

Palliative Care Update

Caring for the Hospitalized Patient with Advanced Illnesses

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Disclosure

- I have nothing to disclose

Goals

- Recognize ways in which palliative care benefits patients with life-limiting illnesses
- Identify ways to integrate palliative care in practice
- Learn to help patients and families make decisions about treatment based on goals of care



The New York Times



THE LANCET

Volume 376 · Number 9734 · Pages 1-68 · July 3-9, 2010

www.thelancet.com



THE
HUFFINGTON
POST

"A timely book, written with sensitivity, on a subject that pertains to every single human being and family in the world today." —RICHARD SELZER, M.D.

The Conversation



A REVOLUTIONARY PLAN
FOR END-OF-LIFE
CARE

MODERN DEATH

"Haider Warraich's elegant and poignant book takes us on an unforgettable journey. Warraich's quest is remarkable: He wants us to confront the act of dying. A caring and thoughtful doctor, he also writes beautifully—drawing from his own patients and from statistics, medical ethics, literature, and the sciences. He succeeds in humanizing a complex topic and gives us remarkable insights about the changing nature of 'modern death.'"
—Siddhartha Mukherjee, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Emperor of All Maladies* and *The Gene*



HOW MEDICINE
CHANGED
THE END OF LIFE

HAIDER WARRAICH, M.D.

WHEN BREATH BECOMES



air

PAUL KALANITHI

FOREWORD

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF
THE CHECKLIST MANIFESTO

Atul Gawande



Being Mortal

Medicine and What Matters in the End

The GOOD DEATH



AN EXPLORATION
OF
DYING IN AMERICA

Ann Neumann

DYING IN AMERICA

Empowering Quality and Honoring Individual Preferences Near the End of Life

The Inevitable Hour

A HISTORY
OF CARING
FOR DYING
PATIENTS
IN AMERICA

Emily K. Abel

*"An insider's view of intensive care
in America and its impact on how we die."*

—LUCY KALANITHI, MD

EXTREME MEASURES

FINDING A BETTER PATH
to the END of LIFE



JESSICA NUTIK ZITTER, MD

TRIP OF A LIFETIME

France



Top Tourist Sites in Paris
ites Touristiques Les Plus Visités à Pa

 Tour Eiffel	 L'Arc de Triomphe	 Les Invalides
 Le Château de Versailles	 Le Musée D'Orsay	 Le Louvre
 La Cathédrale Dame De Paris	 La Basilique Du Sacré Cœur	 Les Champs-Élysées
 Le Panthéon	<small>LearnFrenchVid</small>	

