

## **Should Life Be Sustained Artificially?**

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Presently, with the development of medical technology, many people's lives can be sustained artificially. Yet, artificially sustained life not only brings about extreme suffering to patients but also wastes manpower and material resources. The most important thing is that artificially sustained life often cannot prolong life much longer than a few weeks; patients lose their life within a short term with extreme anguish. It is not wise to sustain life artificially.

First, artificially sustained life leads to both physical and mental agony of patients, who forfeit their lives within one day to several weeks. All kinds of tubes are inserted into the patients' bodies to keep their vital organs functioning and they experience extreme body pain. In addition, the patients must bear the mental torment because they may have to lie in bed without a thread to receive all kinds of treatment irrespective of their approval. The key to the question is that all the misery of the patients' endurance is completely worthless; despite all treatment, the patients will die in a short term with exceeding anguish. To the patients, to die is better than to live. Rather than treating and curing the patients, the sustained artificial lives actually become cruel to the patients.

Second, there are enormous costs and material burdens in treating terminally ill patients. Since those patients are critically ill, to keep them alive, doctors must use the best medicine and medical instruments. In China, such a patient expends at least one thousand yuan, even up to ten thousand yuan, a day. Since resources are limited, using such expensive medicine and instruments on patients beyond cure is extravagant. Moreover, many families cannot bear all the costs and have to raise money by borrowing from friends and the bank; as a result, the families become deeply in debt.

Lastly, a great amount of manpower is used on the patients. Since most of the patients lose their consciousness, they must be monitored every minute. Even though nurses, doctors or the patients' relatives look after the patients all the time, they cannot release the patients' pain and the patients will die in a short term. Moreover, some people also get ill after caring for the patients since they give a great deal of mind and energy to the patients.

In brief, an artificially sustained life does not mean that the patients can be kept alive indefinitely. Family members do not realize that patients whose lives are artificially sustained suffer enormously; they have a difficult time accepting that the death of a loved one is imminent. As well, they find themselves emotionally and financially drained because they chose to artificially sustain the life of a loved one. In addition, the time that doctors and nurses spend with terminally ill patients may be better spent on people who have a chance to recover. It is sagacious to support the idea that life should not be sustained artificially.