

When the end arrives: A practical approach to terminal care in PD patients

Chandra Thomas, MSc MD FRCPC
Nephrologist

Alberta Health Services – Calgary

Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine
University of Calgary



Disclosures

- none

Objectives

- To recognize the steps that are necessary to facilitate a good death in PD patients
- To have an approach to treating common terminal symptoms.

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Learning by Examples

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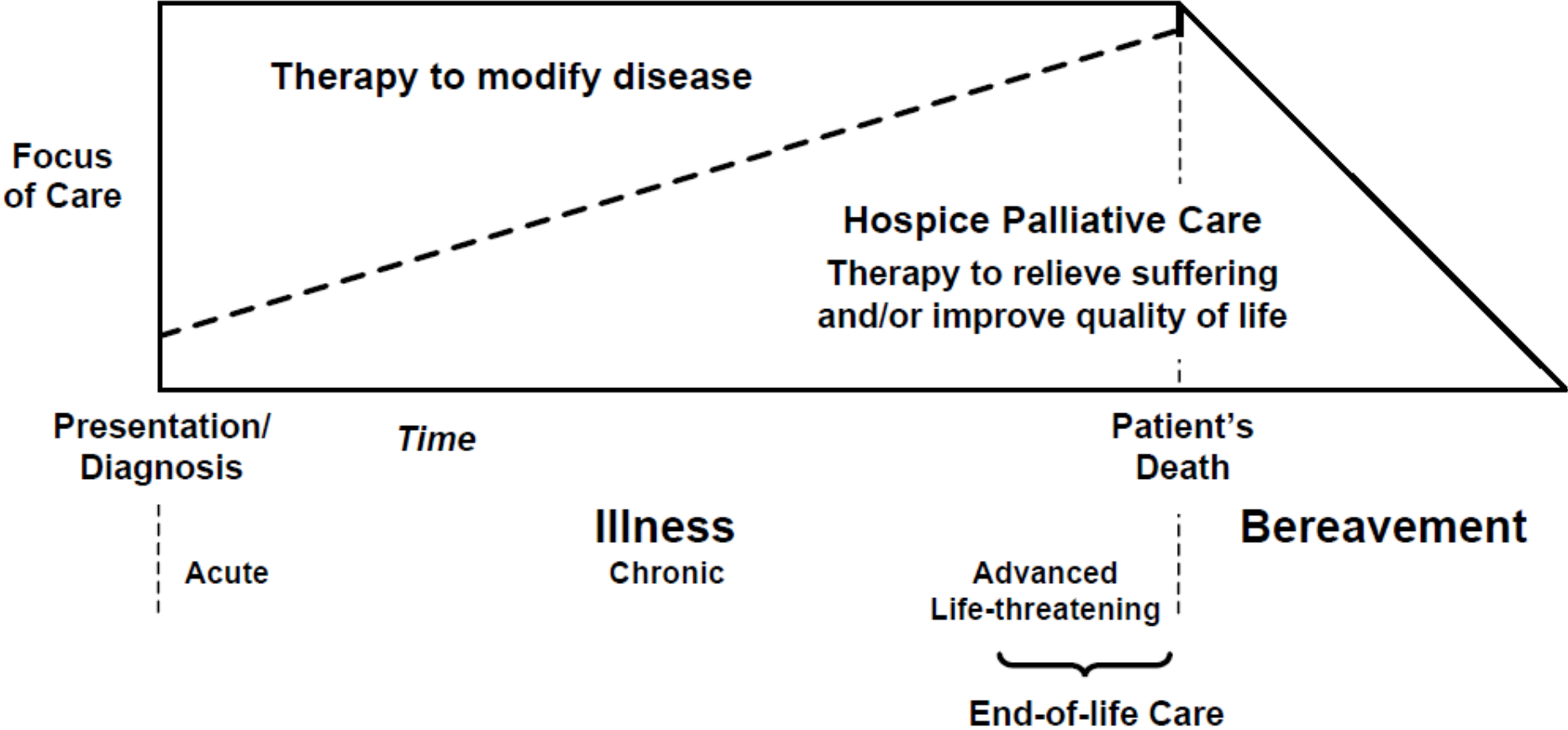


Definitions

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- Palliative care
- Terminal care

The Role of Hospice Palliative Care During Illness



(Ferris et al., A Model Guide to Hospice Palliative Care; 2002, p 17-18.)

A Good Death

A Good Death

- Many definitions

A Good Death

- “...the degree to which a person’s preference for dying and the moment of death agree with observations of how the person actually died...”

A Good Death

- Physical
- Psychological
- Social
- Spiritual and existential experience
- Nature of health care
- Life closure and death preparation
- Circumstances of death

Steps to a Good Death

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- Decision making
- Communication
- The Logistics
- Non-abandonment
- Symptom control
- Bereavement/Grief Support

Decision making

Decision making

- Honest discussion of what will transpire
- Care planning

Decision making

- Honest discussion of what will transpire
 - Survival (mean 6.4 (sd 8.7), median 4 (IQR 4), range 0 to 33 Personal communication R. Quinn)
 - Symptoms
 - Mode of death
 - As a consequence of stopping dialysis
 - Underlying condition

Decision making

- Care planning
 - Preferred modality
 - Preferred place of care
 - Desire (or not) to go to hospital
 - Location of terminal care (hospital, hospice, home)

Communication

Communication

- Family
- Care providers
 - Family Physician
 - Other specialists
 - Pacemaker clinic
- Cancel unnecessary appointments

The Logistics

The Logistics

- Services currently in place and those that may be anticipated.
- Rationalize medications.
- Anticipate symptoms and have a plan in place for treatment.

Non-abandonment

Non-abandonment

- Continuity of relationship
 - Leave follow-up open
- Closure
 - Consider clinic/hospice or home visit for closure

Symptom Control

Symptom Control

- Nausea
- Anorexia
- Dyspnea
- Pruritis
- Pain
- Delirium

Bereavement/Grief Support

Bereavement/Grief Support

- Surviving family of individuals with renal failure were found to require increased bereavement services.

Bereavement/Grief Support

- Telephone call to express condolences, bereavement card or a grief package may be helpful.

Summary

- Communication is paramount.
- It is logistically challenging to respect a patient's wishes to die outside of the hospital.
- Steps can be made to prevent abandonment.

Discussion