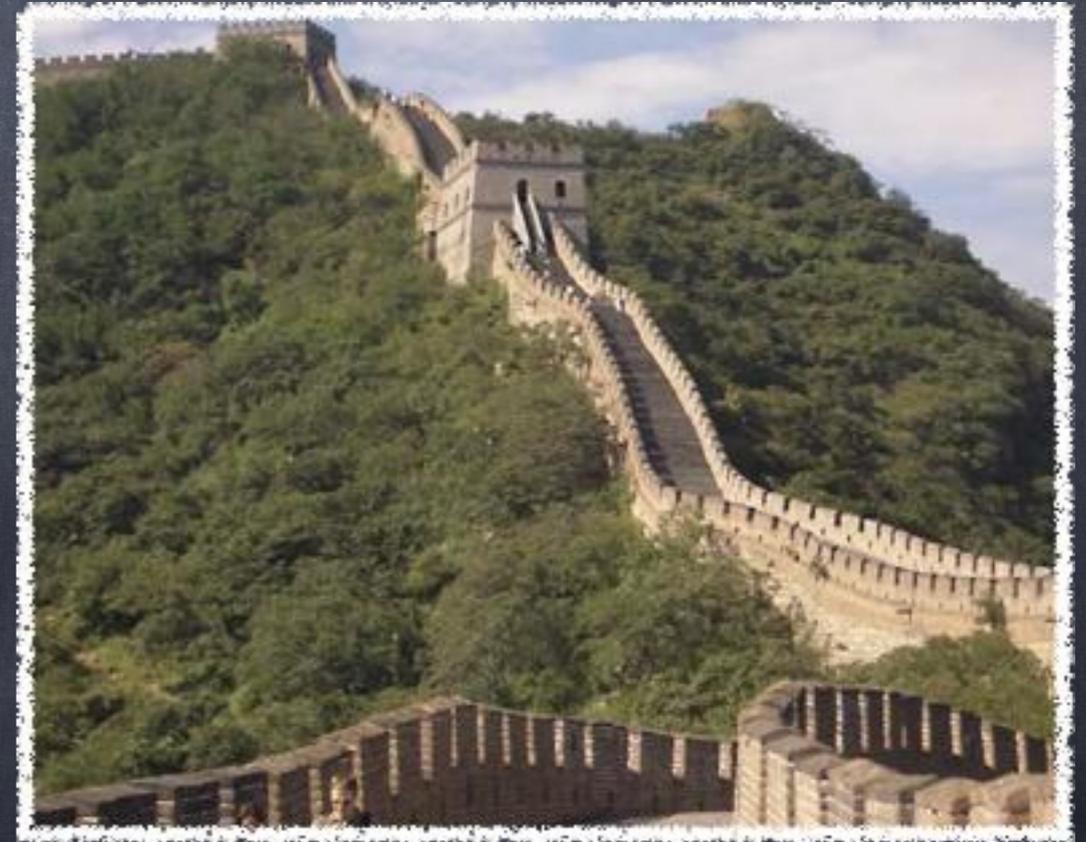




Wake up and Look out the Window

China





Medical School

- We were all taught patient has “A” we do “B”
- We were all prepared to land and function in “France” not “China”

