Abstract

This paper presents the progress achieved during a brief stay within the framework of a postdoctoral research that the author conducted in 2009 with the aim of acknowledging the conditions under which the "hospice" movement emerges in Argentina and Brazil, and assess to what extent this has enabled innovation in the treatment of disease. We consider that 'palliative care' is a polysemic concept, which results from a process of "refocusing" of caring, through which new meanings appear from contributions of doctors, philosophers, theologians, psychotherapists, nurses, social workers, caregivers, pastors, religious and social activists, etc., in both theoretical and practical aspects and in its complex links with religion, morality and culture.

Keywords

Palliative care, care, illness, death.