

Palliative Sedation-Language Matters

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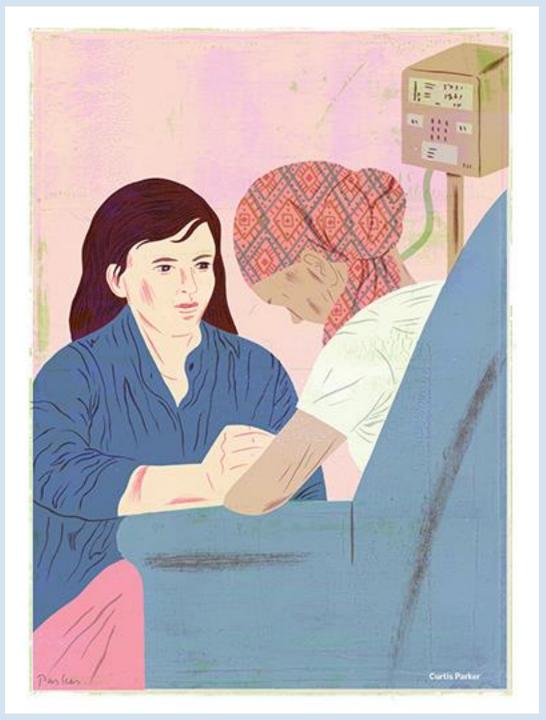
I have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

Objectives

Upon completion of this activity, participants will be able to:

- Describe palliative sedation.
- Assess the use of palliative sedation for physical and non physical symptoms.
- Review palliative sedations in special cases (pediatrics, conscientious objection, moral distress)
- Discuss policy steps that meet the needs of unique healthcare systems.





Purposeful sedation for symptom management near the end of life is called many things. And what we call it is important.

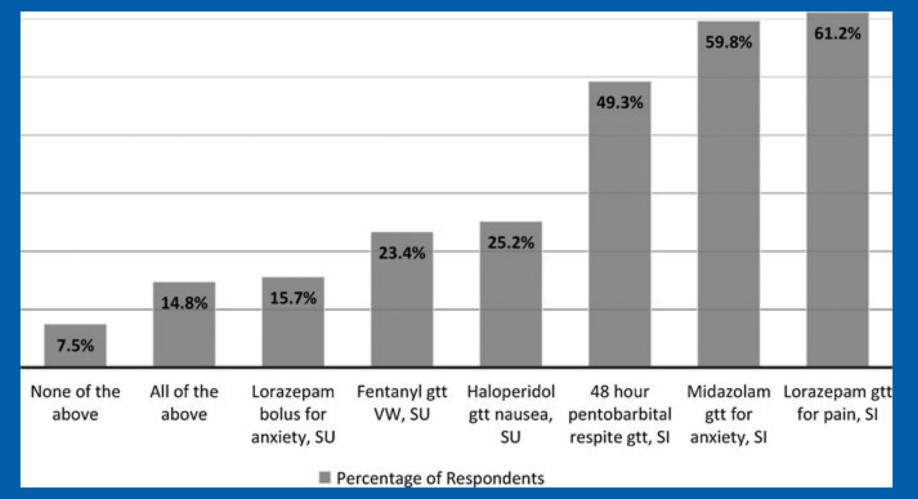
- TERMINAL SEDATION
- SLOW EUTHANASIA
- PROPOTIONAL PALLIATIVE SEDATION
- SEDATION TO UNCONSCIOUSNESS
- CONTINUOUS DEEP SEDATION

The American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine defines palliative sedation as the intentional lowering of awareness towards, and including, unconsciousness for patients with severe and refractory symptoms in the setting of a terminal disease.

> American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine. Statement on Palliative Sedation. Approved by the Board of Directors on December 5, 2014.

