

# Palliasjon til pasienter med ALS

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Morten Horn, overlege i ALS-teamet  
OUS Ullevål sykehus



# Editorial: Palliative Care in Neurology

David Oliver<sup>1\*</sup>, Marianne de Visser<sup>2</sup> and Raymond Voltz<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Tizard Centre, University of Kent, Canterbury, United Kingdom, <sup>2</sup> Amsterdam University Medical Centre, Amsterdam, Netherlands, <sup>3</sup> Department of Palliative Medicine, Faculty of Medicine and University Hospital, University of Cologne, Köln, Germany

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## Editorial on the Research Topic

### Palliative Care in Neurology

The role of palliative care for people with progressive neurological disease has been increasingly discussed over the last 20 years (1–3). Initially, the focus was on amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) which "represents a paradigm for palliative care in neurological diseases" (4). Indeed, progression in ALS is rapid, leading to severe disability, rendering the patients fully dependent on the support of carers, and death occurs ~3 years after disease onset in half of the patients. More recently a palliative care approach also found its way to diseases such as high-grade glioma of which the course is also relentlessly progressive like in ALS, Parkinson's disease (PD), and multiple sclerosis (MS). The two latter are also associated with progressive disability and a shortened life expectancy but have a more prolonged and thus unpredictable course.

The European Academy of Neurology (EAN), in collaboration with the European Association for Palliative Care (EAPC) have produced a Consensus paper on neurological palliative care, which outlines the need for a wider assessment of patients—physical, psychological, social and spiritual, and including consideration of end of life care and discussion of hastened death (3). Moreover, the support of carers, both family and professional has been emphasized (3).

This Research Topic has aimed to look at new developments in the palliative care of patients with neurological disease and the editors were heartened by the response and the papers submitted. They consider many different aspects of care and several different disease groups.

The need to assess carefully the various symptoms of all patients is emphasized in the paper by Anneser et al.. They found that neurological symptoms were common, both in patients with neurological diseases and other patients receiving palliative care. These symptoms may affect the quality of life of patients. However, the survey of neurologists in the Netherlands (Walter et al.) showed that discussions about treatment restrictions and the consideration of palliative care in PD and MS were often delayed until the later stages of the disease progression—cognitive decline was often the trigger. This has again shown that education of neurologists is important in enabling discussion about deterioration and end of life to take place earlier in the disease progression, as was suggested by the EAN/EAPC paper (3).

One way of enabling professionals to become more aware of the prognosis of the patient may be the use of the "Surprise Question"—"Would you be surprised if your patient would die in the next 12 months?" This was found to be useful, particularly when combined with an assessment of the symptom burden (Ebke et al.). There is also a need to ensure that the necessary expertise in the management of palliative care issues for neurological patients is more widely available. The innovative use of telemedicine in Bavaria, Germany was shown to help and support palliative care teams in the management of patients with neurological disease, when they do not have the specific expertise required (Weck et al.).

The role of palliative care for patients with ALS has been established for many years (5). The physical aspects may be complex and in particular the use of non-invasive ventilation (NIV)

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#### Edited and reviewed by:

Sean Ruland,  
Loyola University Medical Center,  
United States

#### \*Correspondence:

David Oliver  
[drdoliver@gmail.com](mailto:drdoliver@gmail.com)

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## New hope for advancing neuropalliative care

People with neurological disorders can have substantial palliative care needs, which differ from those of patients with other life-threatening conditions, but are often overlooked. The International Neuropalliative Care Society (INPCS) has just been launched to promote the integration of palliative care within neurological services, and has the mission "to raise standards of care for all people affected by neurologic illness". A growing body of evidence supports these views.

According to WHO, palliative care is the clinical approach aimed at improving quality of life for patients and their carers when they face the problems associated with a life-threatening illness, regardless of life expectancy. Nevertheless, palliative care is often wrongly considered equivalent to end-of-life care (hence, the use of alternative terminology such as supportive care or complex-symptom management). Palliative care addresses physical, psychosocial, and spiritual needs or, in summary, the total pain of illness, in the celebrated words of Cicely Saunders, the field's pioneer.

