

Study examines palliative care in cardiac intensive care units

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(HealthDay)—Increased palliative care education and training among clinicians who are involved in cardiac critical care could benefit care, according to a study published in the March 1 issue of *The American Journal of Cardiology*.

Tara Naib, M.D., M.P.H., from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York City, and colleagues examined the role of palliative care in [cardiac intensive care](#) units (CICUs). Data were included for 1,368 patients admitted from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2012.

The researchers identified 117 CICU patient deaths. End-of-life discussions were performed in 72.6 percent of those who died during that hospital admission; in more than half of these cases, the primary CICU team led these discussions and helped with decision-making. Compared with patients for whom no goals of care (GOC) discussions were held, the patients who had GOC discussions had a higher rate of redirected GOC toward comfort care or no escalation of care (38.8 versus 3.1 percent; P

"Our study demonstrates the effect of palliative care and end-of-life decision-making in the CICU," the authors write. "As such, we advocate for

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