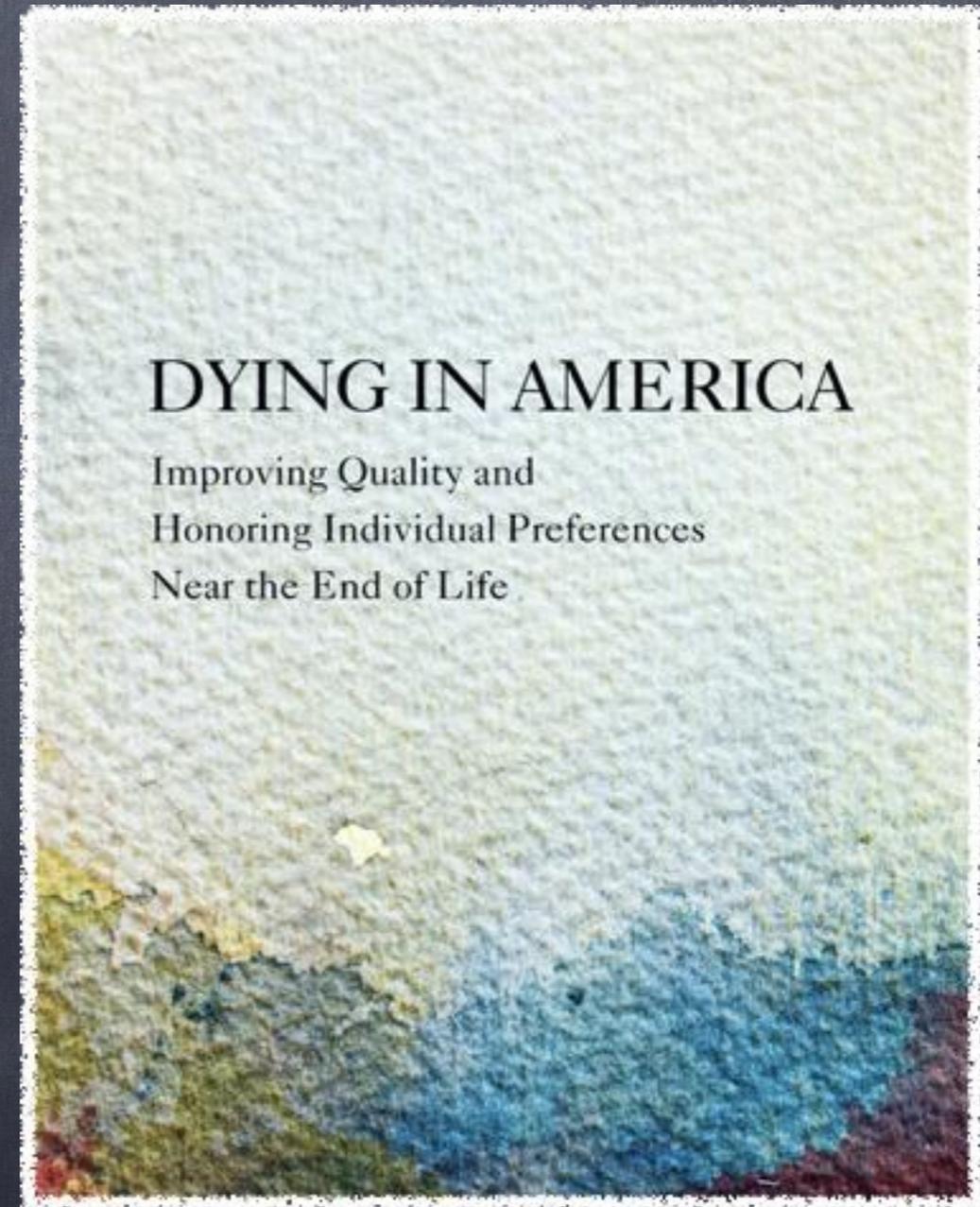


End of Life Care

- Like learning a new language, a new skill set
- Not impossible, harder for some
- But necessary if you need to get around effectively and efficiently in this healthcare environment

Today's reality

- The patient has “A”
- Before going forward we must ask: What is the Goal?
What treatment/interventions will get us to the goal?
- We need to prepare to get around in “China”



AARP Study

- Nearly all doctors agree they should discuss end of life care with their patients
- 50% of Docs are unsure what to say, are concerned patients will give up hope (only speak “French”)
- 75% think they should initiate the talk (only 14% have billed medicare for it)

Oncology

- 236 patients with advanced cancer
- 38 doctors said they would not be surprised if pt died within the year
- 68% of patients rated their survival different than their doctor
- 70% of patients said they would opt for supportive care rather than aggressive care as their life came to an end

• Jama-Onc July 14, 2016

Oncology

- Jan 24, 2017: Researchers at Univ of Colorado looked at patient-physician interactions at 4 major academic medical centers. Pt's all had advanced/terminal cancer Dx. 64 encounter. 60 conversations focused on further treatment options, 4 addressed end of life preferences

Oncology

- Palliative Care study: patient's without early palliative care conversations had a 4 fold risk of a terminal ICU admission and 90% less likely to enter hospice care for end of life care. (2/2017 Oncologist)

