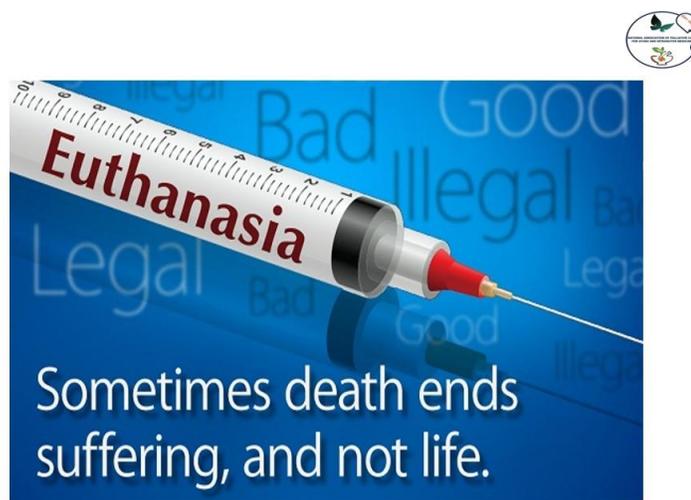


Basic Certificate in Palliative Care
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Week-12
Lecture 04: Euthanasia

Good day to everyone here, I take this privilege professor Dr. Malarvizhi K Natarajan, principal Hosmat College of Nursing to discuss on Euthanasia.

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I thank Doctor Piyush Gupta, secretary national association of palliative care for AYUSH and Integrative medicine who has framed the content for this particular topic.

Let us learn what is euthanasia? It says that sometimes death ends suffering and not life it is true.

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Euthanasia: Understanding the Facts

What is euthanasia?

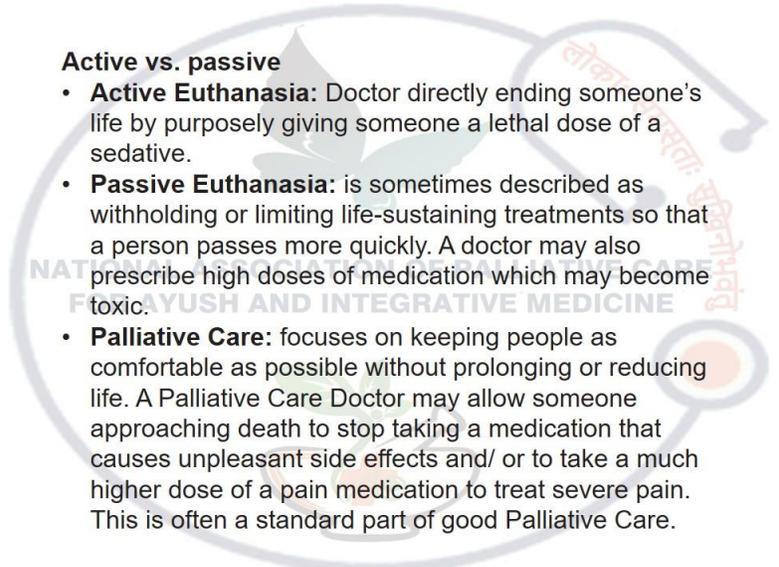
Euthanasia refers to ending someone's life, usually to relieve suffering. Doctors perform euthanasia when it's requested by people who have a terminal illness and are in a lot of pain.

- It's a complex process and involves weighing many factors. Local laws, someone's physical and mental health, and their personal beliefs and wishes all play a role.
- There are several types of euthanasia. What's chosen depends on a variety of factors, including someone's outlook and level of consciousness.

Euthanasia, understanding the facts. What is euthanasia? It refers to ending someone's life usually to relieve suffering. Doctors perform euthanasia when it is requested by people who have a terminal illness and are in a lot of pain. It is a complex process and involves weighing many factors local laws, someone's physical and mental health and their personal beliefs and wishes all play a role.

There are several types of euthanasia what's chosen depends on a variety of factors including someone's outlook and level of consciousness.

