Faculty of Pharmacy, Nursing and Health Professions

**(NURS 3200)**

**Euthanasia**

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**Introduction**

 Euthanasia is the act of ending someone’s life on purpose to end their suffering and to relief them from pain performed by medical staff (doctors, nurses), it could be voluntary or nonvoluntary. In the voluntary cases the patient suffering from pain would ask the medical team or someone they trust in that field to assist them to end their life, in the other cases some of the medical team might act on their own without the patient consent because the patient is unconscious and they do it just to help them because they see that ending their life would be best. It also can be done by giving lethal injections (Active) or by not doing anything and let the patient sickness take them away (passive). Other types of euthanasia is the involuntary, which the patients wants to live but others take the action to end their suffering from family members to health care providers

**The Ethical issue**

 **Is it right to kill someone who is undergoing through sever pain and suffering?** that is the question that this topic raises for everyone, the law says that euthanasia is illegal because killing someone deliberately is murder or manslaughter even if they ask you to do it, but why would the law make it illegal, it is thought that if euthanasia was allowed people would abuse it, killing patients who might not want to die, or killing someone and trying to cover for it with the euthanasia excuse. From the religion aspect almost all of the religions scared the human body, and ending someone life even with their consent (suicide) is considered as a major sin.

 Medically speaking euthanizing someone is unnecessary and that’s because of the existing or other alternative treatments, some believe terminally ill patients have two options, dying with suffering and pain or receive euthanasia, However. Research in palliative care has shown that almost all symptoms experience in this illness can be relieved by various methods from pain killers to surgeries that aid with the symptoms

 Other reasoning for not allowing euthanasia, is that the terminally ill patient is vulnerable, lacking skills, knowledge and the clear mental status due to the alleviation of the symptoms from the sickness, so some might argue that their autonomy is impaired and they should not be allowed to decide on their own because they can not be objective about their own situation, their capability of decision making could also be impaired, a lot of cases when receiving a proper effective care and had the idea of killing themselves before hand they would be grateful for surviving, this all lies under the mental disturbance and weakness of a sick person, the medical team can not differentiate between a person who wants to die on his own because of his pain or suffering and with a person who just wants to die because of him not wanting to live and this is the easier way to kill themselves.

 From the social aspect allowing euthanasia would make the society more prone to killing themselves and giving up it would also make the health care system give a low-quality care for patients with terminal illnesses which would be against the justice concept in the medical ethics, Euthanasia would also make the hope for finding new cures and treatments so little since everyone might resolve to ending their life to end the pain.

 **Why should euthanasia be allowed?** A big favor for euthanasia to be allowed is that humans should have the to be able to decide when and how they die in cases of terminal illness (self- determination) allowing them to die with dignity and in control of their lives, having the autonomy and to decide what happen to themselves is why some say that euthanasia should be allowed. Others may use the finality concept to over ride the law and the social norm to help this ill patient relieve their pain

 Some might argue that it should be allowed for the beneficence of others in the health care environment, how? simply by ending someone’s life who is terminally ill and consume a lot of resources, this would give the chance for other sick patients to use these resources which might be able to save their lives, and it would ease the financial status of the terminally ill patient’s family. And the beneficence for the patient themselves cause relieving ones pain and suffering by preforming euthanasia will do more good than harm.

 Others want to allow euthanasia following the principal of understanding/tolerance which state the duty to understand and accept others point of view if reason dictates, patients wanting to end their lives because of the suffering and paint and the low mental state they are in should be understood and respected because for them trying other way would just add more suffering to their last days in their lives

 Adding to that euthanasia should be allowed under the principal of respecting the others, the humans are our own and we should be allowed to do what we want with them, so denying someone’s wish to end their suffering is wrong, forcing someone to live when they do not want to, violates their personal freedom and their rights, people also argue that suicide is not a crime so euthanasia should not be a crime as well

**Conclusion**

It can be seen that euthanasia is indeed a contentious issue, with the heart of the debate lying at active voluntary euthanasia and physician assisted suicide and the other types.

this dilemma caused a lot of individuals to have different opinions about it, allowing it or criminalizing it is really a difficult decision, and a lot of countries allowed it and many other made it illegal, However. It should only be judged according to the situation and the case of the ill patient and if they really want to die

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