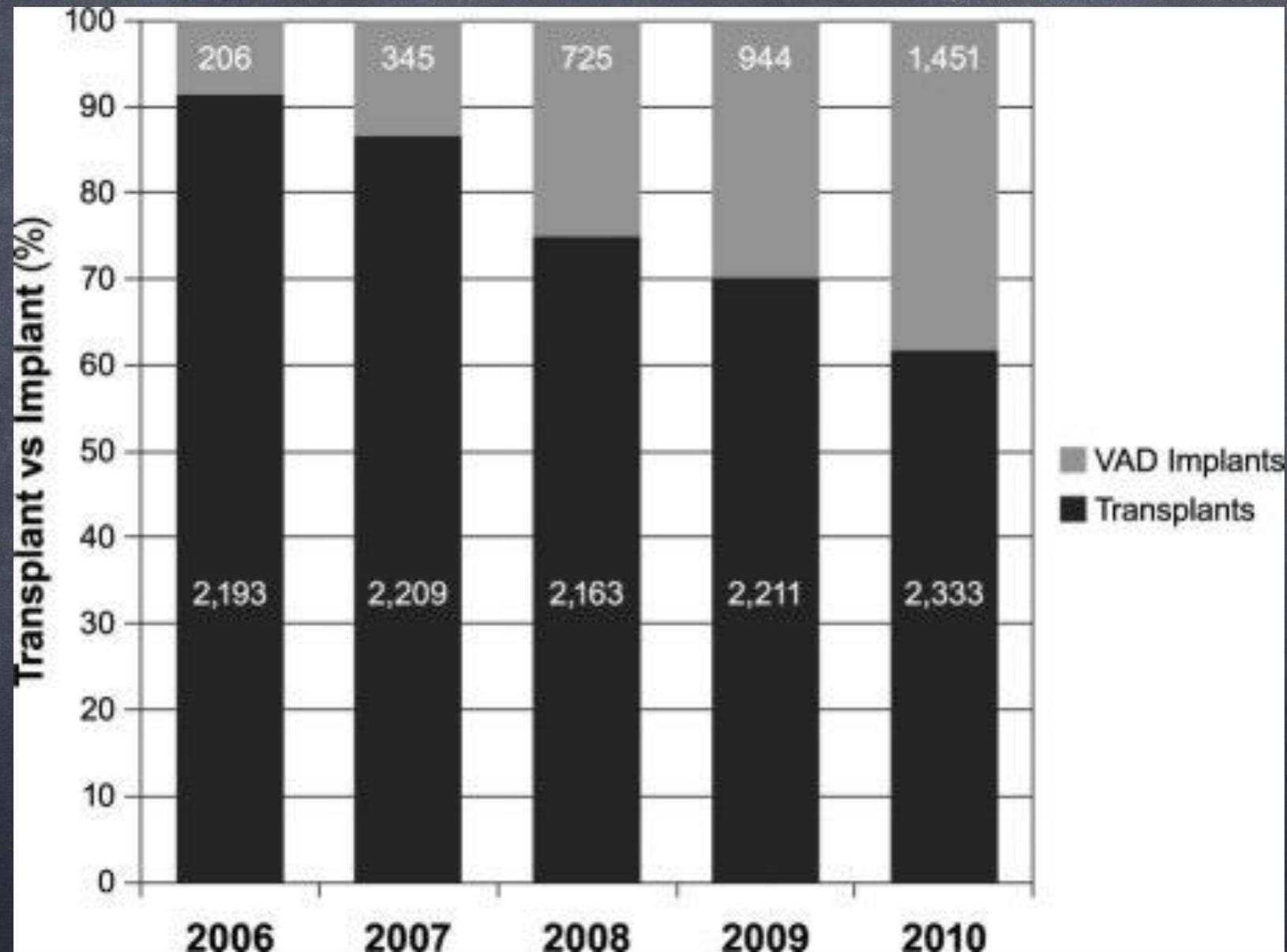
Oncology

- Immunotherapy has become the new “Hail Mary” play
- Doctors who counsel patient about immunotherapy are postponing conversations about end of life wishes with their patients
- These therapies work in 15-20% of patients and many of them end up in the hospital for a terminal stay

Cardiology

- 50% of patients facing replacement of Defib batteries did not know it was optional
- 27% would have considered not replacing it
- 87% felt it was important to review the benefits and burdens of the decision

LVAD as Destination Therapy



LVAD

- Initially was bridge to transplant
- 3500 Heart transplants worldwide
- 2000 LVADs in US/50% are destination therapy
- REMATCH STUDY: (survival benefits of LVADs)
@12 months 52% vs 25%, @24 months 23% vs 8%

LVAD

- Study of survivors of LVAD patients
- 87.5% surprised family member was at the end of life
- 62% confused about how the patient would die and were uncomfortable with the decision to deactivate the LVAD when other medical problems caused the need for end of life care

Neurology/GI

- 2000-12% of End Stage Dementia patients had feeding tubes inserted
- 2014-the number has fallen to 6%
- 2014 American Geriatric Society recommends AGAINST feeding tubes for patients in the final stages of dementia
- Yet physicians continue to recommend them

Nephrology

- 1 year survival of elderly ESRD patients with any dialysis modality is 73% vs 70.6% with supportive care
- Recent retrospective cohort study of dialysis vs nondialytic management found survival benefit with dialysis in patients >80y or patient >70y with multiple comorbidities

Is it Me?