Palliative care is developing into the standard of care in oncology. Advance care planning (ACP) and advanced directives, for instance, are among well-established interventions that improve quality of life in people with cancer and their caregivers and can also ameliorate symptoms. The integration of palliative care into the management of people with advanced neurological disorders might have similar beneficial effects and, crucially, allow the patient's end-of-life wishes to be met.

In neurology, collaboration with palliative care specialists is best established for patients with brain tumors or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. But, even though the value of such a multidisciplinary approach is uncontested, most neurology services do not consider palliative care in the management of people with other progressive conditions. ACP conversations are often delayed and take place only after the diagnosis of cognitive impairment; as a consequence, the patient's own planning for their future needs can be compromised. For example, in Europe and North America, most patients with advanced Parkinson's disease die in a hospital, rather than at home or in a hospice. However, palliative care is feasible and potentially effective in people with parkinsonism. A randomised controlled trial done at three academic centers in North America compared integrated outpatient

palliative care with standard care in 120 patients with Parkinson's disease or related disorders, such as Lewy body dementia and corticobasal degeneration. The participants who received palliative care had better quality of life at 6 months (primary outcome), lower symptom burden, and higher rates of ACP completion; the intervention did also improve caregiver outcomes. Considering the mounting evidence, in 2020 the Parkinson's Foundation launched a 3-year implementation project to make integrated palliative care standard throughout its international network of more than 30 specialist Centers of Excellence.

A consensus review on the development of palliative care for patients with chronic or progressive neurological disease by the European Association for Palliative Care (EAPC) and the European Academy of Neurology (EAN) strongly recommended ACP, particularly when impaired communication and cognitive impairment were to be expected. The authors found a "pressing need for increased collaboration between neurology and palliative care".

However, progress has been slow, and integrated care models that include palliative specialists in neurology clinics are still uncommon. A survey of more than 600 neurologists and palliative care physicians (among EAPC and EAN members) in 2020 found that the most common barrier to collaboration was the reluctance of neurologists to refer patients to supportive care. Neurologists identified the scarcity of financial and other resources and lack of palliative care services in their region as major obstacles; about 45% of them recognised their limited expertise in palliative care, whereas only 18% of palliative care specialists "felt that they had expert or very good knowledge of neurology", highlighting the gaps in training and continuing education.

We believe that the INPCS will help to build a network, develop educational tools, help disseminate good practices, and galvanise research to fill knowledge gaps. These activities, in turn, should promote the acceptance of palliative care and advance its integration into standard neurological practice. The new Society is now recruiting members and will celebrate its first annual conference on Nov 4–6, 2021. By working in partnership with other organisations with long expertise in improving practices, such as EAN, INPCS has the opportunity to help spur a rapid change. ■ *The Lancet Neurology*



For more on INPCS see <https://www.neuropalliativecare.org/>  
For more on understanding total pain see [J Hosp Palliat Nurs. 2008; 10: 26–32](https://jhp.palliat.nurs.2008.10.26-32)

For more on palliative care and cancer see [Lancet Oncol. 2018; 19: v588–53](https://lancet.oncology.com/2018/19/v588-53)

For more on advance care planning see [Review Lancet Oncol. 2021; 21: v543–51](https://lancet.oncology.com/2020/21/v543-51)  
For the randomized controlled trial see [JAMA Neurol. 2020; 77: 553–60](https://jama.neurology.org/2020/77/553-60)

For more on the Parkinson's Foundation project see <https://parkinsonresearchtoday.com/2020/08/14/parkinson-awards-palliative-care-across-parkinsons-foundation-centers-excellent-in-us/>

For the consensus review see [J Neurol. 2016; 23: 30–38](https://jneuro.2016.23-30-38)

For the survey see [Support Palpacare 2020; Published online July 10. <https://doi.org/10.1136/jpco-2020-002322>](https://support.palpacare2020.com/2020/07/10/jpco-awards-palliative-care-across-parkinsons-foundation-centers-excellent-in-us/)



