



Lecture Code : EE01-S1

Session Name : Ethics Education

Session Topic : -

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임종기 환자 판단 및 환자 의사결정 능력 평가

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Enacted in 2019, the “Act on Decisions on Life-Sustaining Treatment” aims to respect patients’ autonomy and protect human dignity at the end of life. Legally, the “dying process” refers to a condition in which recovery is impossible despite treatment and the patient is rapidly deteriorating and approaching death. Given the inherent medical uncertainty, judgments should not rely solely on vital signs but require a comprehensive interpretation of disease trajectory and prognosis. The goal of medical intervention is not merely to prolong life, but to safeguard the patient’s best interest and ensure quality of life. Decision-making capacity refers to the patient’s ability to understand medical information and make rational choices aligned with their values. This capacity involves four key components: Understanding / Appreciation / Reasoning Communication Physicians must consider cognitive function, psychological state (e.g., delirium, depression), and cultural/religious context, and provide support to help patients participate in the decision-making process.

Keywords: Autonomy, Biomedical Ethics, Best Interest, End of life care decision, Decision making capacity