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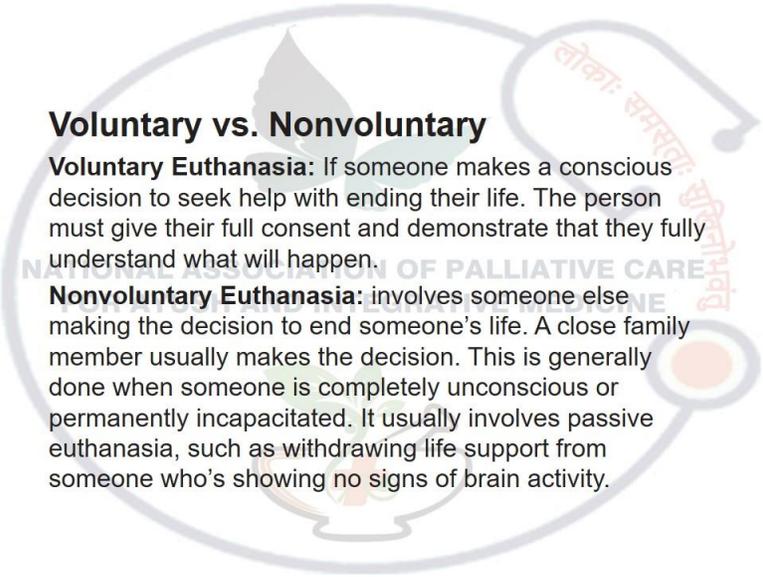
Active vs. passive

- **Active Euthanasia:** Doctor directly ending someone's life by purposely giving someone a lethal dose of a sedative.
- **Passive Euthanasia:** is sometimes described as withholding or limiting life-sustaining treatments so that a person passes more quickly. A doctor may also prescribe high doses of medication which may become toxic.
- **Palliative Care:** focuses on keeping people as comfortable as possible without prolonging or reducing life. A Palliative Care Doctor may allow someone approaching death to stop taking a medication that causes unpleasant side effects and/ or to take a much higher dose of a pain medication to treat severe pain. This is often a standard part of good Palliative Care.

Active versus passive euthanasia. Active euthanasia doctor directly ending someone's life by purposefully giving someone a lethal dose of a sedative. Passive euthanasia is sometimes described as withholding or limiting life sustaining treatments so that a person passes more quickly.

A doctor may also prescribe high doses of medication which may become toxic. Palliative care which focuses on keeping people as comfortable as possible without prolonging or reducing life. A palliative care doctor may allow someone approaching death to stop taking a medication that causes unpleasant side effects and or to take a much higher dose of a pain medication to treat severe pain. This is often a standard part of good palliative care.

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Voluntary vs. Nonvoluntary

Voluntary Euthanasia: If someone makes a conscious decision to seek help with ending their life. The person must give their full consent and demonstrate that they fully understand what will happen.

Nonvoluntary Euthanasia: involves someone else making the decision to end someone's life. A close family member usually makes the decision. This is generally done when someone is completely unconscious or permanently incapacitated. It usually involves passive euthanasia, such as withdrawing life support from someone who's showing no signs of brain activity.

Voluntary versus non-voluntary. Voluntary euthanasia is if someone makes a conscious decision to seek help with ending their life. The person must give their full consent and demonstrate that they fully understand what will happen. Non-voluntary euthanasia involves someone else making the decision to end someone's life. A close family member usually makes the decision. This is generally done when someone is completely unconscious or permanently incapacitated.

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Is Euthanasia Legal?

People debate over the ethics and legality of Euthanasia and Physician Assisted Suicide (PAS) and Laws vary across states and countries.

In the United States, PAS is legal in:

- Washington
- Oregon
- California
- Colorado
- Montana
- Vermont
- Washington, D.C.
- Hawaii (beginning in 2019)

Each of these states and Washington, D.C. have different legal requirements.

Is euthanasia legal? That is the major question. People debate over the ethics and legality of euthanasia and physician assisted suicide and laws vary across states and countries. In the United States the physician assisted suicide is legal in Washington, Oregon, California, Colorado, Montana, Vermont, Washington, DC, Hawaii beginning in 2019. Each of the states and Washington DC have different legal requirements.

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Outside the United States, PAS is legal in:

- Switzerland
- Germany
- Japan

Euthanasia, including PAS, is legal in several countries, including:

- Netherlands
- Belgium
- Luxembourg
- Colombia
- Canada

Outside the United States the physician assisted suicide is legal in Switzerland, Germany, Japan. Euthanasia including PAS is legal in several countries including Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Colombia and Canada.

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Controversy around euthanasia

Morality and religion

Some people believe euthanasia is murder and find it unacceptable for moral reasons. Many also argue that the ability to decide your own death weakens the sanctity of life. In addition, many religious groups, and faith organizations argue against euthanasia for similar reasons.