- 62 yo female found down in the field. Transported to the ED in full arrest. Palliative Care is consulted on day 1. Review of medical records reveals 7 hospitalizations over the past 4 months and the following history...

Is it Me?

- Stage 4 lung Cancer at Dx 18 months ago, now on salvage chemo, cardiomyopathy with EF <10%, advanced O2 dependent COPD at the time of Cancer Dx
- No family (well documented on previous admissions)
- No documented conversations about goals or end of life care at office of Cardio, Pulm, Heme/Onc or PCP or on any previous admission

No Chinese
spoken here!
Only French

Hypertension

高血壓

Diabetes

糖尿病

Why do we do these things

- As practitioners we are taught HOW to do but not WHEN to use that HOW judiciously
- Problem A=Solution B
- It makes us feel better and more comfortable that we DID something

Why talk about this?

- WW II to Mid 70s
- Explosion of medical advancements
- Heart Surgery, pacemakers, ICUs, ventilators, CPR, 911



Newton's First Law

(law of inertia)

Law of Inertia

- If Newton's First Law of Motion is called the Law of Inertia, we must first define Inertia....
 - Inertia is the tendency of object to keep doing what they are doing. If an object is resting, it will tend to keep resting. If an object is moving, it will tend to keep moving. This property is called inertia.

Inertia

- Is it time for us to talk about protecting our patients from the “inertia” of the medical system?



STOP
TAKE A BREATH
Observe
Proceed

The Rise of the “Treatment Train”

Berlin 2016



Treatment Train

- Who is the conductor? (patient vs family vs doctor vs system)
- What is the destination?
- When is it time to re-route?
- How do we stop, redirect

