A309 - Changes in end-of-life practices (eolp) in european intensive care units (icus) - the ethicus ii study

Introduction:
This study evaluated differences in EOLP after 15 years in European ICUs that also participated in the Ethicus I study [1].

Methods:
All previous Ethicus I centers were invited to participate in the Ethicus II study. Consecutive admitted ICU patients who died or had treatment limitations during a 6 month period from 1.9.2015 to 30.9.16 were prospectively studied. Previous EOLP and region definitions were used [1]. EOLP in the different regions of the Ethicus I study [1] were compared to the same ICUs in the Ethicus II study.

Results:
22 of the original 37 ICUs participated again in this study. Figure 1 shows the differences in EOLP by region. Figure 2 notes differences in patient mental competency at the time of decision, information about patient’s wishes and patient discussions in both Ethicus studies.

Conclusion:
Changes included less CPR (especially in the South) with more withholding and withdrawing therapies. There was a greater number of competent patients with discussions and knowledge of their wishes.

References:
1. Sprung CL et al. JAMA 2003; 290: 790-797

Image 1:
Figure 1

Differences in EOLP by region

Image 2:

Figure 2

Differences in competency, patient wishes and patient discussions