

Palliative Highlights: New Changes in the New Year



Dr. Isaacs, Dr. Shaban (VITAS) and Dr. Wang presenting at innovatED at ACEP18

What's New:

To ring in 2019, we are excited to deliver a revamped ACEP Palliative Care Section newsletter to your inbox! Every **quarter** we will send out updates concerning all things emergency medicine and palliative care. You will also find updates from the new research committee including brief synopsis of new research and research opportunities within EM-Palliative Care.

Happenings:

- ◆ American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine (AAHPM) is now offering **FREE MEMBERSHIP** for students and residents. Tell your colleagues, students, etc. to join! <http://aahpm.org/membership/join-aahpm>
- ◆ AAHPM Annual Assembly will be held March 13th – 16th in Orlando Florida. [Early Bird Registration ends January 31st](#)
- ◆ Look out for a new mentoring program to match mentors and mentees across a diaspora of interests between EM and palliative care. [Let us know you're interested!](#)

In the News:

- ◆ Morristown NJ integrates palliative care into their ED. Read about their process [here](#)
- ◆ Re-considering patients' agency in shared decision making: [When Patients and Their Families Feel Like Hostages to Health Care](#)
- ◆ Standardizing the ED approach to [comfort care transitions](#)

Research Committee:

Greetings! For the inaugural ACEP Palliative Section Research Committee, we have two exciting updates that we'd like to share with you. We hope that these new resources may help advance your career in integrating palliative care to your EM practice:

Research Study Database

- ◆ A list of ongoing research projects by our section members will be on our section website soon.
- ◆ To facilitate collaborations and avoid redundancies, we hope you will review this list if you are thinking of starting a research study at your institution.

EM/PM Literature-of-Note

- ◆ Highlight one notable article each newsletter on research, quality improvement, and opinion categories that we think are relevant to practice of EM and PM.

FEATURED ARTICLES:

Category: Research

High Burden of Palliative Care Needs of Older Adults During Emergency Major Abdominal Surgery. Cooper Z et al. *J Am Geriatr Soc.* 2018 Nov;66(11):2072-2078.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/30247747>

- ◆ Using Medicare data (nationally representative data for older adults), this retrospective cohort study sought to determine the burden of emergency major abdominal surgery (e.g., health care utilization, mortality, complications, etc.) in older adults.
- ◆ Among 411 participants, 57% had high illness burden, 15% in-hospital mortality, and 21% died within 1 year after discharge if survived.
- ◆ Most older adults undergoing emergency major abdominal surgery have preexisting high illness burden and experience high mortality and healthcare use in the year after surgery, particularly near the end of life.

Category: Research

Prospective Validation of a Checklist to Predict Short-term Death in Older Patients After Emergency Department Admission in Australia and Ireland. Cardona M et al. *Acad Emerg Med.* 2018 Nov 14.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/30428145>

- ◆ In this prospective cohort study of older adults presenting to 5 Australian and 1 Irish EDs, the prognostic accuracy of CriSTAL tool (incorporates the Clinical Frailty Scale) was studied for 90-day mortality.
- ◆ Among 1,182 patients, the accuracy of CriSTAL was good (AUROC = 0.795 and 0.81 in Australia and Ireland, respectively).
- ◆ This prospectively validated prognostic tool for undifferentiated older adults in the ED may be a useful tool to implement to identify patients for palliative care.

If you have articles, updates or other items you would like to distribute to the section, please email nrgeorge@gmail.com to have your input added to our monthly newsletter.

Check out our newest member spotlight on our section website :

www.acep.org/how-we-serve/sections/palliative-medicine/



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