

Journal citations

Dr H M Ma

1) Oneschuk D, Fainsinger R, Demoissac D. Antibiotic use in the last week of life in three different palliative care settings. Journal of Palliative Care 2002, Vol 18(1): 25

" Antibiotics can be used both to prolong life and for symptom control. In last week of life, their use can be considered futile. This paper presented a retrospective study of 150 consecutive patients, 50 in each of 3 settings (an acute care hospital, tertiary palliative care unit and 3 hospice units) studying the prevalence and types of antibiotics prescribed in last week of life among advanced cancer patients. 58%, 52% and 22% patients received antibiotics in the 3 settings respectively. Intravenous route was most frequent route in first two settings while oral route was preferred in hospices. The marked variability in practices and high % of antibiotics prescription near terminal phase called for the need for a more systematic prospective study on this important topic. "

2a) Chest 2002 Vol 121(3): 683-686 Editorial by Karnik AM on End-of-Life Issues and the Do-Not-Resuscitate Order: Who Gives the Order and What Influences the Decision?

2b) Chest 2002 Vol 121(3): 957 Full paper by Kelly et al.

" These two related papers in Chest reiterated the sanctity of life. Discussion on the complex interplay among patient, family, physician and other parties of interest when we ask the questions of Who should decide and What factors we should consider on end of life issues provided good food for thought. There is no simple straightforward rule of thumb. Meticulous consideration is warranted for any individual scenario."