in MDR TB. For the past 3 years she has been working at St Luke's Hospice, Kenilworth, Cape Town, where she is the doctor in a 10-bed IPU which mainly concentrates on cancer patients and pain control.

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ETHICS AND PALLIATIVE CARE

It is helpful to have a good understanding of the application of bioethical principles when caring for patients with life-threatening illness.

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Liz Gwyther is CEO of Hospice Palliative Care Association of South Africa (HPCA), a member of the executive committee of Networking AIDS Community of South Africa and a Trustee of the Worldwide Palliative Care Alliance (WPCA). She is senior lecturer at UCT in the Division of Family Medicine and convenes the postgraduate palliative medicine courses. Her special interests are women's health, palliative care and human rights in health care.

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THE STRANGE CASE OF DR JEKYLL AND MR HYDE: CAN WE EFFECTIVELY MANAGE SUDDEN BEHAVIOUR CHANGES IN THE DYING PATIENT?

Delirium is the most common reason for a sudden change of behaviour in a seriously ill patient.

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David Cameron has been honorary consultant to Sungardens Hospice since 1987. He has a special interest in medical education, clinical mentorship, promoting authentic learning and evidence-based practice in primary care.

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USING COMMUNICATION SKILLS FOR DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS IN PALLIATIVE CARE

‘Suffering is not a question which demands an answer, It is not a problem which demands a solution, It is a mystery which demands a “Presence”.’ (Anonymous)

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Alan Barnard has a special interest in palliative medicine. He practises as a GP in Cape Town and teaches palliative medicine at UCT Medical School. He has research interests in primary palliative care and medical education.

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Linda Ganca is the course convener and lecturer in undergraduate programmes in palliative care at the University of Cape Town's Division of Family Medicine. She also co-facilitates and lectures postgraduate students on psychosocial issues in palliative care. Linda has research interests in palliative care, including paediatric palliative care, and volunteers for Bigshoes Foundation.

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CARING FOR CHILDREN WITH LIFE-LIMITING AND LIFE-THREATENING ILLNESSES: WHAT THE GP SHOULD KNOW

'Life has meaning only in the struggle. Triumph or defeat is in the hands of the Gods. So let us celebrate the struggle.' (Swahili warrior song featured in the 1992 film *Lorenzo's Oil*, the story of parents' struggle to deal with a child suffering from adrenoleukodystrophy.)

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Michelle Meiring is a general paediatrician with a special interest in palliative care for children. As the field is not yet recognised as a speciality, she has spent most of her career working in the NGO sector. She currently works with funding support from the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital and the Bigshoes Foundation.

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MORE ABOUT... PALLIATIVE CARE

Spiritual aspects of palliative care

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When should one start palliative care?

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'Doctor, my pain is getting worse. Please help me.' Some thoughts on opioid-induced neurotoxicity

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