### Contents

#### Editorials

143 Editor’s choice
B Noble

144 Withdrawal of ventilation at the request of a patient with motor neurone disease: guidance for professionals
C Fouil, D Oliver

#### News and notes

147 News and updates from palliativedrugs.com
A Wilcock, S Charlesworth

#### Shortcuts

149 Articles of interest in other scholarly journals
J W Ireland

#### Letter

151 Premature diagnostic closure in palliative medicine
P Chatralli, R S Hebert

#### Feature

153 The forgotten people in British public health: a national neglect of the dying, bereaved and caregivers
A Katsapagi, A Keleher

#### Review

160 A systematic review and meta-analysis of meditative interventions for informal caregivers and health professionals
M Dhamwanturendre, J Gvoes, A Wachholz, S Makowski, J Tjia

#### Research

170 Mental disorders and the desire for death in patients receiving palliative care for cancer
K G Wilson, T L Dalldorf, H M Chochinov, S Chary, P R Gagnon, K Macmillan, M De Luca, F O’Shea, D Kuhl, R L Fainsinger

178 Palliative medicine specialists’ causal explanations for depression in the palliative care setting: a qualitative in-depth interview study
F Ng, G B Crawford, A Chur-Hansen

186 Treatment approaches of palliative medicine specialists for depression in the palliative care setting: findings from a qualitative, in-depth interview study
F Ng, G B Crawford, A Chur-Hansen

194 The provision of spiritual and pastoral care following stillbirth in Ireland: a mixed methods study
D Nuzum, S Manney, K O’Donoghue

#### Education

219 EM Talk: communication skills training for emergency medicine patients with serious illness
C R Goudzen, L L Emlet, J Kuntz, A Shreves, E Zimny, M Gang, M Schaudt, S Schmidt, E Isaks, R Arnold

225 ‘Quality End of Life Care for All’ (QELCA): the national rollout of an end-of-life workforce development initiative
K Gillett, L Bryan

231 Improving confidence and competence of healthcare professionals in end-of-life care: an evaluation of the ‘Transforming End of Life Care’ course at an acute hospital trust
L Selman, V Robinson, L Klass, S Khan, R George, K Shuford, R Riman, J Koffman

237 Developing a palliative care competence framework for health and social care professionals: the experience in the Republic of Ireland
M Connolly, R Ryan, K Creaney

#### Column

243 Patients need action, not words, on UK end-of-life care
R George

#### Poem

245 Dying Speech of an Old Philosopher
J Birtwhistle

---

**201** Depressive symptoms in the last days of life of patients with cancer: a nationwide retrospective mortality study
E Janberidze, S M Penina, M J Hermstad, A K Knudsen, S Kaasa, A van der Heide, B Onwuteaka-Philipsen on behalf of EURO IMPACT

**210** Should we cluster patients or symptoms? The myth of symptom clusters based on ‘depression, insomnia, pain’ and ‘depression, fatigue, pain’
A Akras, D Walsh, K Hauser, E Rybicki

---

**Disclaimer:**

BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care is published by BMJ Publishing Group Ltd (a wholly owned subsidiary of the British Medical Association). The owners grant editorial freedom to the Editor of BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care. BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care follows guidelines on editorial independence produced by the World Association of Medical Editors and the code on good publication practice of the Committee on Publication Ethics.

BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care is intended for medical professionals and is provided without warranty, express or implied. Statements in the journal are the responsibility of authors and advertisers and not authors’ institutions, the BMJ Publishing Group or the BMJ unless otherwise specified or determined by law. Acceptance of advertising does not imply endorsement.

To the fullest extent permitted by law, the BMJ Publishing Group shall not be liable for any loss, injury or damage resulting from the use of BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care or any information in it whether based on contract, tort, or otherwise. Readers are advised to verify any information they choose to rely on.

**Copyright:** © 2016 BMJ Publishing Group Ltd. All rights reserved; no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise without prior permission.

BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care is published by BMJ Publishing Group Ltd, typeset by Tachtset, and printed in the UK on acid-free paper.

BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care (ISSN No: 2045-435X) is published quarterly by BMJ Publishing Group and is distributed in the USA by Air Business Ltd. Periodicals postage paid at Jamaica NY 11431 POSTMASTER: send address changes to BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care, Air Business Ltd, c/o Worldnet Shipping Inc., 156-15, 146 Avenue, 2nd Floor, Jamaica, NY 11434, USA.

---

**This article has been chosen by the Editor to be of special interest or importance and is freely available online.**

**This article has been made freely available online under the BMJ Journals Open Access scheme.**

See [http://spcare.bmj.com/site/about/guidelines.xhtml#open](http://spcare.bmj.com/site/about/guidelines.xhtml#open)