

Does Knowledge and Attitude is Needed Regarding Euthanasia in Clinical Course? A Narrative Review Based on an Available Literature

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Euthanasia is one of the commonest morally controversial issues in the end of life care^[4]. It is very important to examine the knowledge and attitude of nursing students because they have an important role to encounter the situations related to euthanasia during clinical courses.

Method: Articles concordant systematically from published literature & journal articles from PubMed & EBSCO. Search was specific to database by using synonyms. Initial search retrieved 19,464 titles then articles screened as per inclusion and exclusion criteria. 10 articles were selected which is clearly selected as per inclusion criteria.

Results: Out of 10 articles, 7 articles showed that there is a need to improve in knowledge and attitude among health care personnels, 3 studies showed that participants are strongly interested to practice euthanasia but no correlation with physician assisted suicide.

Conclusion: Enhancing and improvise the knowledge and attitude regarding euthanasia is necessary to participate in continuing educational programme because health care personnel plays an important role to fulfill patient's needs and care. They are expected to develop insight & implement into a practice.

Keywords: Attitude, Euthanasia, Knowledge, Nursing Students, Physician Assisted Suicide

INTRODUCTION

“Euthanasia” means that administering of a lethal medication to a patient by different persons (physician) with a merciful death after patient's particular appeal. ‘PAS’ refers to a patient's appeal for advised done on purpose and willful death of his or her peculiar life under the cooperation of a physician. Healthcare professionals' knowledge and attitudes regarding euthanasia may influence their behavior in situations in which this issue arises during practice in clinicals. This is mainly

important in nurses cases because they are in constant contact with patients^[6] and, therefore, are often facing this issue of euthanasia^[7]. Euthanasia have a important role in current ethical controversial debates. Now the dilemma for physician assumed to dispense restfulness and mitigate from any of the torture in patient but still is not legalized all over.

The patient appealing euthanasia has to be an adapted adult who has insupportable adversity from a determined therapeutic situation, including mental health illnesses, with no analeptic aspect nor overview of mitigate adversity. According to the Belgian law, uncontrollable distress can be physical and/or mental^[7]. The patients' appeals has to be deliberate and well advised, evidence acceptable managerial amplitude. In an end stage of situations one absolute physician is needed to appraise the patient and provide admonition over the appeal to the physician who got the basic application. If the patient is not in a end stage added compulsion commitment to be met.

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There is a astronomical plenty of altercation, however, with reference another plausible assumption: explicitly, allowance of the course to advisedly discriminate between the crack and form of one's eradication and to appeal the comfort and association of others, decidedly health-care professionals, in gather this about. This is the discussion of issues over whether a 'distinguished eradication' should accommodate the possibility to appeal euthanasia or physician-assisted suicide (PAS).^[7,8]

Need for the knowledge and attitude regarding euthanasia: Euthanasia altercate that a physician's main aim is to save a life not to end. In 1980s, when first time the discussion of issue on euthanasia was increased by Richard selzer in his short story 'Mercy'.

For that particular time to till now this controversial issue has evaluate ambiguity in perception of his minds of physician & health care personnels worldwide. Some of the steps have been dispatch this issues in all over the world. However, the convenance of euthanasia still under a big dark cloud due to acute religious domination. In many countries from the last decade, discussion of issues about the approval, codification of euthanasia & end of life agreement in medical practice is still a main component of discussion of issues is developing public affection to a ethical to die for end stage wreck patients^[3]. There is a mushrooming pervasiveness of failing affection which in curve can direct to a state of health called "end-stage". In end-stage scheme the altercation on euthanasia and affiliated affairs assume inmost.

It is needed to examine the knowledge and attitudes of nursing students related to euthanasia because they too, may appointment bearings related to the convention during this clinical courses. Bakalis et al examined Greek nursing attitude to euthanasia, in that they found that superiority of participant had a low level of knowledge regarding euthanasia. Further, most of them had an unfavorable attitude towards the legislation. However, the habitude of euthanasia debris inferior a cloud ^[11]. This is mainly due to the acute devotional domination. Many studies were outlined to appraise the appearance of inevitable doctors, nurses on this arguable affair and their knowledge and attitudes regarding euthanasia.

Hence, it was found that this is a controversial issue and necessary to flourish knowledge and attitude in end-of-life decision. Hence a narrative review is defined to find out the evidence from the available literature to

have some knowledge and attitude regarding euthanasia among nursing students, physician, medical students and nurses.

Aim: The aim of this review is to find the affirmation to describe the knowledge and attitude regarding euthanasia of medical students, nurses, nursing students, physicians.

Objectives: To appraise the level of knowledge and attitude regarding euthanasia among health care personnel.

Methodology: Eligibility criteria of the articles were done on the basis of the following criteria:

Search Strategy Method: A exploration of records commodity issued in discrete journals till 2017 was accompany. Search was bounded to only English language. The database exploration done was PubMed & EBSCO. Articles accommodate following key search term was restricted like attitude, euthanasia, knowledge, nursing students, physician assisted suicide.

Study Design:

- Quantitative descriptive study
- Survey study
- Descriptive, cross-sectional study
- Prospective study
- Vignette study

Type of Participants:

- Nursing students
- Oncologists
- Physician
- Medical students
- Nurses
- Family members of patient in hospice

Settings:

- Hospitals
- Medical college
- Nursing college
- Hospice centers

Outcomes: Knowledge and attitude among health care professionals to practice in clinical courses.