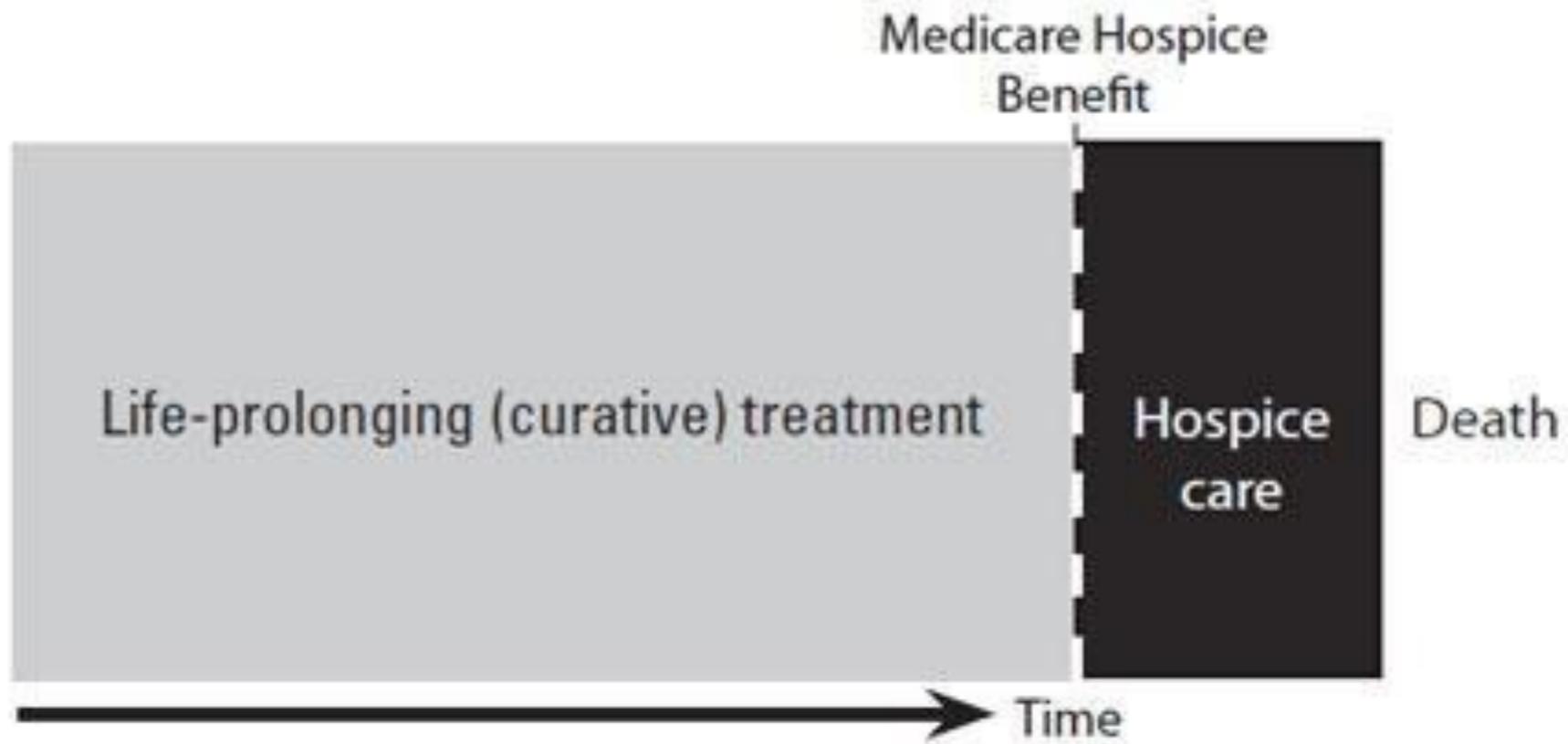
New Paradigm

- BECAUSE A DOCTOR CAN DO SOMETHING NEVER MEANS THEY SHOULD!
- CMS: “Choosing Wisely Campaign”