# Temaer for forelesningen

- Litt om ALS
- ALS-teamet, fastlegen og andre hjelbere
- Palliasjon ved ALS

# Hva er ALS?

- Degenerasjon av motoriske nevroner
  - Øvre motornevron: Parese, spastisitet, finmotorikk ↓
  - Nedre motornevron: Parese, atrofi, fasciculasjoner
- Frontotemporallapps-degenerasjon
  - Frontotemporallappsdemens hos 10-15 %
  - Kognitive/atferdsendringer hos halvparten?
  - Pseudobulbær affektforstyrrelse
- Sensorikk, autonome nervesystem intakt\*

# ALS – forekomst

- Levetidsrisiko: Ca. 1/400    ♂ > ♀
- Insidens: 2-3 nye tilfeller per 100.000 per år
  - Økende? Bedre diagnostikk, eldre befolkning?
- Prevalens: 4-7 (?) per 100.000
  - Tidligere diagnose, lengre levetid (PEG, NIV)
- Oslo (670.000 innb.):
  - 15-20 nye tilfeller per år
  - 25-50 lever med ALS i Oslo

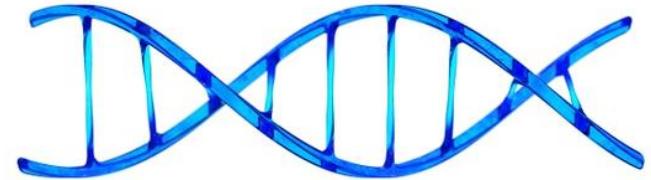
**ALS-teamet Ullevål:  
70 pasienter årlig**

# Årsaksforhold



- Ukjent årsak, dårlig forståtte mekanismer
- Risikofaktorer
  - Alder og genetikk
  - Lav BMI? Kontaktidrett? Røyking? Tungmetaller?
- Excito-toksisitet?
  - Intracellulær calcium overload?
  - Spare musklene?
  - Riluzol? (relatert til glutamat-metabolismen)

# ALS og genetikk



- ALS oftest sporadisk (sALS)
- 5-10 % er familiær ALS (fALS)
  - Autosomal dominant arvegang
- Vanligste gener:
  - *C9orf72* (35 % av fALS, 5 % av sALS)
    - Yngre, mer aggressiv, mer frontotemporal-demens
  - *SOD1* (15 % av fALS, 1 % av sALS)
  - Andre – og ukjente!

# Forløpsformer av ALS (stilisert)

	Bulbær affeksjon (dysartri, dysfagi, facialisparese, luftveier)	Spinal affeksjon (ekstremiteter, aksial muskulatur, diagfragma)
Øvre motornevron	Pseudobulbær parese	Primær lateral sklerose
Nedre motornevron	Bulbær parese	Progressiv muskelatrofi

# Formidling av diagnosen ALS

- ALS = «dødsdom»
- Varsom med å «lufte» diagnosen
- Kan si «motornevronsykdom» / MND
- Aldri formidle over tlf., i brev, i forbifarten
- Ullevål: Pasienten legges inn, pårørende skal være med, helst ikke på en fredag
- Oppfølging etter diagnosen – ALS-teamet

# ALS-teamet



- Tverrfaglig team dedikert ALS-diagnosen
- I prinsippet hver 3. mnd. (men etter behov)
- 60 minutter hos teamet, 60 min. hos legen
- Koordinator tilgjengelig dagtid (94803479)
- Koordinerer med bydelens tverrfaglige team
- Ofte hjemmebesøk hos alvorlig syke ALS-pas.
- **Fastlegen er velkommen!**

- **Sykepleier** (pleie, trykksår, PEG)
- **Fysioterapeut** (treningsråd, unngå uhensiktsmessig kompensasjon, hjelpe midler/ortoser, lungefysio)
- **Ergoterapeut** (hjelpe midler, tilrettelegging av hjemmet, kommunikasjonshjelp)
- **Sosionom** (trygderettigheter, stønadsordninger)
- **Klinisk ernæringsfysiolog** (holde vekta oppe, ernæringsdrikker, PEG-innleggelse, sondemat)
- **Psykiatrisk sykepleier** (støttesamtaler, informasjon av barn/pårørende, etterlattesamtaler)
- **Ortopeditekniker** (ortoser, nakkestøtte)



