

Euthanasia

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Euthanasia Latest News

The Supreme Court recently asked the Noida district hospital to constitute a primary medical board to examine the option of passive euthanasia for a 31-year-old who has been in a vegetative state for over a decade because of quadriplegia.

About Euthanasia

- The word 'Euthanasia' is derived from the Greek, 'Eu' meaning 'good' and 'thanatos' meaning 'death', put together it means 'good death'.
- Euthanasia is defined as the **hastening of death of a patient to prevent further sufferings**.
- **Types:**
 - **Active euthanasia** refers to the **physician's deliberate act**, usually the administration of lethal drugs, **to end** an incurably or **terminally ill patient's life**.
 - There are **three types** of active euthanasia in relation to giving consent for euthanasia, namely
 - **voluntary euthanasia – at patient request,**

- **nonvoluntary** – without patient consent,
- **involuntary euthanasia** – the **patient is not in a position to give consent**.
- **Passive euthanasia** refers to **withholding or withdrawing treatment** which is **necessary for maintaining life**.
- **Common conditions** which make patients seek euthanasia are **terminally ill cancer** patients, **acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS)**, and other terminally ill conditions where there is no active treatment.
- **Legality:**
 - **Passive euthanasia** is **generally accepted worldwide**.
 - **Active involuntary euthanasia** is **illegal in almost all countries**.
 - Practicing active voluntary euthanasia is illegal and considered criminal homicide in most of the countries.
- **Legality in India:**
 - **Passive Euthanasia:**
 - A five-judge bench of the **Supreme Court in Common Cause vs. Union of India (2018)** **recognised a person's right to die with dignity**.
 - It said that a **terminally ill person can opt for passive euthanasia** and **execute a living will** to refuse medical treatment.
 - The Court permitted an individual to draft a living will specifying that she or he will not be put on life support if they slip into an incurable coma.
 - The Court **recognised the right to die with dignity** as a **fundamental right** and an aspect of **Article 21 (Right to Life)**.
 - **Active euthanasia: In India, active euthanasia is a crime.**

What is Quadriplegia?

- Quadriplegia, or **Tetraplegia**, is a condition of **paralysis that affects all the limbs and body** from the neck to the down.
- The **most common cause** of quadriplegia is an **injury to the spinal cord at the level of the neck**.
- Quadriplegia is **sometimes treatable**, but in **most cases** injury **results in permanent paralysis**.
- Quadriplegia is when the person can't deliberately control or move his muscles, and it can affect a person from the neck to down.
- Depending on how and why it happens, it can affect the ability to move parts of the body, as well as some of the body's automatic processes that keep the person alive.

Source: TELE

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