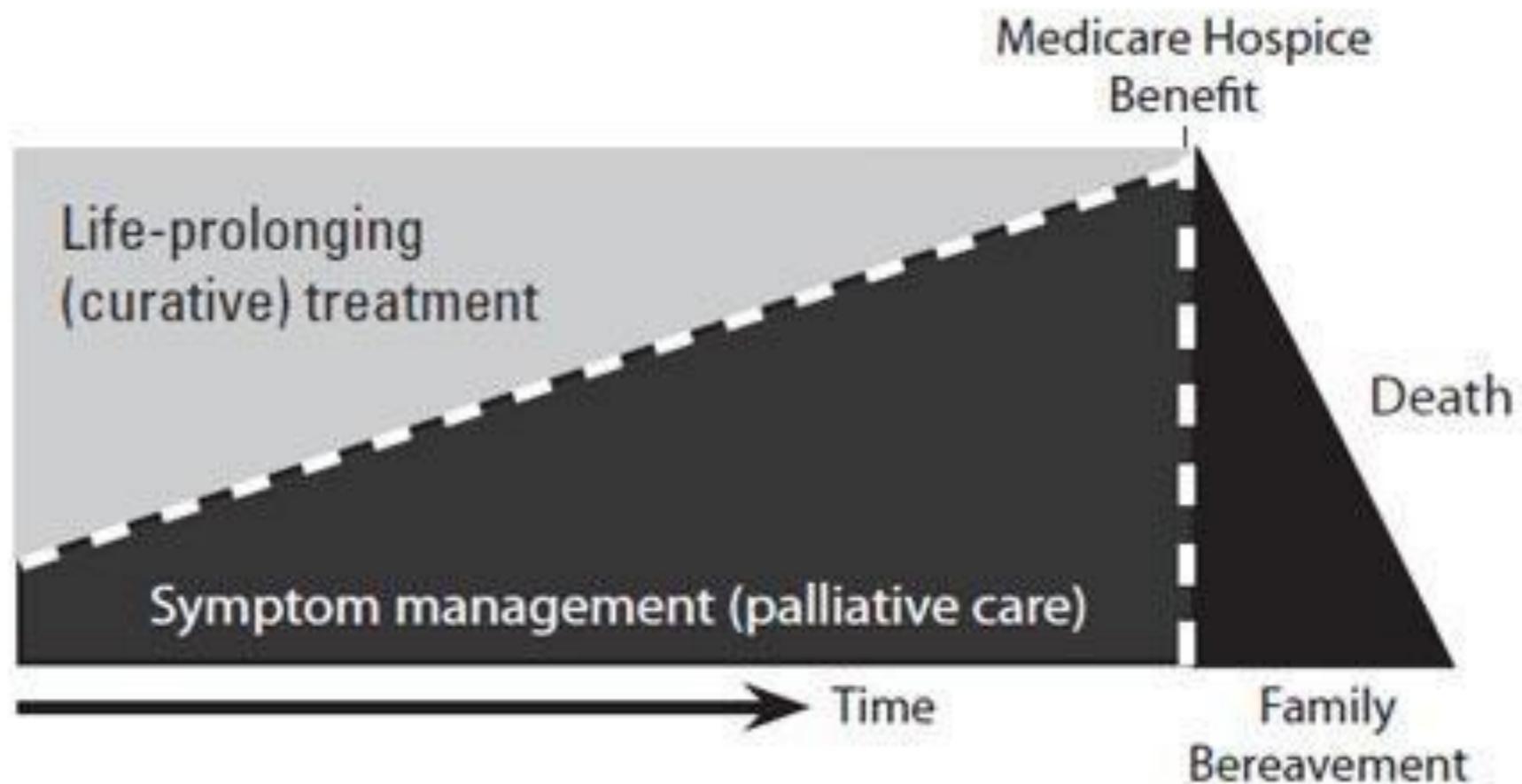
CMS Choosing Wisely Campaign

- Right Patient
- Right Treatment
- Right Time
- Based on 70 medical societies consensus on treatments and interventions

Diagnosis of Life-Limiting Disease



Diagnosis of Life-Limiting Disease





Discussing Goals in Advanced Illness

- What are the two most important questions that must be asked to start the conversation?



Question #1

- What is your understanding of what is happening with your (your family members') health at this time?
- (ASK-TELL-ASK)

What is known? (ASK)

- What is being said is not always what is being heard.
- Make no assumptions. Ask what they already know, ask about the last 3-6 months. Ask about one year ago
- How have things changed?

Medical Review (TELL)

- Present medical information
- Give details and how it relates to the big picture
- Speak slowly, deliberately, clearly
- **NO JARGON**



Medical Review (ASK)

- Do you have questions about what I just went over?
- Now everyone can be on the same page of the same book

Question #2

- Based on that information, what is the GOAL?
Now and if your health worsens?

Make Recommendations

- Patients and families want help in making decisions
- Support the decision that is made but do not be afraid to express what concerns you about the decision

What about LTAC?

- Population studies are few. NEJM article: Chronic Critical Illness Jan 2014
- 5-10% of patients who survive catastrophic illness or left with prolonged (>21 days) need for mechanical ventilation.
- 50% of these patients are dead within one year. Of those who survive recurrent infections, organ dysfunction, profound weakness and repeated hospitalizations are common. They require 24 care and supervision. 12% are home and independent at one year.
- >\$20 billion spent per year on this population

Remember

- DYING is a process
- DEATH is the event

Translate Goals in to a Plan

- We have discussed that time may be short. Knowing that, what is important
- Home? Family? Comfort? Upcoming life event? (wedding, graduation? anniversary?)
- Hope is not binary (Have hope, she lives; No hope she dies)
- Mutually decide with the patient/family on the steps necessary to achieve stated goals

Goals into Plan: Common Issues

- Future hospitalizations?
- Admission to ICU?
- Tests?
- Code status?
- Artificial Nutrition and Hydration? (Know the facts)
- Antibiotics?
- Blood Products? (benefits vs burdens)
- Home support? Hospice?

Goals into Plans

- When trying to decide among the various treatment options, a good rule of thumb is that if the test, procedure will not help toward meeting stated goals then it should be discontinued, or not started



What are you
good at?

Know your strengths

- Not everyone has to be good at this
- Know who amongst your colleagues is good at this and when to refer your patients

Regardless of your Skill Set

- You must learn enough “Chinese” to throw in with your “French” so your patients have the best chance for a meaningful life and a peaceful death





Doing something "for" the patient

Doesn't always mean doing something "to" the patient



Now you know “french “ and speak enough “Chinese” to help your patients and families!

Thank you!

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