# Fastlegens oppgaver

1. Mistenke diagnosen, henvise til spesialist
2. Helst: Følge opp pasienten etter diagnosen
  - Hva med de pårørende?
3. Helst: Delta på møter hos ALS-teamet
4. Hjelp til trygdeytelser/arbeidsgiver mv.
5. Samhandle med hjemmesykepleien
6. Terminalfasen – «Sistehjelppskrin»

# ALS – forløp og prognose

- Ikke alle utvikler «full» ALS i sin levetid
- Stor variasjon i overlevelse
  - Median overlevelse fra onset 20-48 mndr.
  - 30 % lever > 5 år, 10-20 % lever > 10 år
  - Høy alder og bulbær start -> kortere levetid
  - Ventilasjonsstøtte forlenger levetiden (NIV-TIV)
  - Hjemmerespirator < 10 % (kun unntaksvis)
  - ALSFRS-R score måler funksjonsfallet

# ALS functional rating score – revised

## ALS Functional Rating Scale

### 1. Speech

- Normal speech processes
- Detectable speech disturbance
- Intelligible with repeating
- Speech combined with nonvocal communication
- Loss of useful speech

### 2. Salivation

- Normal
- Slight but definite excess of saliva in mouth; may have nighttime drooling
- Moderately excessive saliva; may have minimal drooling
- Marked excess of saliva with some drooling
- Marked drooling; requires constant tissue or handkerchief

### 3. Swallowing

- Normal eating habits
- Early eating problems-occasional choking
- Dietary consistency changes
- Needs supplemental tube feeding
- NPO (exclusively parenteral or enteral feeding)

### 4. Handwriting

- Normal
- Slow or sloppy; all words are legible
- Not all words are legible
- Able to grip pen but unable to write
- Unable to grip pen

### 5. Cutting food with gastrostomy

- Normal
- Somewhat slow and clumsy, but no help needed
- Can cut most foods, although clumsy and slow; some help needed
- Food must be cut by someone, but can still feed slowly
- Needs to be fed

