



The 11th Palliative Care Congress Glasgow 2016

Session Abstract

Spiritual care at the end of life. More than tea and sympathy?

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Thursday 10 March 2016
1330 - 1425

Neither age nor limited physical faculties diminish the full humanity of an individual. People facing the ending of their life may exhibit strong emotions, ranging from anger to uninhibited affection; these are signs of a person still fully human.

To treat such people with a kind of saccharine piety may seem appropriate to the one who seeks to bring solace, but it may not be what the dying patient requires. Among other things, a vocabulary for pain, the encouragement of honesty in all things and conversation which speaks of death as an activity rather than an exit may be more helpful than threadbare platitudes about going to join the golf club way beyond the blue.