



## Palliative Care considerations for patients with breathlessness under COVID19

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### Abstract

COVID-19 has dramatically altered our world and health care systems. This pandemic has stressed the capacity of the hospital infrastructure, ICU beds and ventilatory support, post-acute and community care resources, hospital personnel and personal protection equipment. Breathlessness is one of the main presenting symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19). It can be a very frightening symptom, even in milder cases. Breathlessness is a distressing, multidimensional sensation resulting from complex interactions between physiological, environmental, cultural and social factors, with a considerable emotional component. In COVID-19, when breathlessness becomes severe it can indicate pneumonia or acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) which needs urgent investigation and treatment. This should be prioritised as an emergency if indicated. Palliative care can educate, guide, comfort and support in complex medical decision-making prior to disease presentation and during clinical setbacks, as well as at the end of life. This presentation suggests opportunities to accelerate palliative care to ease suffering and provide comfort to patients and families during the COVID-19 epidemic.

### Biography

Mohammed Abduh Alshaqi is a consultant and head of palliative medicine, division of oncology department at Prince Sultan Military Medical City at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He completed his MBBS from King Saud University 1992/1993, Arab Board of Family Medicine 2001, then palliative care from Canada and King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Center at 2006 and 2008. He is a member of many affiliations and societies like American Academy of Family Physicians and Saudi Society of Family and Community Medicine since 2001. In addition to that, he is a member of Middle East Academy of Medicine of Aging (MEAMA) since 2003, member of International Association for Hospice and Palliative care since 2006, member of Saudi Oncology Society since 2008, member of Saudi Pain Society since 2009, member of Group on Educational Affairs (GEA) for Medical Education Research Program (MERC) since 2011, and member of Arab Society of palliative care since 2014 till present. He is a trainer and external examiner of Palliative Medicine of Saudi Commission for Health Specialties and Acting director of Saudi Society of Palliative Care since 2013 till present.

### Publications

Mohammed Abduh Al-Shaqi. Palliative Care for Elderly with Dementia. Journal of Nursing Palliative service 2020, 4: 108

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