Vanligste verktøy i  
ALS-studier

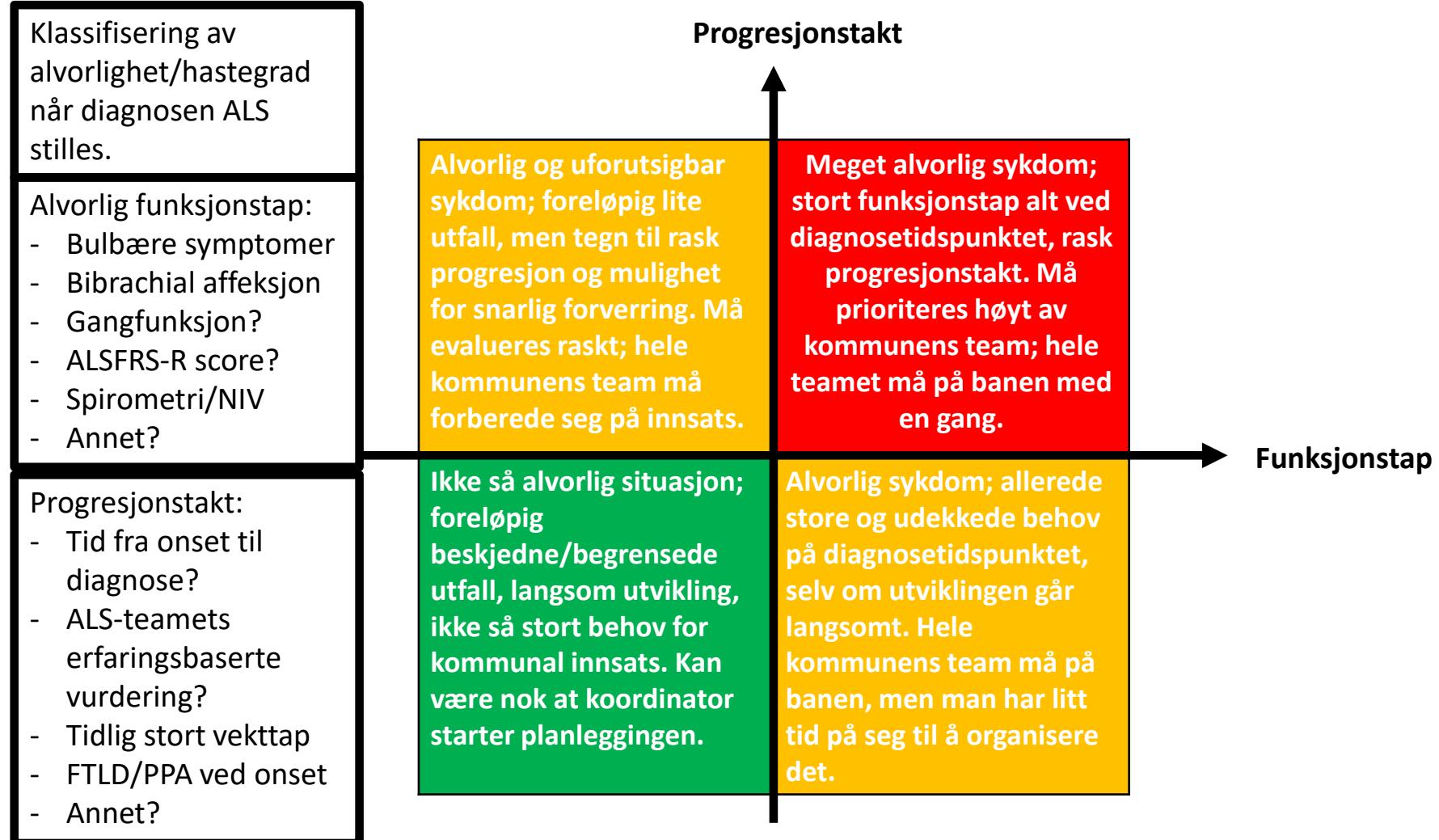
ALS-spesifikk

Kvantitativ måling av  
ADL-ferdigheter

12 items

Max. Score 48/48

Stor inter- og intra-  
rater variasjon (?)



# Medisinske tiltak ved ALS

- Legemidler (riluzol, deltagelse i kliniske studier)
- Gastrostomi (PEG)
- Ventilasjonsstøtte
  - Maskebasert/non-invasiv (BiPAP, NIV)
  - Trakeostomibasert (TIV, «hjemmerespirator»)

# Perkutan gastroskopisk enterostomi

- PEG
  - Sikrer tilførsel av væske/næring/medikamenter
  - Sparer tidsbruk til næringssinntak
- Indikasjon for PEG:
  - Vekttap 5-10-15 % av utgangsvekt
  - Lang tid på matinntak, hyppige aspirasjoner
- Innlegges nevr.avd. 4-5 dager
- *Livsforlengende* – kan avslås eller seponeres

# Non-invasiv ventilasjonsstøtte (NIV)

- BiPAP – vanskelig ved bulbærparese
- Forlenger levetid med flere mndr.
- Indisert ved symptomatisk nattlig hypovent.
  - Morgenhodepine, trøtthet,sovner dagtid
  - Nattlig BiPAP
- Typisk økende behov på dagtid → «respirator»
- Krevende avslutning

# «Hjemmerespirator»

- Tracheostomibasert invasiv ventilasjon (TIV)
  - Pga. akutt ventilasjonssvikt uten kjent diagnose
  - Akutt ventilasjonssvikt hos ALS-pasient, uavklart
  - Elektivt etter pasientens ønske
- Utbredt skepsis mot TIV-ALS hos fagfolk
- Ofte dårlig livskvalitet – særlig for pårørende
- Kostnader > 5 millioner kr/år



