



Allegheny Health Network

Allegheny General Hospital

Bridge to Nowhere: Early Involvement of Palliative Medicine in ECMO Care

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Early is on time
and on time is late.

Bo Schembechler

“ quotefancy

Objective

Participant will explain the benefit of early involvement of Palliative Medicine in the care of the ECMO patient.

How would you define these terms?

- Recovery
 - a return to a normal state of health, mind, or strength
- Normal
 - the usual, average, or typical state or condition
- Quality of Life
 - the standard of health, comfort, and happiness experienced by an individual; a non-financial component associated with job and **life** satisfaction.

Merriam Webster; Investopedia.com

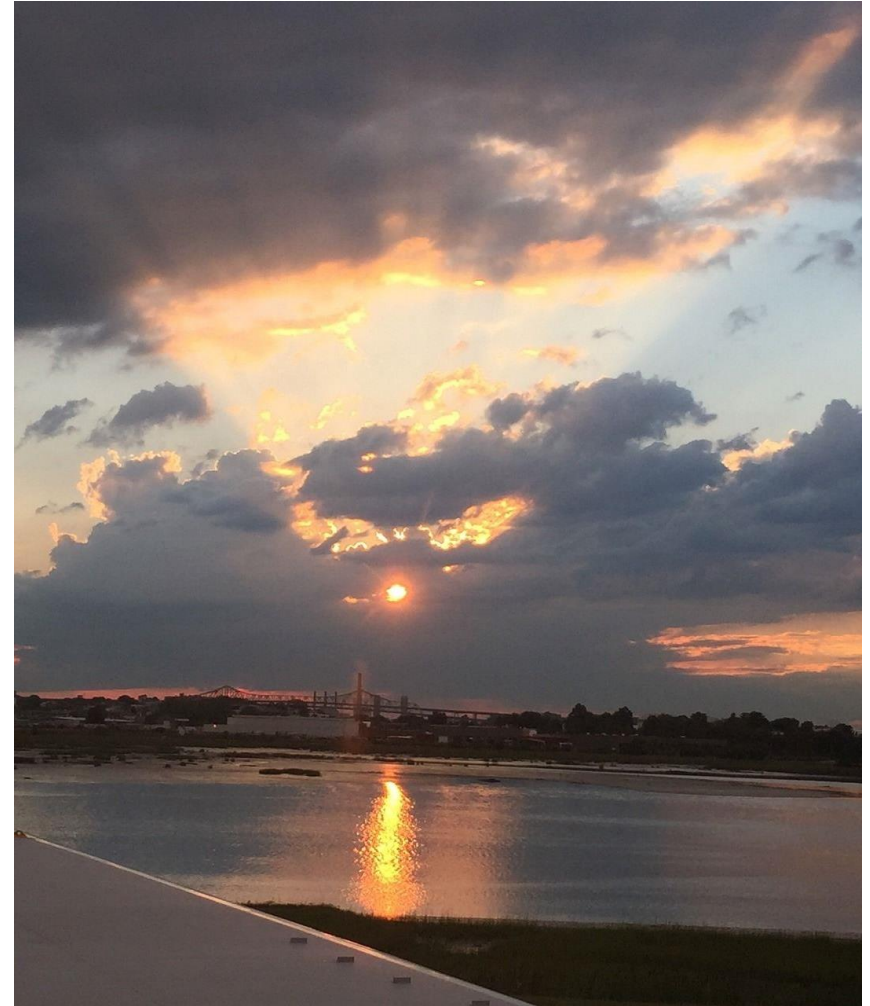
(Initial) Role of Palliative Medicine in ECMO Care



- Information gathering
- Learn about loved one
- Clarify/educate medical situation/terms
- General inquiry regarding goals
- Rapport building

ECMO Patient Outcomes

- Bridge to recovery
 - Patient is discharged from hospital sans device
- Bridge to LVAD/TXP
 - Self explanatory
- *Bridge to more time for decisions*
 - Unpredictable medical situation, waiting for family members
- Bridge to Death
 - Self explanatory



Role of Palliative Medicine in ECMO Care

“ If your loved one is being supported with ECMO, the reality is they are **very, very sick**. The healthcare team is doing everything they possibly can to mend their body and bring them to a place where they can **functionally recover**. Understanding this reality is important. ECMO is **not a quick fix**. The healing and rebuilding process will take time. It can be complex. **It can help restore but also, there is a chance that it will not work**. Remaining steadfast and hopeful through the ups and downs will be hard but remember this is a **marathon to the possible recovery process**. Give things time, be present and believe for the absolute best.”

<https://ecmoresource.com/family>



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Questions