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Is There a Color Line in Death?: An Examination of End-of-Life Care in the African American Community

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Although the goals of end-of-life care and hospice are to mitigate suffering and improve quality of life for patients with terminal illnesses, they remain underutilized by a significant number of African Americans. While sociocultural issues play a role in the underutilization of these resources among African Americans, other confounding factors affect the ability of African Americans to adequately access quality care at the end of life. Here, the authors examine the various barriers preventing increased use of hospice care and palliative therapy among African Americans. A particular focus of this examination will revolve around suggestions for increasing the use of end-of-life care among African Americans in the future.

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Keywords

end-of-life care; palliative therapy; cancer; pain management; African Americans; hospice

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