Euthanasia

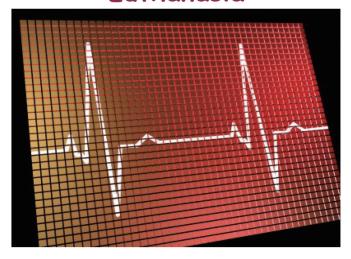


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Reading

Euthanasia, or "easy death," means allowing or enabling people to die in a relatively painless way. The debate over euthanasia goes back at least to the time of Hippocrates, the ancient Greek physician known as the Father of Medicine. The Hippocratic Oath says in part, "I will neither give a deadly drug to anyone if asked for it, nor will I make a suggestion to this effect." Many medical schools still follow Hippocrates' original promise, but others have adopted different oaths of conduct that permit physicians to participate in euthanasia.

When people talk about euthanasia, they refer to one or more of these practices:

- 1. **Right to Refuse Treatment**. A competent adult has the legal right to refuse treatment even if this refusal will result in death.
- 2. **Passive Euthanasia**. Under certain circumstances, family members may request that life sustaining machines or treatment be stopped for patients with little or no hope of regaining consciousness.

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You can see the whole lesson from your teacher, please ask them to send it to you before the class.

