


Hope at End of Life


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Disclosure

- By way of this announcement, I disclose any involvement with industry that may be perceived as potentially influencing the presentation of the educational material

– I have no industry involvement




Setting the stage...

- Ethics perspective

– Moral importance of attending to emotions

– Value of exploring role of hope and its implications within context of person-centred care



Overview

- What is hope?
- “Hope messages”
- Some tools for addressing hope in EOL context



What is hope?



Hope...

- Involves our desires/wants
- Is related to our values and/or goals
- Is influenced by what we imagine to be realizable possibilities
- Involves action



Key features...

- Hope is context- and person-relative
- Presence/absence of hope is most acutely felt in times of uncertainty and change
- Importance of relationships



“Hope messages”



“Hope messages”

- Important to notice, reflect on and even challenge



“Hope messages”: Example

- Study on meaning of hope for older persons with advanced cancer and their caregivers (Duggleby, Holtslander, et al, 2010)
 - Looked at relevant newspaper articles for social construction of hope in cancer context
 - Compared with interviews with cancer patients, significant others, and primary nurses



“Hope messages”: Example

- Suggest that predominant social message about hope is ageist and narrow
 - Focused “only” on hope for cure, stories primarily related to young people
- Result?
 - Confusion and distress by participants
 - Their discourse of hope focused on comfort, peace and maintaining relationships at the end of life



“Hope messages”: More questions

- Hope in the EOL context
 - Suggest dilemmas about/for care...
 - For example:
 1. truth-telling versus maintaining hope
 2. if hope is future-focused, there is no hope at the EOL



“Hope messages”: More questions

- Hope in the EOL context
 - Understanding of the “hope for a good death”
 - Assumptions about this...
 - Overly medicalized?



“Hope messages”: More questions

- Hope in the EOL context
 - Only the patient's and/or family's hope matters
 - Is this true?



Some hope approaches...



Hope approaches...

- Variety of approaches and tools suggested in the literature
 - Suggest here to think about creating “conditions for hope”. This may include possibilities for maximizing hopefulness and minimizing hopelessness (fear and/or despair).
- (Wendy Edey)



Possibilities for hope and for maximizing hopefulness...



Attributed to: Hope Foundation of Alberta

Possibilities for minimizing hopelessness...

- Counteracting the –

Alien effect



Skidding effect



Bruising effect



Boomerang effect



Edey, Jevne, Westra 1998

In closing...



“The suffering human being needs a place where he/she can rest, a place which breathes genuine hospitality, where fear and hope are permitted to exist side by side...a place where the naked face appeals for compassion and finds response.”

(Eriksson & Lindstrom 2003)