

JUSTIN'S STORY w/DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Questions to keep in mind as you watch

1. What kind of quality of life and EOL care did Justin really want?
2. What role does hope play for families facing the EOL crisis of their child? How does hope influence decision-making for the family and the HCT?

Halfway point in Justin's Story

1. What are Justin's developmental issues? How do they affect his decisions?
2. How could you assess Justin's concerns and feelings about death/dying as his health declines over time?
3. How should the family be educated about the dying process? How do you enable hope while being honest and realistic?

Final Questions in Justin's Story

4. How do differing opinions about treatment priorities influence HCP and family decision-making? What approach can be used to resolve potential conflicts?
5. How does the roller coaster nature of the way pediatric cancer EOL unfolds make it difficult for families to make decisions regarding advanced directives?
6. What role do family dynamics play in Justin's decision-making? What impact might the earlier inclusion of the siblings have made?
7. How can HCP best ensure that patients and families effectively determine their goals of care at the end of life?
8. At the end, neither Dale nor Debbie was with Justin when he died. What do you think of this? How do you think this impacted the parents?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (abridged) for JUSTIN'S STORY

1. Justin's Mom says, "I'm not there yet," referring to EOL care decisions. How do you interpret this statement? What are approaches to working with a family struggling to accept the dying process of their child?
2. What is the significance of Justin's mom asking Dr. Zwerdling, "Are we doing the right thing?" referring to family health care decisions at his EOL?
3. How could palliative care be helpful to this family? What criteria could you use to determine the most appropriate time to introduce palliative care?
4. What services do hospices provide? Who qualifies? What are the limitations of service? How can HCPs enable the timely acceptance of services? How are hospice and palliative care different?