# Ethical challenges in tracheostomy-assisted ventilation in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis

Morten Magelssen<sup>1</sup> · Trygve Holmøy<sup>2,3</sup> · Morten Andreas Horn<sup>4</sup> · Ove Arne Fondenæs<sup>5</sup> · Knut Dybwik<sup>6,7</sup> ·  
Reidun Førde<sup>1</sup>

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## Abstract

The special nature of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and tracheostomy with invasive ventilation (TIV) leads to challenges that can be difficult in two senses: not only to handle well, but also to discuss with patients and other involved stakeholders. Because of the delicate nature of interpersonal relations and communication in ALS, some of the downsides to TIV

# Avslutning av respiratorbehandling ved amyotrofisk lateral sklerose

## Sammendrag

Bakgrunn. Mekanisk ventilasjon kan lindre symptomer og forlenge livet ved amyotrofisk lateral sklerose (ALS), men kan også forlenge lidelsene. Kunnskap om etiske, juridiske og medisinske aspekter ved avslutning av behandlingen er nødvendig.

**Materiale og metode.** To pasienthistorier drøftes i lys av relevant lovverk og litteratur samt forfatternes forskning og kliniske erfaring.

**Resultater.** En pasient som var negativ til livsforlengende respiratorbehand-

**Trygve Holmøy**

trygve.holmoy@rr-research.no  
Nevrologisk avdeling

**Sigurd Arrestad**

Lungeavdelingen

**Per Engstrand**

**Stig Ottesen**  
Avdeling for lindrende behandling

Ullevål universitetssykehus  
0407 Oslo

**Aslak Syse**

Institutt for offentlig rett

**Reidun Førde**

Seksjon for medisinsk etikk  
Universitetet i Oslo

**Materiale og metode**

Vi drøfter to pasienthistorier i lys av lovverk og relevant medisinsk litteratur samt egen forskning og kliniske erfaring.

**Pasienthistorier**

**Pasient 1.** En 40-50-årig mann med amyotrofisk lateral sklerose fikk tidlig informasjon om utsiktene til respirasjonssvikt og uttrykte at han ønsket å bli resusciter i en krisesituasjon så lenge han var selvhjulpen og kommunikabel, men at han ikke ønsket permanent respiratorbehandling. Etter to år hadde han dyspné, morgenhodepine, hyperkapni på dagtid og var sliten om morgenen. Maskebasert ventilasjonsbehandling lindret symptomene, men han trengte etter hvert døgnkontinuerlig ven-

# Suicidalitet ved ALS

- Trolig økt suicidalrisiko
- Typiske brukere av dødshjelp der hvor tillatt
- Krevende å håndtere for lege/pleiere
- Forslag til håndtering:
  1. Love å respektere behandlingsbegrensning
  2. Selvmord skadelig for pårørende, pleiere
  3. Seponering av PEG/NIV gir pasienten kontroll
  4. Love å gi god palliasjon



# Meld. St. 24

(2019–2020)

Melding til Stortinget

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## Lindrende behandling og omsorg

Vi skal alle dø en dag. Men alle andre dager skal vi leve.

# Palliasjon ved ALS

- Mye er likt (som annen palliasjon)
  - Problemet er *tilgang* til palliasjon
  - Geografiske variasjoner (eksempel AHUS)
- Noe er annerledes
  - Tidsforløp – langsomt progressivt, marginale
  - Funksjonssvikt (lammelser, svelgvansker)
  - Kommunikasjon (dysartri – anartri – øyestyrt)
  - Kognitiv-/atferdsendring (15-50 %)

# Kognitiv-/atferdsending ved ALS

- Ca. 15 % får frontallappsdemens
  - Eksekutive vansker (planlegging, vurdering, gjennomføring)
  - Språkvansker (afasi, forståelse)
  - Impulskontroll – disinhibisjon, aggressivitet
  - Empati, samarbeid
  - Apati
- 50 % får ALS-relatert kognitiv-/atferdsending
- Vansklig å teste, fastslå
  - ECAS scoringsverktøy
  - Pårørende

