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Death Just Isn't What It Used to Be

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(30 minutes)

UP TO .5 AMA PRA CATEGORY 1 CREDIT™

This activity is designed for internists, hospitalists, emergency medicine physicians, family physicians, hospice physicians, oncologists, surgeons, and any other healthcare professionals.



Controversy in diagnosing death has a long history, but the essential difficulties have not changed for hundreds of years. A major source of confusion in understanding death is the mixing of the definition of death—a decision about when life has ended—with criteria and tests used to assess when death has occurred. What is it that shifts human beings from alive to dead—lack of sentience? Lack of personhood? Cessation of all spontaneous biological activity? Departure of the soul? In this video, Dr. James Kirkpatrick revisits the concept of death. He traces the historical difficulties in diagnosing death, reviews the current controversies and criteria—cardiopulmonary versus neurological—for determining death, discusses the legal and ethical issues surrounding organ harvesting, and explores the inherent problems with making the diagnosis of death a matter of personal choice.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After taking part in this CME activity, participants should be better able to:

- Review the history of the diagnosis of death
- Recognize the conceptual confusion surrounding the diagnosis of death
- Discuss the impact of developments in resuscitation science and organ transplantation on the diagnostic criteria for death

CME CREDIT DESIGNATIONS

ACCME The Network for Continuing Medical Education (NCME) is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

AMA NCME designates this educational activity for a maximum of .5 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

AAFP Application for CME credit has been filed with the American Academy of Family Physicians. Determination of credit is pending.

AOA This activity is eligible for up to .5 hour of credit in Category 2-A of the American Osteopathic Association.

SUGGESTED RESOURCES

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