

Accepted Manuscript

Refractory Schizophrenia, Attempted Suicide, and Withdrawal of Life Support: A Clinical Ethics Case Report

Cory Taylor, MD, Jamie C. Fertal, Solomon Liao

PII: S0885-3924(18)30080-0

DOI: [10.1016/j.jpainsymman.2018.02.014](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpainsymman.2018.02.014)

Reference: JPS 9731

To appear in: *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*

Received Date: 3 March 2017

Revised Date: 16 February 2018

Accepted Date: 19 February 2018

Please cite this article as: Taylor C, Fertal JC, Liao S, Refractory Schizophrenia, Attempted Suicide, and Withdrawal of Life Support: A Clinical Ethics Case Report, *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management* (2018), doi: 10.1016/j.jpainsymman.2018.02.014.

This is a PDF file of an unedited manuscript that has been accepted for publication. As a service to our customers we are providing this early version of the manuscript. The manuscript will undergo copyediting, typesetting, and review of the resulting proof before it is published in its final form. Please note that during the production process errors may be discovered which could affect the content, and all legal disclaimers that apply to the journal pertain.



Refractory Schizophrenia, Attempted Suicide, and Withdrawal of Life Support: A Clinical Ethics Case Report

Cory Taylor, MD – University of Kansas School of Medicine, Kansas City KS, USA

Jamie C. Fernald – St. Joseph Hospital, Orange CA, USA

Solomon Liao – UC Irvine Medical Center, Orange CA, USA

Corresponding Author:

Cory Taylor

Division of Hospice and Palliative Medicine

University of Kansas School of Medicine

3901 Rainbow Blvd, MS 1020

Kansas City, KS 66061

Phone: 913.588.3807

corywtaylor@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

Background

Withdrawal of life-support for an individual with refractory schizophrenia following attempted suicide remains controversial. Discussion regarding prognosis of mental illness and the distinction between somatic and mental illness brings out many ethical issues. This paper will examine the role and weight of severe persistent mental illness in the withdrawal of life support following attempted suicide.

Case Description

A 30-year-old gentleman with deafness and schizophrenia was admitted with multiple self-inflicted visceral stab wounds. He developed post-operative complications necessitating on-going critical care. The parties involved were as follows: the patient, his parents, the critical care trauma service, the palliative and psychiatry consult services, and the ethics committee.

Over the patient's hospital course, his parents struggled to reconcile his poor pre-injury quality of life with his ongoing need for intensive medical intervention. The primary and consulting teams were required to integrate differing perspectives on the patient's past responsiveness to treatment and the extent to which additional efforts might advance his quality of life and limit his future suffering and suicidality. The patient's surrogate decision-makers unanimously requested withdrawal of life support. An ethics committee convened to address the question of whether refractory schizophrenia can produce so poor a quality of life as to merit the withdrawal of life-sustaining measures following a suicide attempt. Consensus was achieved and life-sustaining measures were subsequently withdrawn, allowing the patient to pass away peacefully in an inpatient hospice facility.

Key Words: Suicide, Ethics, Withdrawal, Suffering, Refractory, Schizophrenia

Running Title: Refractory Schizophrenia, Refractory Suffering

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/8605471>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/8605471>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)