



Article of the Month

August 2018

The engagement of young people in their own advance care planning process: A systematic narrative synthesis

Hughes, B. O'Brien, M. Flynn, A. Knighting, K
Palliative Medicine 2018 Jul;32(7):1147-1166.

A systematic narrative synthesis from the University of Lancaster exploring advanced care planning (ACP) in young adults. The authors highlight the fundamental need to understand barriers and facilitators to young people's engagement with ACP in order to assist in the fulfilment of their wishes and inform future practice.

Although some barriers, including poor communication, relationship conflicts and lack of training for healthcare professionals were recognised, a lack of rigorous, high-quality research limited conclusions and the authors call for future studies to facilitate ACP engagement in young people in the future.

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International palliative care research in the context of global development: a systematic mapping review

Clark, J. Gardiner, C. Barnes, A.
BMJ Supportive and Palliative Care 2018;8:7-18

Palliative care has global support from the World Health Organisation but has failed to attract attention from funding agencies and policymakers.

The authors of this review argue that an international approach to palliative research is required to put palliative care on the global map. They performed a systematic mapping review of international studies to inform future planning.

They concluded that international palliative care research is in its infancy but is developing. They identified gaps in the evidence, highlighting that observational studies predominate and a paucity of interventional research demonstrating the cost-effectiveness of palliative interventions, this therefore limits engagement with international policymakers.

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