



PACES Free Ride - Saloon

The economics of dying

Résumé en 100 mots

In “dying patients” cure becomes care. Palliative care follows the four principles of biomedical ethics: respect for autonomy, nonmaleficence, beneficence, and justice “within available resources”.

Choices can be considered from the individual or the societal perspective. Three aspects are evaluated: effectiveness – the pragmatic efficacy of interventions in “real life” –, equity – linked with geographical & cultural accessibility, difficult to achieve as it relies on all actors’ open-mindedness –, and efficiency – the ratio between investments and health outcomes.

In dying patients, distribution of resources is not only a matter of economics and health, but also a matter of ethics and humanity.