Publication Time Scale: Recent and up to date articles are included for the review, only articles from 2009 onwards were included in the review.

FINDINGS

The search was organized by assemble the points singly and composite with all and equivalent, also concede to the database. Initial exploration retrieved 19464 articles, over which 1226 were chosen manually. 1176 articles were excluded because of duplications in two databases. 50 records screened, out of that 40 were excluded, full-text not related to knowledge and attitude regarding euthanasia. Hence, 10 articles were screened which include quantitative studies for qualitative synthesis and meta analysis was not done in this narrative review, detailed description of all studies mentioned below.

Description of all studies include in this narrative review: Anneser et al^[11] in the year of 2016 (Deutschland) conducted Vigenette study; the study suggested that the treatment option for palliative sedation and euthanasia regarding assumed permissibility and personal attitude were have positive correlation. But no correlation found for physician assisted suicide. In this survey, strong interest with high response rate seen among student. Only 0.8% to 2% of students revealed that they had no opinion on ethical acceptable of palliative sedation, physician assisted suicide and euthanasia.

Xioli et al^[16] in the year of 2016 in China conducted a cross-sectional study; this study concluded that Chinese oncologists were totally anomalous with the abstraction of euthanasia & end of life issue. The study revealed that inadequate attention paid towards euthanasia, it should be more on the education of palliative care.

Naseh et al^[5] in the year 2016 in Iran conducted a quantitative descriptive design and study concluded that 52.5% have negative, 2.5% have neutral and 45% have positive attitude towards euthanasia, by using one way ANOVA method, the difference between the different group was not found any significance. The study also conclude that this issues should be handled carefully, deeply and explored more in every aspect especially in terms of determining patient's right.

Hert et al^[12] in the year 2015 in Belgium conducted a quantitative descriptive study; study suggested that overall, 70% was mental health nurses were confronted again and again with a appeal for euthanasia and majority did not oppose euthanasia for those with UMS. It is needed to provide education training and guide clearly to the health care organizations.

Yousuf et al^[4] in the year 2014 in Malaysia conducted a Survey study ; study concluded that both physicians and patients were in favor of eliminate and confining life sustaining doctoring to a patient have no opportunity of continuity. Statistically significance were found against EAS or its legislation. Patients view were basically and they determined by religious acceptance more than the cruelty of illness.

Albers et al^[8] in the year 2014 in Belgium conducted a Survey study; study concluded that majority of nursing staff want to involved in ELD. And awareness on the role of nurses and ELD should be raised which can involved the nurses in patient's care and fulfill needs. Highly educated nursing staff and hospitals personnels indicated that they want to be involved in ELD and need to improve their knowledge and attitude in practice.

Hassan et al^[15] in the year 2013 in Pakistan done Cross-sectional study; finding of study suggested that majority of students disagreed and were confused whether they will practice it or not in clinical courses. The awareness of euthanasia was aerial dispersion through the medical students, but only a small admeasurement of the students were willing to practice it.

Tamayovelazaug et al^[13] in the year of 2012 in Spain conducted Descriptive cross-sectional study ; findings concluded that there is a need to improve the respondents knowledge regarding euthanasia. Most of the percentage of nurses who were helpless to analyze a adequate bearings involving euthanasia or PAS that indicates that nurses should need to participate in deepness education in End- of- life decisions.

Mickiewiz et al^[9] in the year of 2012 in Poland conducted a Survey study ; study suggested that majority of the participants, do not want to participate in the process of end of life decisions, but most of the hospice worker were refused active euthanasia but many of the nursing students were supported it to the person's suffering immediately. The legislation of euthanasia was unfavorable by most of the students, however, it was barely admiration by the hospice workers.

Vilel et al^[14] in the year of 2009 in Brazil conducted a Prospective study ; study concluded that knowledge about euthanasia in public is confined, even among people with good academic accomplishments , this lack of knowledge is not so marked but also might advised confined. A small admeasurement of family caretaker and also functional physician are in admiration of the convenance of euthanasia in severely ill patients.

Summary of findings: Out of 10 articles, 7 articles revealed that there is need to improve in attitude & knowledge of health care personnel, 3 studies revealed that participants are strongly interested to practice euthanasia but no such correlation with physician assisted suicide. Further study is needed for assessing knowledge and attitude regarding euthanasia and end-of-life call decision.

Future Significance: The findings of this narrative review suggested that it is important to develop insight, knowledge and attitude regarding euthanasia and its issue among health care professionals and also in nursing students which help them to encounter and make them able to face a certain situation related to end of life care of end stage ill patients.

Limitation:

- Database search was confined
- Search strategy was precise to use attitude, knowledge and euthanasia only
- Meta-analysis will give more exactness to findings
- Confined to area of medical and nursing

CONCLUSION

Knowledge and attitude can be enhanced among health care personnels through the participation in the continuing education programme. Health care professionals plays an important role in clinical decision making and patient's needs and care. They are expected to learn and develop insight and have to implement in to a practice.

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Ethical approval & consent to participates: This is a narrative review, ethics approval and consent is not applicable.

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