

JOURNAL ARTICLE

Palliative care implementation in neuro-oncology—Where do we come from, where do we go?

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Extract

The goal of palliative care is to maintain and improve the quality of life of patients and their families during any stage of life-threatening illness, and to relieve burden in all dimensions during the entire course of the disease. Often misunderstood for end-of-life care only, the value of early implementation of palliative care has gained increasingly in importance within the past years. It is now an established fact that palliative care in cancer should be considered a simultaneous care to increase quality of life without necessarily shortening overall survival.¹

One challenge to palliative care implementation is timing. Several additional factors complicate this issue in neuro-oncological patients. The aggressive nature of higher-grade gliomas with a rapid course of disease may preclude the engagement of the patient with the severity of the diagnosis and its implications. Likewise, the physician might be reluctant to address the question of palliative care implementation under...

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