Experiences of Family Members of Dying Patients Receiving Palliative Sedation

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Relieving suffering is one of the main aims of oncology care, particularly for dying patients (Bruce, Hendrix, & Gentry, 2006; World Health Organization, 2016). The suffering of a dying patient sometimes includes refractory symptoms. These symptoms are defined as severe symptoms—physical and psychological—that cannot be treated for long periods, or their treatment will lead to uncontrollable side effects (Schindmann & Schildmann, 2014). In most cases, treatment is focused on refractory physical symptoms, such as pain, dyspnea, and delirium (Schindmann & Schildmann, 2014), but psychological and existential suffering may also produce a