Bereavement support for families after critical illness

Nazir Lone

Senior Clinical Lecturer in Critical Care University of Edinburgh; NHS Lothian









Crude mortality in Scottish ICUs



SICSAG Annual Report: Audit of Critical Care in Scotland 2021 Reporting on 2020 https://www.sicsag.scot.nhs.uk/publications/main.htm

Deaths in critical care – in context



The role of hospice care in Scotland: https://www.hospiceuk.org/what-we-offer/publications?page=2 http://www.sicsag.scot.nhs.uk/docs/2017/2017-08-08-SICSAG-Report.pdf?35

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Bereavement after critical care



Visual summary Identifying abnormal grief

It is normal for feelings of grief to follow loss.

However, severe feelings lasting six months or more can indicate a diagnosis. The condition has two commonly used names, under different classification systems. There is substantial overlap between the two sets of diagnostic criteria (represented by the purple shaded area below).



Suggested diagnosis threshholds

According to the DSM-5 defini of PCBD, these are the numbe symptoms needed for diagnos This can be a useful guide, alt diagnoses would be made combining the patient's experand the clinician's judement



Boelen P A, Smid G E. BMJ 2017; 357 :j2016 doi:10.1136/bmj.j2016

Identifying high risk individuals for complicated grief

- Patient died whilst intubated
- Family disagreement with end of life decision making
- Communication unsatisfactory
- Patient refused treatments (protective)



Bereavement interventions: the evidence base



The state of bereavement support in adult intensive care: A systematic review and narrative synthesis

Nikolaos Efstathiou ^{a,*}, Wendy Walker ^b, Alison Metcalfe ^c, Brandi Vanderspank-Wright ^d

- Condolence letter vs placebo
- Follow-up bereavement meeting
- Bereavement programme
 - Brochure
 - Sympathy card
 - Telephone follow-up
 - Invitation to memorial service
- Story-telling
- ECG memento
- ICU diary