# Symptomatisk behandling

- Spytt/slim/sikling (vanskelig å behandle)
  - Sarotex 10-30 mg, evt. Scopoderm plaster
  - Botox-injeksjon i spyttkjertler (ALS-team, ØNH)
  - Stråling av spyttkjertler)
- Spastisitet
  - Tøyning, gjennombevegelse (fysio, assistenter, pårørende)
  - Baklofen (svekker muskelkraft også)
- Pseudobulbær affektforstyrrelse
  - Sarotex eller Cipramil
- Smerter!

# Terminalfasen



## Tre scenarier:

- Gradvis CO<sub>2</sub>-narkose – fredelig, forutsigbart
- Aspirasjonspneumoni(er) som ikke antibiotikabehandles – subakutt, dager
  - Vanligere hos pasienter med NIV
- Akutte kriser – dramatisk, skremmende
  - Slimpropper, ufrie luftveier

# Dødsomsorg ved ALS

- Planlegging vs. fornekting
  - Pasienter/pårørende opptatt av kur, håp
- Trygghet for pasient og pårørende
  - Hjemmedød vs. død på sykehjem, sykehus
- Involvering av hj.spl., BPA-assisterter
- Retningslinjer for HLR-, respirator-, AB-
- Plan A, plan B, plan C

# Hjemmedød ved ALS



Marit Fonn/Sykepleien 2015

- Mange pasienter ønsker det – initialt
- Pårørende ofte engstelige, overveldet
- Ufaglærte BPA-assistenter, høy turnover
- Fastleger ofte lite involverte
- Mangler sykehusbasert ambulant palliasjon
- Økende risiko for akutte kriser (respirasjon)
- Kan føles utrygt – trenger Plan C (sykehus)

## De 4 viktigste medikamenter for lindring i livets sluttfase

<b>Indikasjon</b>	<b>Medikament</b>	<b>Dosering</b>	<b>Maksimal døgndose</b>	<b>Adm. måte</b>
Smerte, dyspné	<b>Morfin eller Oksykodon (opioidanalgetikum)</b>	2,5-5 mg eller 1/6 av døgndosen (po:sc = 3:1) Gjentas ved behov, inntil hvert 30. min	avhengig av effekten (sjeldent > 400 mg)	<b>sc</b> = subkutant
Angst, uro, panikk, dyspné, muskelrykn., kramper, agitert delir	<b>Midazolam (benzodiazepin, sedativum)</b>	1 mg til gamle/skropelige, ellers start med 2-2,5 mg Gjentas ved behov, inntil hvert 30. min (titrering)	avhengig av effekten (sjeldent > 20 mg)	<b>sc</b>
Kvalme uro, agitasjon, delir	<b>Haloperidol (Haldol®, lavdoseneuroleptikum)</b>	0,5-2 mg x 2 (mot kvalme) 2 mg x 3-5 (mot uro/agitasjon)	10 mg	<b>sc</b>
Surkling i øvre luftveier, ileus, kolikk	<b>Glykopyrron, (Robinul®, antikolinergikum)</b>	0,2 mg inntil 1x/t, maks x 6 / d	1,2 mg (sjeldent nødvendig) ev. KSCI	<b>sc</b>

**Obs:** Både midazolam og glykopyrron brukes her utenfor godkjent indikasjonsområde.  
 Vedlagte behandlingsalgoritmer bygger hovedsakelig på erfaring.  
 Bruken kan støttes ved ekstrapolering av forskning på pasientgrupper som ikke er døende.  
 Legen skal være klar over sitt ansvar når medikamenter brukes utenfor godkjente indikasjoner.

# Etter døden

- Veiledning til etterlatte – praktiske utfordringer
- Etterlatte-samtale hos ALS-teamet 4-6 uker
- Mikro-intervensjon 4-6 mndr.
- Barn av ALS-pasienter – genetisk veiledning
- Mange traumatiserte pårørende – tilbud?