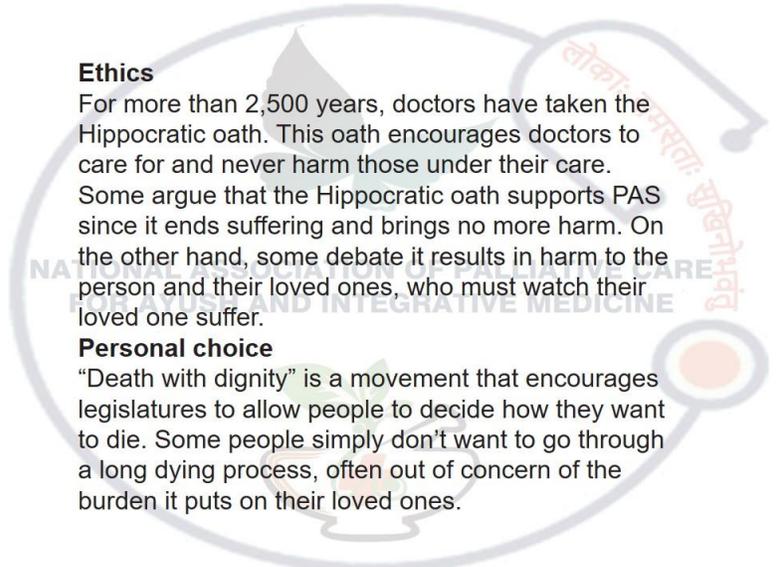
Physician judgement

PAS is only legal if someone is mentally capable of making the choice. However, determining someone's mental capabilities isn't very straight forward. Doctors aren't always capable of recognizing when someone is fit to make the decision.

Controversy going around euthanasia. Mortality and religion. Some people believe euthanasia is murder and find it unacceptable for moral reasons. Many also argue that the ability to decide your own death weakens the sanctity of life. In addition many religious groups and faith organizations argue against euthanasia for similar reasons.

Physician judgment. Physician assisted suicide is only legal if someone is mentally capable of making the choice. However, determining someone's mental capabilities isn't very straightforward. Doctors aren't always capable of recognizing when someone is fit to make the decision.

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Ethics

For more than 2,500 years, doctors have taken the Hippocratic oath. This oath encourages doctors to care for and never harm those under their care.

Some argue that the Hippocratic oath supports PAS since it ends suffering and brings no more harm. On the other hand, some debate it results in harm to the person and their loved ones, who must watch their loved one suffer.

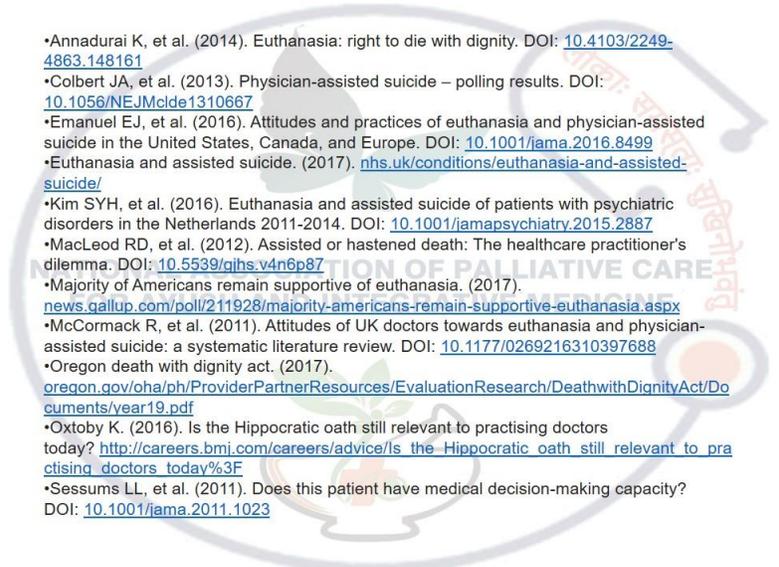
Personal choice

“Death with dignity” is a movement that encourages legislatures to allow people to decide how they want to die. Some people simply don’t want to go through a long dying process, often out of concern of the burden it puts on their loved ones.

What are the ethics related to euthanasia? For more than 2500 years doctors have taken the Hippocratic oath. This oath encourages doctors to care for and never harm those under their care. Some argue that the Hippocratic oath supports PAS since it ends suffering and brings no more harm. On the other hand some debate it results in harm to the person and their loved ones who must watch their loved ones suffer.

Personal choice. Death with dignity is a movement that encourages legislatures to allow people to decide how they want to die. Some people simply don't want to go through a long dying process often out of concern of the burden it puts on their loved ones.

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Here we have a list of references which helps us to know about euthanasia and we can just enrich ourselves with the knowledge by going through these references. Herewith I am just ending with euthanasia. If you have any doubts please get back to us. Thank you. Have a good day.