End of life Decisions

“Staying alive in the promised land”

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In the Eye of the Storm—Protest and Prayer
Life expectancy in Psalm 90:10

Some believe what is written in Psalm 90:10

“The days of our years are three-score and ten.....”

...and think 70 years is a “good innings
Life expectancy in Genesis: 6:3

Then the LORD said, “My Spirit shall not abide in man’s flesh forever: his days shall be 120 years.”
Life expectancy in Judaism

Psalm 90:10 is a prayer of Moses, whereas in Genesis 6:3 The Lord is speaking!

Genesis 6:3 exceeds Psalms 90:10 in terms of reference

So, when God’s laws of eating and living right are obeyed, a human lifespan of 120 years can be expected ...
Life expectancy is 120 years not 70 years!

Humans live on average 31.88 years in Swaziland and 82.6 years in Japan.

However, the oldest confirmed recorded age for any human is 122 years.

This is referred to as the "maximum life span", which is the upper boundary of life!
Impact of regional culture on end of life decisions in ICU: an Israeli perspective from the ETHICUS study (37 European ICU’s)


End of life discussions were held with 132 families: withholding treatment 91%; and withdrawing treatment 9 %

Statistically significant association between the type of end of life decision and the region (chi² = 830.93, df = 12, p < 0.0001)

“Regional culture plays an important part in end of life decisions. Differences in decisions between regions can be attributed to cultural factors”
The Jerusalem Syndrome!

1. Waiting for the Messiah

2. Looking for the Messiah

3. Think they are the Messiah
Family of Patient in ICU in Jerusalem:

Unreasonable expectations!

DNR not acceptable!

All into MO’s!
The HERO within

ALS patient, Dr. Melamed-Cohen, totally paralyzed, enjoys a life of productivity - and love.

by Sara Rigler
Life expectancy in ALS?
Tom Cutler has an unusual occupation: he owns and operates a crime scene cleanup company.
David Linton has an unusual occupation: he operates an ICU cleanup service.
The “Weaner” – ICU clean up

98 year old Rabbi after hernia repair

88 year old woman with pulmonary oedema due to critical AS, and fibro-cystic lungs

68 year old man with pulmonary fibrosis for 6 months
180 chronically ventilated cases – 30% get weaned
Adaptive ventilation as mode in Chronic Ventilation

Linton DM et al:
Critical Care and Resuscitation 2006

Beit Hadar, Chronic Ventilatory Center, Israel
Contradictions in end-of-life decisions for self and other, expressed by relatives of chronically ventilated patients

Sviri & Linton et al: Journal of Critical Care 2009

Family members (32) of patients interviewed
Median length of ventilation at time of interview was 13.4 months

All wanted further interventions for their chronically ventilated relatives
But, for themselves, only 21% wanted chronic ventilation;
and 18% resuscitation

Conclusion:
Family members want escalation of treatment for their ventilated relatives; but, most would not wish to be chronically ventilated or resuscitated under similar circumstances