IN GOURPS OF 2-3 DESCRIBE A PATIENT CASE WHERE PALLIATIVE SEDATION MAY BE CONSIDERED OR USED

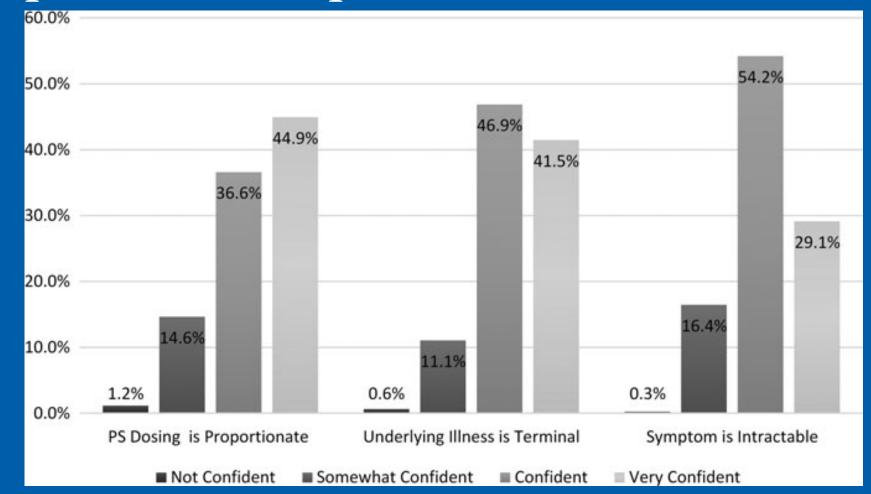
Which of the following scenarios would you consider to be the appropriate used of the phrase "palliative sedation"



A Survey of Hospice and Palliative Care Clinicians' Experiences and Attitudes Regarding the Use of Palliative Sedation Maiser et al. IPM 2017 The key characteristics that allow for distinguishing palliative sedation from euthanasia are intent, proportionality and criteria for success.

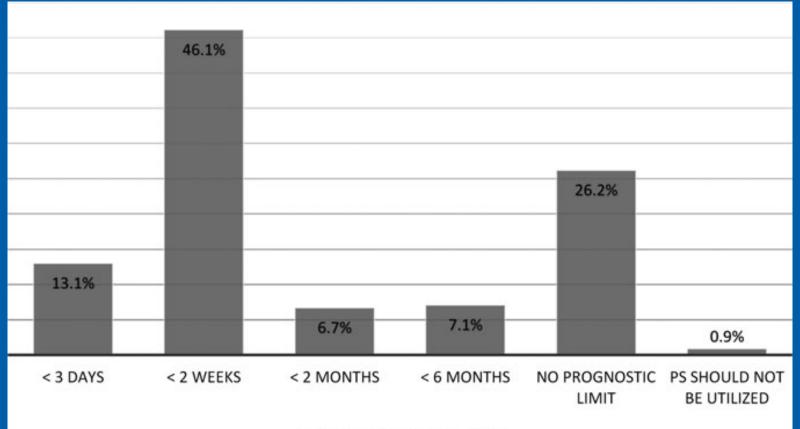
Lux et al. A Survey of Hospice and Palliative Care Physicians Regarding Palliative Sedation Practices American Journal of Hospice & Palliative Medicine® 2017, Vol. 34(3) 217-222

HPM physicians feel confident with assessing appropriate use of palliative sedation



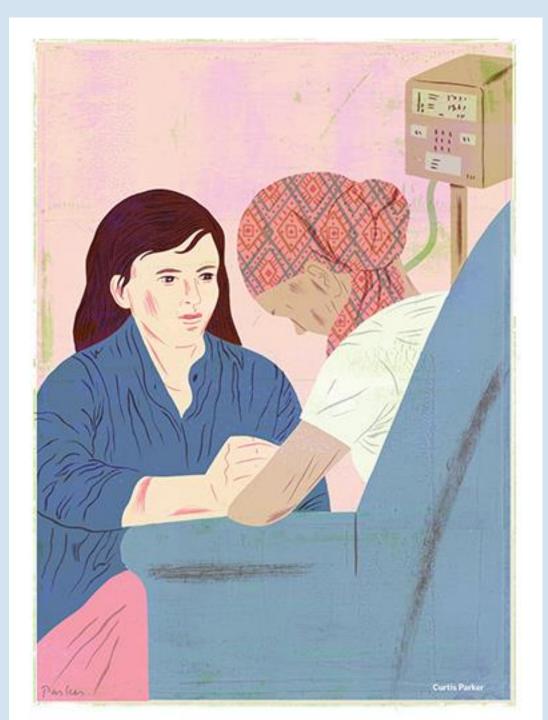
A Survey of Hospice and Palliative Care Clinicians' Experiences and Attitudes Regarding the Use of Palliative Sedation Maiser et al. JPM 2017

What should the expected life expectancy be of a patient receiving palliative sedation?

