

INCORPORATING EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACH INTO DAILY PRACTICE OF HOSPICE PALLIATIVE CARE : A BURNING ISSUE

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BACKGROUND: It is regrettable to see that if practice and patient management in the hospice palliative care (HPC) is flourished with unproven or unnecessary management or treatments, especially under the guise of Alternative Medicine. How strong the level of evidence is available in the many treatment methods and patient care approaches in our daily HPC should be understood. Due to probable ethical considerations, patients comfort, and possible ignorance from medical mainstream, few evidence-based (EVDB) data is available for daily HPC practice guidance. Even in the most accessible “Cochrane Pain, Palliative and Supportive Care Group” database, topics related to HPC are too few to affect changes.

OBJECTIVES: To promote and educate our colleagues in the whole HPC milieu in our institution including the Division of Palliative Medicine, Hospice Shared Care Team, Home-care Hospice Team and even all those involved in the care of hospice patients; and hopefully to create EVDB practice guidelines for clinical use.

METHODS: Staffs in HPC are continually be instigated with evidence-based knowledge and methodology. Case-based EVDB discussions and problem-based EVDB discussions are incorporated into the annual HPC training schedules. The electronic resources of EVDB data, effective searching strategies, and critical appraisal of an article are discussed and taught.

RESULTS: Awareness of the importance of EVDB approach and its potential, significant impact to the patient management has been soaring under the hospital policy-making and through the education.

CONCLUSION: Under the Principle of Beneficence, evidence-based approaches and treatments benefitting this particular group of end-of-life patients whose remaining time and comfort mean a lot to them should be incorporated into HPC training and practice. Our colleagues and staffs should be well trained in this aspect in order to have better performance.