

Poem

Consented End

Rabia Mazhar, MD¹

Abstract

Description

This poem is a reflection upon my personal experience of taking care of a young patient with post-partum sepsis and multi-organ failure following the delivery of her second child. She was able to spend one night at home with her family before suddenly decompensating and becoming encephalopathic. In her last moments awake, she relayed to the EMS her wishes of being placed in hospice. The poem narrates her spouse's internal struggle after respecting the patient's wishes of withdrawal of care.

Keywords

patient care; death; withholding treatment; grief; hospice care; poetry; medical humanities

Author affiliations are listed at the end of this article.

Correspondence to:
Rabia Mazhar, MD
Orange Park Medical
Center, 2001 Kingsley Ave
Orange Park, FL 32073
(Rabia.Mazhar@hcahealthcare.com)

Consented End

What is birth
If not an unconsented beginning?
What is death
If not a mortal immortality?
What is life
If not a series of unpredictabilities?
After this birth, and before we die
an empty void therein lies.
Filled with sorrow and some broken dreams
Of promises not kept, sunshines never seen.
Yet, life will continue to move on
Long after you will be gone.
And, all that would be left behind
is redundancy of days as they intertwine
Fading away your memory,
Pushing you into obscurity.
Though, what will always remain with me
Is the harsh decision that made me see
However much I wanted to hold on to you
It's for your best for me to let go of you.
And let you become the energy,
That will surround me and our li'l seeds.
To help them thrive,
And become strong
For there is promise of spring
After fall is gone.
So I will pass my days with the core belief,
That there is solace within the heart of grief.
That there is solace within the heart of grief.
-Rabia

Conflicts of Interest

The author declares she has no conflicts of interest.

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Author Affiliation

1. Orange Park Medical Center, Orange Park, FL