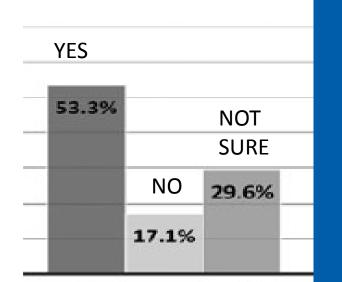


Percentage of Respondents

A Survey of Hospice and Palliative Care Clinicians' Experiences and Attitudes Regarding the Use of Palliative Sedation Maiser et al. JPM 2017



In your judgement, how appropriate would it be to sedate her to unconsciousness until she dies in order to relieve spiritual suffering? Physicians have different opinions on the appropriateness of PS for non physical symptoms that may be influenced by practice.



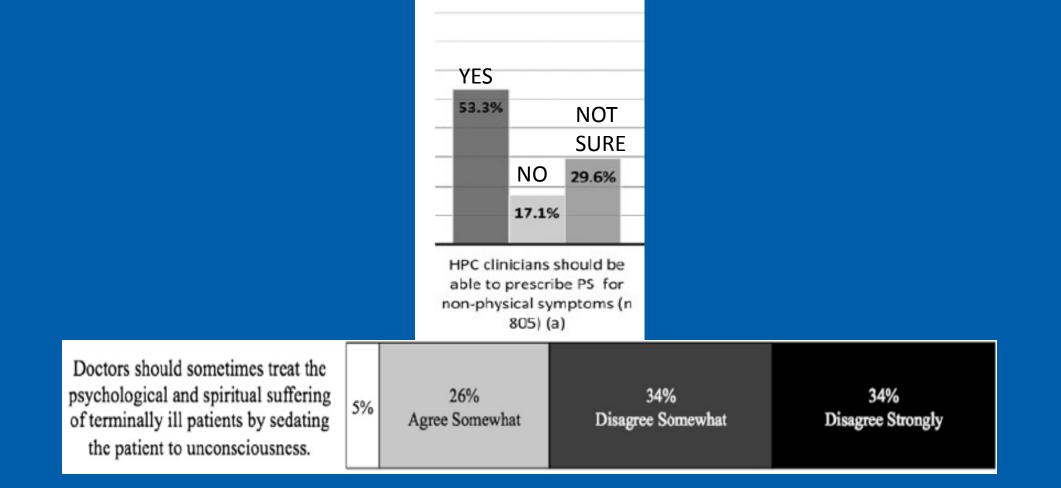
HPC clinicians should be able to prescribe PS for non-physical symptoms (n 805) (a)

When is the last time you prescribed PS?				
Within the last week	7.3 (57)	786		
Within the last month	17.8 (140)			
Within the last six months	25.1 (197)			
Within the last year	15.9 (125)			
Within the last five years	19.1 (150)			
Never	14.9 (117)			

Physicians have different opinions on the appropriateness of PS for non physical symptoms that may be influenced by practice.

Doctors should sometimes treat the psychological and spiritual suffering of terminally ill patients by sedating the patient to unconsciousness.	5%	26% Agree Somewhat	34% Disagree Somewhat	34% Disagree Strongly
During the last 12 months, have you ever sedated a patient with the specific intention of making the patient unconscious until they die?	10% Yes	-	90% No	

Intentional Sedation to Unconsciousness at the End of Life: Findings From a National Physician Survey Putnam et al, JPM 2013 Physicians have different opinions on the appropriateness of PS for non physical symptoms that may be influenced by practice.



Peace is wanted. Comfort is needed. Sedation appears to bring both. Yet to be sedated is to be cut off existentially from human experience, to be made incapable of engaging self-consciously in any human action. To that extent, it seems that to lose consciousness is to lose something of real value.

Farr Curlin MD

Palliative sedation: clinical context and ethical questions