The Experiences of Bereaved Relatives
with Palliative Sedation and other End-of-Life Care Practices

1. The most important element of the positive evaluation of palliative sedation by relatives is the beneficial impact of palliative sedation on their dying family member's suffering – this thesis

2. Although palliative sedation is a medical procedure for which the attending physician bears final responsibility, relatives highly appreciate active involvement in the decision-making process – this thesis

3. Concerns of relatives about the use of palliative sedation often relate to a lack of information and/or communication with health care professionals – this thesis

4. Differences in relatives’ descriptions of the process of saying goodbye to the patient prior to death between the Netherlands/ Belgium and the United Kingdom highlight the influence of cultural norms and expectations on experiences of continuous sedation and the subsequent death - this thesis

5. In the views of relatives, adequate relief of suffering outweighs a potential life shortening effect of sedation - this thesis

6. “Cancer can affect a family in much the same way as it invades the body, causing deterioration if left untreated” - Colin Murray Parkes

7. “To understand and respond to the multiple social and physical facets of health and disease, research methods must be able to explore the complexity of human behaviour beyond the scope of quantitative data and experimental models, and qualitative studies are a means of allowing evidence to be elicited from diverse populations and contexts” – Johnson R, Waterfield J. Making words count: the value of qualitative research. Physiother Res Int 2004; 9(3): 121–131.


9. Wie niet nadenkt over de toekomst zal er nooit een hebben- John Galsworthy

10. Most of the fundamental ideas of science are essentially simple, and may, as a rule, be expressed in a language comprehensible to everyone- Albert Einstein


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